

My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 241

[/ My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO: A Sweet Second Chance](#)
Chapter 241 I'm Wrong

Derek stubbed out the cigarette in his hand. Then he pulled a card from his jacket pocket and pushed it in front of Becky. "The code is written on the back of the card. Return the money to my father. All you have to do is focus on preparing for the role in the movie. I'll arrange to find you a personal acting teacher," he said casually. At this moment, I turned to look at Becky and blurted out, "It might not be necessary. After all, you're so good at acting, right?" Everyone could tell the irony in my words. Becky pursed her lips and looked at the card in front of her. She didn't really seem convinced by Derek's plan. An awkward silence began to settle, but it was quickly disrupted by the shrill sound of Becky's phone ringing. She picked it up and after having looked at it, put it down hastily. For some reason, she seemed nervous about the phone call. Seeing the look on her face, I quickly guessed that the call must be from Gifford. As he didn't see her at the appointed time, he surely called to ask about the situation. Derek glanced at the phone and said quietly, "Becky, this is your last chance. If you don't do what I say this time, I won't care about you anymore" It was clear that he cared very much about Becky and felt responsible for her. Becky lowered her face and stayed in that position for a long moment without saying anything. Then she finally muttered a few words. "Derek, I was wrong. I'm sorry." When she said that, Derek's face suddenly relaxed. He held my hand tightly. "I'm going to accompany Eveline to her driving lessons," he said before standing up to leave. I stood up and followed him at once. Louise glared at Becky before standing up in turn and leaving. When he got to the door, Derek suddenly stopped and turned to look at Becky. "Look, no matter what others have promised you, I'd like you to trust me in the future. I'll make sure

you realize your dreams." 1 After saying that, Derek turned again and this time he walked out without looking back. As I walked beside him, I couldn't help but turn to look at him. His beautiful face with strong and pronounced features gave him an irresistible charm. I felt my heart beat faster at this moment.

I knew then that I could never leave him.

Once we left the restaurant, Louise told us she had something to do and left at once. As for me, I quietly followed Derek into his car.

Derek inserted the car's ignition key and started the engine before suddenly asking me, "Aren't you already late for your driving lessons?" "No, we still have some time before it begins," I replied. He kept silent for a while, before suddenly reaching out to grab me gently by the back of my neck. The next moment, I felt a soft kiss on my forehead. When his loving gaze met mine, my face flushed almost immediately. He then gave me a sweet smile. I was so embarrassed that I quickly looked away. "You should focus on the road," I said, pointing ahead. It wasn't until then that he let go of me and brought back his attention to driving. However, the smile on his face didn't disappear. Right now he was very different from the way he was yesterday when we were quarrelling. The Derek I had in

front of me at the moment was full of tenderness and gentleness. I felt good by his side. "Although we only pretended to have a heated argument yesterday, you were so serious when you were shouting at me..." Derek said suddenly. When I looked at him, I found that he was smiling. I still remembered that message he sent me after leaving me last night. "Good acting." I had then replied, "The same as you." That was life. A play where we were all actors. I looked at Derek and said, "Actually we both put our true feelings into that quarrel yesterday, right? Each word came from the bottom of our hearts." The expression on Derek's face changed a little. He looked at me and asked, "Did you?" I nodded as I understood his question. I replied honestly, "Yes, I am jealous to see how much you care about Becky." "So that means you've fallen in love with me," Derek said with a smile. "What about you?" The moment those words left my lips, I regretted saying them. I was actually worried that this question would be embarrassing for both of us. But what I was most afraid of was that he would give me a negative answer. So I quickly added, "Are you really tired of being with me now?" I asked. "Well, life itself is very tiring. A man's responsibility is to make sure his woman doesn't feel all this pressure of life." Derek's answer was clever as always. He wouldn't give a straightforward answer to my question. "So tell me, do you feel tired?" he asked me in turn. At this moment, I looked out of the window, gazing blankly at the streets. I was silent for a while, thinking of an appropriate answer to give him. Then I finally said, "Life itself is a very tiring thing. But if you have someone willing to stay by your side, then life becomes easier to live." Derek looked at me pleasantly surprised. He definitely didn't expect that I would use his words to answer him.

The big difference between men and women lay in the way they reasoned. Men were rational, while women were more emotional. Derek gave me a gentle smile and held my hand tightly. "I'm willing to stay by your side."

There was this quiet strength which emanated from him and which he transmitted to me by his mere presence.

My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 242

[/ My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO: A Sweet Second Chance](#)
Chapter 242 I'm Not In Good Shape

Today No one in this world is perfect. I didn't expect my husband to be perfect like God. Derek, too, had his shortcomings. His temper was the worst of them all. "Derek, every time you're willing to tell me everything, I feel so secure." I said the same thing to him as I did in the car last night. He stared ahead for a while and suddenly asked, "Honey, how long have we been together?" I was taken aback. "More than six months?" he answered himself. "Pretty much." He looked at me and smiled. "It has been more than six months, but you don't have a nickname for me, nor do you call me intimately. Why?" I didn't expect such a question from him. "What should I call you?"

"Think for y

urself." He winked at me and continued to drive.

I pursed my lips and studied his face. "My darling? My love? Sweetheart? Oh God! They sound mushy, don't they?" Derek burst out laughing. "I like it." I rolled my eyes even though I was pleased with his reaction. He chuckled and poked my waist. It was ticklish, so I moved to the window. "Come on, call me sweetheart again. I like it." "No."

"Call me once. Please." "No." "Then I won't move the car until you call me sweetheart." He slowly stepped on the brakes. I knew he was going to park his car in the middle of the road again to threaten me, so I grew nervous. "Obey the traffic rules!" "Are you going to call me sweetheart or not?" he threatened, grinning mischievously. I was so anxious that my face turned red. I opened and closed my mouth as the words choked in my throat. "Derek, sweetheart," I whispered. He laughed happily and let out a loud sigh. "Well, I let you off the hook this time. Anyway, I have a lot of ways to make you call me darling, my love, or sweetheart." A blush flamed my cheeks as I understood what he meant.

When we arrived at the training ground, I got into Denzel's car. Derek stood aside and lit up his cigarette. After driving one round, I saw another person standing beside Derek. It was Alvaro.

The man had come to practice driving today. This was their first meeting here in the driving school. They were standing side by side as if they were discussing something important. Their interaction was different from the day Alvaro had abducted me and forced Derek to sign the unfair agreement. It looked like they had made their peace. I made several mistakes in driving because I was absentminded. I either crossed the speed limit or jerked the car to a halt. I was so nervous that I couldn't differentiate between the accelerator and brake. "Stop!" Hearing Denzel's order, I slammed the brakes. The car stopped in the middle of the training ground. I bit my lip guiltily and waited for Denzel to reprimand me. He gripped the handle and looked at me. "Eveline, what's wrong with you?" He didn't shout or yell, but judging from the expression on his face, I could tell that he was about to lose his temper. "I'm sorry, Mr. Byrd. I didn't sleep properly last night, so I'm not in good shape now." Denzel looked out of the window. Meanwhile, Derek and Alvaro had stopped talking—they were looking in our direction. Perhaps my messy driving had caught their attention as well. Alvaro smiled at me with his hands across his chest. "All right. Since you are clearly exhausted, let's stop here today. Go home and get ample rest. I want you to come back tomorrow feeling fresh and enthusiastic. You can't be careless while driving," Denzel instructed.

I thanked him and got out of the car.

"Silly girl, you didn't perform well today!" Alvaro smirked at me. I knew he was saying it on purpose to make it seem like he was familiar with me. I glared at him and decided to ignore his comment. Derek dropped his cigarette and smashed it with his foot before arching an eyebrow to look at me. "Didn't you drive well before? What happened?" "I didn't rest well yesterday, so Denzel asked me to stop practicing today. We can go back now."

Derek nodded. "I see. Let's go."

I didn't want to stay there any longer. I thought it was dangerous if Alvaro opened his mouth.

My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 243

[/ My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO: A Sweet Second Chance](#)
Chapter 243 I'm Planning Something Big

Even as we got in the car, Alvaro was still standing there, looking at our direction. Perhaps he noticed that I was looking at him, so he even waved at me. Soon, the car drove away. I didn't ask Derek what he had discussed with Alvaro, and he didn't say anything about it, either. Derek told me that he needed to deal with something in the company. And since I had nothing better to do, I decided to go with him. Along the way, his phone rang. Derek answered the call using the car's built-in phone. "Derek, I need you to come to the bar tonight," said Felix. "Why? Is something good gonna happen?" Derek asked, seemingly indifferent. On the other end of the line, Felix chuckled. "I'm planning something big today. Honestly, I'm a little nervous, so I need you to come and support me." Instead of explaining what it was, he just added, "Anyway, just come. I have to hang up now. I'm going to call Eric and Aaron next." As soon as we arrived at Dere International, Derek began working. The year's end was drawing near. The company seemed really busy, and Derek's assistant had been running back and forth.

Derek stared at the document in his hand, frowning. He made two internal calls, but nobody picked up

Since I had been sitting there with nothing to do, I grew bored. So I asked, "Your assistant left a little while ago. Is there anything I can do to help?" He pointed at the document on the desk. "There's something wrong with the business plan that the marketing department sent over. I need them to redo it." If memory served me right, Charlene was supposed to be the one in charge of the marketing department. "Do you need it to be sent back to them? I can do it," I suggested. Derek thought for a moment and decided to hand me the marketing plan. "The marketing department is located on the fifth floor. If you see Charlene there, tell her to come up here." Thus, I took the file to the marketing department on the fifth floor by way of elevator. For some reason, the ambience on this floor was a bit weird. Many seats were empty. Upon hearing a person's voice, I followed where it was coming from and I saw that all the personnel in the department were standing in a row. "What has been happening lately? You all seem like your work morale is low."

Charlene was standing in front of them. She had her arms crossed, and she scolded them harshly. Everyone lowered their head, fearful to utter a single word. I had never seen Charlene this furious before.

She must've heard my footsteps, so she turned around and found me at the door. And upon seeing me, she stopped chastising her team. "Compose yourselves and go to work." Right after she said that, the other employees dispersed right away. Not long after, the stern expression on Charlene's face disappeared. She looked

at me and asked, "Eveline, what can I do for you?" I waved the document in my hand. "Derek asked me to bring this to you." "Oh, I see. Come with me to my office," she said. Not a minute later, I followed her into the office. Charlene accepted the plan from me, sat behind her desk, and placed her fingers on her forehead.

"Are you okay, Charlene? You look like you're exhausted," I said. Having heard what I said, she forced a smile and looked at me. "This is nothing," she replied. "Derek wants to see you. I think he intends to discuss the plan with you," I said. She nodded, took the plan with her, and went to the top floor with me. Ever since I met Charlene, I always thought she was a relatively sunny and positive person. But today, she could barely put on a smile. Obviously, she was in a bad shape lately. I was worried that Derek would go ballistic again because of the poor quality of the marketing plan, but fortunately, they discussed it calmly. Charlene had excellent work ethics, and she was serious when it came to work. She even sincerely apologized for the mistakes written on the plan.

Truthfully, I couldn't follow their conversation, but Charlene seemed to understand everything. With a little bit of guidance from Derek, she managed to comprehend a better way to revise the plan. "Are you under too much pressure at work lately? Why don't you go to Blue Sky with us tonight for a little relaxation?" I suggested. "I think I need to revise the marketing plan first," Charlene answered. I glanced at Derek for his opinion and he nodded. "Eveline is right. You need to have some fun. Perhaps you'll be more inspired to work and have a better idea when you come back," he said. After a moment of pondering. I said, "There might be a lot of people dropping by at the bar today. Eric and Aaron are coming as well." Charlene seemed hesitant at first. "Alright, I'll go," she responded. After eating dinner, we went to Blue Sky. I didn't call Louise. I figured she must be involved in Felix's show already. And sure enough, she was already there when I arrived. I grabbed her hand and asked, "Felix mentioned that he was planning something big. What's the big deal?"

Louise shrugged. "Who knows? It's hard to figure that guy out." It seemed that Felix had hidden it from her as well, considering she had no idea what he was planning

All of us who had no idea what Felix was planning were seated at the booth near to the stage, courtesy of Felix, himself. And even then, we still hadn't seen him anywhere.

My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 244

[/ My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO: A Sweet Second Chance](#)
Chapter 244 Felix's Proposal

Everyone was wondering what Felix was planning to do. Eric smirked. "Is he going to striptease for us?" Upon hearing his remark, the crowd burst into laughter. I noticed that while everyone was laughing, Charlene was absentminded and was glancing at the corner from time to time. Aaron was sitting in that corner. He was

also quiet, but he didn't seem to notice that she was looking at him. About half an hour later, the lights in the bar were dimmed. Then, a row of waiters came out with candles in their hands, standing in a heart-shaped order onstage. The background music was changed to a more romantic lyrical song, and the curiosity of guests' were piqued. At this moment, all eyes were on the stage. As we heard a man's singing voice, the star of the show finally revealed himself. Felix walked onto the stage while singing. He had a microphone in one hand, and a bouquet of red roses in the other. I thought I had figured out what his "big thing" was, because all the words he wanted to say were expressed through this song. "Hold my hand and let's create a happy life together. Will you marry me today?" I nudged Louise using my elbow. "So, this is what Felix was up to, huh?" As she stared at Felix onstage, she exclaimed, "What a silly man!" I could tell that she didn't mean it. Even though she said that, her eyes lit up with excitement, and she couldn't conceal it. Several waiters came over to pull her onto the stage. Eric and the others also urged her to go to the stage. As a matter of fact, Louise was as strong as an ogre. If she didn't want to be up there, nobody would be able to force her. After Felix finished his song, he got down on one knee, took out a small box from the bouquet of roses, opened it, and presented it to Louise. "Will you marry me, Louise?" he exclaimed. At this point, even I was thrilled. Louise was my best and only friend, so I was really happy for her.

Felix was a man of action. Whatever came to his mind, and if he had his heart set on it, he would do it. And although he seemed like an idiot at times, I must admit that he was quite reliable in many things. At the very least, he truly loved Louise. I could see that Louise was a little embarrassed by this whole event. "Are you crazy? Get the hell up! Quickly!" –

Unwilling to give up, Felix replied, "If you don't say yes, I won't get up." The other customers began to cheer and applaud them. "Say yes!" they shouted. "You're so flamboyant. Aren't you worried that someone else would snatch her away?" All of a sudden, a voice resonated that disrupted the event. When I heard Layne's voice, I turned my head and saw him coming over with his buddies. He had a glass of wine in hand. I was aware of how Layne felt for Louise, so it scared me that he might screw up Felix's proposal. "What are you doing here, Layne?" Felix got up, glaring at Layne. Layne smiled at him, showing no hint of fear. "Why are you even asking me? I'm here to do the same as you're doing." Naturally, his words enraged Felix. He spent so much time and energy to prepare this proposal tonight, so he wasn't going to let anyone ruin it so easily. After walking ahead a few steps, Felix grabbed a beer bottle and broke it on the bar counter. The bubbling beer fizzed up, and littered the floor. He brandished the broken bottle at Layne and shouted, "Get the fuck out of here, Layne. This is my place!" But Layne didn't seem fazed, and the smile on his face did not dissipate. Suddenly, the men behind him began to hurl curses at Felix and pointed at him. "Watch your fucking mouth, you bastard! Don't mess with Mr. Thurman. Otherwise, we're going to wreck this shitty bar of yours!" Felix was about to charge at them with his makeshift weapon, but Louise halted him. "What do you think you're doing? Drop that!" Felix didn't expect that she would come over to stop him, so he immediately withdrew his attack. Unfortunately, the broken bottle still grazed her hand. Agitated, he hurriedly threw away the broken bottle and grabbed Louise's hand. "Oh, my God! Are you okay?" I was so scared when I saw that her hand was bleeding.

My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 245

[/ My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO: A Sweet Second Chance](#)
Chapter 245 Louise Made Her Choice

Layne smiled at Louise. "What are you doing, Louise? You're breaking my heart." He held a half-empty glass of cocktail with one hand, and suddenly took out a knife with the other. Someone screamed upon seeing the knife, and the onlookers immediately dispersed.

Felix shielded Louise behind him. "Fuck you, Layne! Pick on someone your own size! Don't hit a woman."

Layne was fiddling with the knife in his hand. He wasn't even casting Felix a glance. He just focused on Louise and smirked.

"I would never hit Louise. I feel sorry for her. How could I think to hit her?" He was twirling the knife in his hand so fast that I didn't realize that he had cut his hand with it until I saw that the blue cocktail in his hand was suddenly dyed red. Layne swirled his cocktail glass and slowly walked forward. Ignoring Felix's hateful gaze, he took Louise's injured hand and allowed a drop of her blood into the glass. Within seconds, the blood mixed with the cocktail. The following moment, Layne drank up the cocktail that had been laced with his blood and Louise's.

After that, he wiped the residue of the cocktail from his mouth and grinned. Then, he threw the empty glass backwards. The man behind him caught it.

Layne expressed his determination in a more straightforward way.

For a moment, the onlookers were scared to death, and nobody even wanted to breathe loud enough to be heard. Even Felix just stared at him, unable to speak and his chest was heaving. 1

"Aren't you going to put a ring on my finger? Hurry up and do it!" Louise was the one who broke the silence. I could tell at a glance that she was frustrated.

When Felix realized what she had said, he was over the moon. He quickly took out the ring and

eagerly nodded. He was so nervous that his trembling hands almost dropped it. Even when he was putting the ring on Louise's finger, his hands were still trembling.

Louise had made her choice.

After she put on the ring, Felix began to laugh like an idiot. He embraced Louise and ignored Layne. Meanwhile, Eric applauded and started cheering. The people around soon followed his lead. Most of them were afraid of Layne, and could do nothing but stand aside and watch the scene unfold in silence.

Layne seemed to have expected this would happen, and he acted gracefully defeated. He was still wearing a smile on his face.

Then, he placed his injured finger to his mouth and licked it while staring at Louise.

After moving away from Felix, Louise glanced at Layne with a complicated expression.

Layne wasn't exactly handsome, but he was a real man. Perhaps one of the manliest I had ever seen. As far as I remembered, he was the type of man that Louise liked. I thought that if it weren't for Felix, Layne might have a chance with her.

"If he ever tries to push you around, you can always come to me."

Even the sound of Layne's voice was manly. It seemed that he still hadn't given up on Louise. "Cut the crap, okay? Don't you get it? You lost. End of story," Felix shouted. Layne didn't seem to take him seriously. He just chuckled at Felix, took one last look at Louise, and walked away. However, his men seemed to be dissatisfied with this outcome. "Mr. Thurman!" they shouted. "Let's go!" Layne commanded. This time, no one dared to object. I noticed that after he turned around, the smile on his face disappeared. I could tell that he was disappointed by what happened. I guessed that he must really love Louise. It made me wonder how long his love would last. As I watched Layne and his men leave the bar, I heard everyone shouting. I withdrew my gaze from them and noticed that Felix was kissing Louise passionately. To be honest, I understood why he did that. He had carefully planned out this proposal and it almost got ruined. Just as Aaron had said, the easier one got something, the less one would cherish it. What Layne did earlier must've rattled Felix enough to make him think of how difficult it was to win Louise's heart. Thus, he was very excited about this and began to kiss her like there was no tomorrow.

The audience kept on applauding, but honestly, I was shocked. | Truthfully, it wasn't easy for Felix and Louise to be together. They had gone through so many

difficulties. Now that they were finally together, I hoped that they could live a happy life together. Everyone in the booth stood up. As Charlene stared at the couple onstage, she was so moved.

My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 246

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

Chapter 246 You Shouldn't Make Such Jokes

The long kiss finally came to an end. Because a lot of people were watching, contrary to Louise's usually carefree and tactless demeanor, she was abashed. She decided to bury her face in Felix's chest

and refused to raise her head.

Seeing that there was nothing more to watch, the crowd gradually dispersed. When Felix and Louise came over to our side, we asked them to drink with us to celebrate.

However, he seemed concerned about Louise's hand, so he asked, "Do you want to have that bandaged?"

Slowly, Louise sat down and answered, "It's not a big deal."

After drinking for a while, I noticed that Charlene had been sitting in silence. For some reason, she seemed to be in a bad mood. I wasn't sure if she was still worried about her work.

Thus, I sat closer to her and asked, "Hey, how are you holding up? You don't seem like you're in the mood to have fun."

Charlene smiled at me. "This is nothing. I'm fine,"

Then, she told us that she needed to go to the washroom, so she got up and walked away. However, she didn't come back for a long time. I was a bit worried about her, so I went to look for her.

The moment I reached a corner, I heard Charlene's voice, so I stopped.

"How could I ever forget you? I wouldn't even dream of it. Anyway, do you want to have dinner together? Great! But I can't let you pay for it. It's on me, this time. I've been really busy with work these past two days. Once I have time, I'll have it arranged. Please do come, okay, Mr. Jackson?"

Charlene held the phone, leaning against the wall lazily.

She was talking on the phone with a bright smile on her face, completely different from how she was a few minutes ago.

I decided to go back to the booth. After a while, Charlene came back. There were water stains on her face, and her sleeves appeared to be wet. I pretended to know nothing, and handed the fruit plate to her.

She smiled and thanked me, but she didn't eat a bite. Instead, she clapped her hands twice and said, "That proposal was really wonderful."

Eric pointed at Felix and smirked. "That guy was so mysterious that he didn't even tell us anything. Honestly, I never imagined he could be this romantic." Felix's proposal was a success, and he appeared to be proud of his win. "Of course!" he exclaimed.

"Actually, I've been meaning to announce something as well." Charlene's serious words quieted

everyone down.

Slowly, she moved her gaze towards Aaron who had been sitting in silence at the side.

I already had a vague idea of what she was going to say.

"I like you, Aaron!"

Just as I had expected, Charlene was a straightforward person. She expressed her love so bluntly.

Suddenly, everyone in the booth went into an uproar. After taking a deep breath, Charlene put on a smile. She seemed to be relieved now that she had said those words. "Even though I like you, that doesn't mean you have to love me back. That proposal earlier inspired me, and it made me want to declare my feelings out loud, too." In all honesty, I admired her courage and frankness. "Be together, be together," Felix and Eric chanted in unison as they began to thump the table rhythmically. Their actions attracted other people's attention. After a long silence, Aaron finally raised his head and chuckled. "Charlene, you shouldn't make such jokes." Charlene put on a straight face and replied, "I'm not joking." Aaron bit his lower lip, seemingly at a loss for words. Then, a wry smile appeared on his lips. "I don't deserve your love. In fact, I've also been inspired to express my feelings." As soon as he finished his words, he looked up at me and our eyes met. It was only for a few seconds, but it made my heart beat faster. Suddenly, Derek held my hand. I turned my head towards him as he pressed my hand against his lips and kissed it gently. I was always afraid of his sudden intimate gesture, because my desire would be easily triggered by it. A loud thud brought me back to my senses. Aaron had put down his empty glass on the table. I recalled that his glass was full before, and it seemed that he had drunk it all up while I was distracted. "I've been in love with someone for so many years, but I missed my chance. Now, all I could do is regret," he said. Seeing that Aaron had rejected her so politely, Charlene smiled. "I merely expressed my feelings for you. I told you that you don't have to love me back. It's been bothering me for a long time, but now that I've said it out loud, I feel much better. Aaron, don't feel pressured. I just really wanted to say it. I'm not asking you to love me back." Even though Charlene tried to seem casual about it, I noticed that her hands were trembling while she grabbed her glass. Seeing that the atmosphere became awkward, Felix shouted, "Cheers, everyone! Today is going to be my treat. Let's have some fun!"

In the end, we all drank too much and we had to leave with designated drivers.

My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 247

[/ My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO: A Sweet Second Chance](#)
Chapter 247 I Don't Feel Cold Anymore

After walking out of the bar, I lifted Louise's hand and stared at the diamond ring on her finger. "Gosh, Lulu! I'm so happy for you," I exclaimed. Louise smiled at me. It was rare to see her smile this tenderly. She put her arm on my shoulder and pulled me aside. "Eve, honestly, I'm not sure if I've found my Mr. Right yet. I only agreed on the spur of the moment. Do you think I should've pondered on it more? Eve, if Felix ever betrays me or cheats on me, I'm going to cripple him," she whispered to my ear. Louise was a little inebriated. At the moment, she seemed happy and worried at the same time. It was pleasantly surprising to see her act more womanly. I smiled at her and replied, "Lulu, I'm sure that for his own sake, Felix is not going to betray you." When we got back to the villa, I found that the lights in the living room were still on. The TV wasn't on and Becky was sitting quietly on the sofa. "Have you had dinner yet?" Derek asked as he walked in after changing his shoes.

It didn't seem to matter to him whatever mistakes Becky had made. He still obviously cared about her.

Becky nodded in response, looking at him with pleading eyes.

"Derek, Eveline, I've been contemplating for a whole day. And I've come to realize my mistakes," she said. V

For some reason, I couldn't bring myself to believe that she felt guilty over it.

I put on a smile and replied, "It's okay. You were forced into the situation, so we can't hold it against you. Try not to pay it much mind." Her eyes flashed with surprise as she looked at me. I maintained eye contact with her and kept smiling. There was underlying meaning beneath this calm eye contact. After we went upstairs, I went to take a shower. Meanwhile, Derek pulled up his laptop and sat on the sofa to deal with business. Once I was done with the shower, I went to bed. A moment later, he closed his laptop and went into the bathroom.

Soon, I heard the sound of running water coming from the bathroom.

After a while, the sound of running water stopped, and the bathroom door was opened. For no apparent reason, I kind of felt nervous, so I just closed my eyes and pretended to be asleep.

Not a minute later, I felt the other side of the bed sink, and soon, he held me in his slightly moist

arms.

Then, I felt his chin over my hair as he slowly ran his hand into my pajamas. He started fondling my breast, and it made me squirm with pleasure. I could no longer keep up the pretense that I was asleep. "Why are you trembling? Do you feel cold?" he asked. I could feel the proximity of his lips near the side of my face, and the warmth of his breath seeped into my ear.

"Of course I feel cold in such a cold weather," I said crossly. Derek chuckled at my response. He grabbed my shoulders and made me face him. Then, he supported his head with his hand, staring into my eyes. "Whenever the wife feels cold, it's probably the husband's fault," he said. Before I could even respond, he continued, "As a husband, there are three things that I must do in this kind of situation."

"What are they?" I asked, curious about the answer. Derek's other hand slowly wandered on my body and a devilish grin appeared on his lips. "Whenever my wife is cold, it's my duty to warm her up by being close to her. Second, I must warm her heart with sweet words. And last, but certainly not the least, it's my responsibility to do some exercise with my wife in bed to make her warm and

with my wife in bed to make her warm and happy inside and outside

I was rendered speechless. All he wanted to do was to have sex. I was astonished at how he managed to connect coitus to the act of self-sacrifice. I must admit, that he was an eloquent speaker. "I don't feel cold anymore." I moved aside, but he held my waist and got on top of me. "You shouldn't just exercise whenever you feel cold. It's imperative for us to do some workout to improve our health. We should never forget that!"

I had no idea how to react to that statement.

The moment he slipped his tongue into my mouth, I tasted alcohol. "Have you drunk some wine behind my back?" I asked, pushing him away. I had been keeping an eye on him the whole night, and to my knowledge, he couldn't have had a chance to drink; not unless he drank in secret when I was in the bathroom. He lowered his head again, intending to kiss me. However, I pressed my hands against his chest to stop him and cast him a stern gaze. A wry smile appeared on his lips. "I did drink a little. My buddy succeeded with his proposal, so I couldn't refuse to drink with him," he said. "Are you serious? Felix knows about your gastric problems, right? If you wanted to drink, you shouldn't blame others," I growled. Gently, he brushed his fingers across my face. He looked at me, seemingly moved by my concern. I noticed his Adam's apple bobbing up and down. "Honey, whenever you show me just how concerned you are for me, I feel so warm inside. It feels good to have someone worrying for me." Suddenly, my heart ached. It felt like I was being stabbed with something sharp.

"I care about you, Derek, but I can't be with you twenty-four hours every single day. Your body belongs to you, and you need to look after yourself. Health is very important. Sometimes, throwing money at a health problem won't work." He seemed to be amused by my words. The dim warm light at the head of the bed accentuated his face. A smile appeared on his charming face as he drew closer and closer to me.

My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 248

[/ My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO: A Sweet Second Chance](#)
Chapter 248 I Will Be Back Again

"There's no problem with my body. It's in good condition, trust me. You can even test it out if you want," Derek joked. Once more, I fell silent.

Whatever the topic was, he could always drag it back to sex. I was really amazed at how he could do

that.

Suddenly, we heard a knock on the door.

"Derek, Eveline, I made some sweet white mushroom soup. Come and have some," Becky said from outside the door. I figured that soup was just an excuse to bother us. Derek was about to get off me and open the door.

And in a moment of desperation, I wrapped my arms around his neck and began to kiss him,

"Derek, are you asleep?" Becky continued knocking on the door.

I continued kissing him passionately, leaving him no chance to speak.

He could no longer stand the temptation of my kiss, so he started kissing me back as hard as he could.

Then, we rolled all over the bed as our bodies grew hotter.

Becky seemed really persistent to disturb us. Seeing that nobody was answering her, she began knocking more intensely. It was as if she wouldn't stop until someone gave her a response.

Truthfully, it was so annoying because things were getting hot and heavy between me and Derek.

"No, thanks. You can go to bed early," he stated.

The sound of his voice was hoarse, because he was restraining his moans. At last, the knocking on the door finally stopped. "I see. I'll put the soup in the fridge, so you can still eat it in the morning" I could sense just how defeated Becky must feel from her voice. Outside the door, the sound of her footsteps became farther and farther away.

Three days later, Becky left the house. The shooting would officially begin a month later. Derek helped her reach an agreement with an art school, so that she could study up before joining the film crew.

The school wasn't in Sousen, so she had to board at the school. Of course, Derek had already arranged everything for her. He even asked Timmy to driver her there.

I escorted her out of the villa and reminded her of things that she needed to be careful of like a sister would to a younger sibling.

In all honesty, I was disgusted of my own hypocrisy. All I could think of was that I could finally have some peace of mind now that she was going to leave. I figured it wouldn't be so bad to act nice to her for one last time.

Naturally, Becky wasn't an easy one to deal with. She pretended to be polite to me, but when Derek was unaware of it, she provoked me. "I'll come back for Derek," she said.

Upon hearing that, I was in such a bad mood.

Once Becky had left, I cleaned up the villa and removed all traces that she had lived here. Everything

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went back to how it was before, and it was like she never even got here. The only thing that I couldn't recover was my beloved cat, Ugly. As I remembered the poor thing, hatred resurfaced in my heart. However, I knew that hate would not change a thing. After I finished cleaning, I was so exhausted that I collapsed on the sofa. Suddenly, my phone began to ring. It was a call from Tina. She wouldn't call me if there was nothing wrong, so I thought of Lily at once and answered, "Tina, what's up?" "Eveline, Lean's case will ensue this afternoon. I was hoping to take Lily to see him, but I'm kind of scared. Do you mind coming with me?" she pleaded. ... I wondered why Derek didn't mention the fact that Lean's case was being opened. After hanging up the call, I decided to call Derek, but his phone seemed to have been powered off. Usually, his phone was on twenty-four hours a day, and he even had a portable charger. It was strange that it was powered off. Derek had spent a lot of time and resources on Lean's case. There was no reason that he wouldn't attend the guy's trial. Perhaps he had already gone there. Thus, I tarried no longer, changed my clothes, and went out. Today, the temperature dropped several degrees. I wore a black and white plaid overcoat. As soon as I went out, the cold wind seeped into my skin. Despite how many layers of clothes I was wearing, I still felt so cold that I trembled slightly. Soon, I hailed a cab to Tina's house. She had already packed up and was ready to go the moment I arrived. She was holding Lily, while I helped her carry the baby's supplies. It wouldn't be easy to take an infant out. Wherever Tina would go, she would have to carry a large bag. There was a nursing bottle, some milk powder, diapers, a change of clothes in the bag. They were all necessities that she couldn't leave behind. Inside the cab, I decided to call Derek again, but his phone was still powered off. "What do you think I should do? I'm really nervous about this, Eveline." I could tell from her reaction that Tina really was nervous. I held her

hand, attempting to comfort her. "Try not to be too nervous, okay? Lily is his daughter. I'm sure he'll like her. And as for Lean's case, many capable people are working hard to get him out, and the chances he'll win the case are high."

My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 249

[/ My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO: A Sweet Second Chance](#)
Chapter 249 Announce The Verdict On A Certain Day

Once we had arrived at the entrance of the court, we got off the cab. And the moment the cab left, a car pulled over in front of us, bringing in a gust of wind. Frightened, Tina took a few steps back, shielding Lily in her arms.

Not a minute later, the car's door opened and Alvaro disembarked from the vehicle.

He was wearing a black windbreaker without buttoning it up. He closed the door with a cigarette between his fingers.

Both Tina and I were stunned. He looked at me, wearing a smile as he walked towards us with the cigarette in his mouth. "Alvaro."

When Tina greeted him timidly, I looked at her in surprise. I was shocked that she knew Alvaro.

As he stood before us, staring at the baby in Tina's arms, a smirk was printed on his lips.

"She looks like Lean," he remarked.

Lily did look a lot like Lean, so it was easy to tell that he was her daughter even without a paternity test.

At this time, another black car parked nearby.

At a glance, I recognized it to be Gifford's car.

Once the car had parked, Gifford and Belinda got out of the car one after the other. Then, Charlene got out of the back seat.

They probably noticed us while they were still in the car. And it seemed that they already knew about Tina.

Gifford creased his eyebrows, looking at me with scrutinizing eyes.

I knew that he wouldn't be surprised that I would be here. As a matter of fact, he seemed shocked that Alvaro was standing here with us, and he became vigilant.

The last time Gifford followed me, he was convinced that I was Alvaro's partner. And seeing us together again must've reinforced that idea.

Meanwhile, Tina kept her head down, protecting Lily in her embrace and had no courage to look up.

Charlene greeted me with a nod. She didn't say anything, and she looked serious.

Today's trial was like a battle, so everyone was serious and nervous.

Nobody spoke; everyone just exchanged looks, and the atmosphere became stiff. Gifford and his party went into the court first, and we followed them in.

Alvaro's gait was relatively fast. I deliberately kept my distance from him along with Tina. Honestly, I'd rather not walk alongside that man.

I thought I would see Derek in the auditorium, but to my surprise, he wasn't there.

Now, I was getting worried when I remembered that his phone was powered off.

I didn't know that Lean and Raul's hearing would happen at the same day. It was no wonder Alvaro came here today. Soon, the two convicts were brought to the stand. This was the second time I saw Lean, and the first time I saw Raul.

The latter looked about the same age as Lean, and they both appeared to be unruly young men. Upon seeing her son, Belinda was so excited that she repeatedly murmured her son's name. No matter who Lean was looking at, he was standoffish from beginning to the end. But when he turned his attention to Raul, a smile appeared on his face. It was as if Raul was one of his companions.

Soon, the lawyer began to provide relevant evidence to defend the two young men. In the middle of the trial, Lily's cries resonated within the four walls of the quiet court. This whole time, she had been sleeping soundly, but now she suddenly woke up. Lean, who had been looking ahead without even glancing towards the seats, finally glanced our way. I knew that it was a rare chance for Tina to even get a look from Lean, so she was probably nervous and excited when it happened. She was afraid that the sound of Lily's cries would be so noisy that the judge will eject her out of the court, so she quickly lifted up her shirt and breastfed the child. It seemed that the baby was just hungry, so it stopped crying when Tina fed her. After the hearing, the judge announced that the verdict of Lean's case would be declared on a certain day. And because of a lack of evidence, the original verdict on Raul's case remained the same. I glanced over at Alvaro at once. He was still in his seat with his arms crossed. A faint smile appeared on his lips as if he had expected this to happen. Since the judge declared that the verdict of Lean's case would be announced at a certain day, it meant that the case was still open. And a long delay might bring trouble. Upon hearing the result, Belinda was riled up. "My son was framed! He's innocent!" she exclaimed.

My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 250

[/ My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO: A Sweet Second Chance](#)
Chapter 250 It Was A Mistake

The hearing was over, so nobody paid attention to Belinda's outburst. Soon, Lean and Raul were taken away. Lean didn't even glance at his own mother, but he looked back at the child in Tina's arms. "Lean, your daughter doesn't even have a formal name yet. Give her a name, please!" Tina shouted before Lean could be taken away. It must've taken a lot of courage for her to say that.

Suddenly, he stopped to look at Tina with a devilish smile on his lips. "Then, call her Mistake Sullivan." I could feel just how much Tina must be trembling right now. She stood rooted to her spot until Lean disappeared from her sight. "Let's go, Tina," I suggested. As we walked along the court's corridors, tears rolled down Tina's cheeks. Her shoulders were heaving up and down, and I felt really bad for her. "He's right. Lily's existence is a mistake," she cried. Just before I could comfort her, someone held my wrist. All I saw was the hem of a windbreaker before I was pressed against the wall. With his hands on both of my shoulders, Alvaro had me trapped. He stared at me with a listless face. I couldn't tell if he was happy with the result or angry. But I figured he would be mad, since the verdict on his brother's sentence remained the same. "Alvaro, please don't..." Tina stood aside with Lily in her arms as tears rolled down her face. She was so frightened that she could barely form a sentence. "You should go ahead and wait outside, Tina. I'll drive you home later," Alvaro said, looking at her. Tina looked at him, and then she glanced at me with hesitation. When she turned around and walked away, she looked back several times. I could tell that she was obviously worried. After she disappeared from my sight, I said to Alvaro, "We can't control the law." Though I was barely acquainted with him, I didn't think he was completely unreasonable. Thus, I gathered my composure and figured that I might be able to reason with him.

Upon hearing my remark, Alvaro grinned. He tilted his head to the side, seemingly in thought. A moment later, he said, "It's a good sentence. That brat is frivolous and disobedient. He really should

stay imprisoned for a few more years. It'll straighten him out."

I was stunned by his answer. I really didn't expect him to react this way.

Didn't he want Derek to help Raul get out of prison early? If not, what was his real purpose? Was it the one million dollars?

Alvaro was in close proximity to me. Even if I turned my head, I could still feel his breath on my ear. The situation was getting awkward.

I swallowed and said, "So, it's not Derek's fault. I mean look at what happened! Even his brother, Lean, hasn't had a verdict yet. He's done his best. And that million-dollar contract you asked him to sign is nothing but extortion."

“What are you talking about?” A disdainful smile appeared on his lips as he snorted. “I wouldn’t even glance at one million dollars.” My heart felt like it was about to leap from my chest. Did Alvaro want to extort more?

Seeing that he was looking aside and he froze for a moment, I turned my head to the direction he was looking at. It turned out that Gifford and Belinda were standing nearby. At this moment, Gifford seemed ready to go ballistic. I guessed that even though he didn’t like me, he’d rather not have his daughter-in-law having relations with another man. I tried my best to push Alvaro away, but his arms were like two iron poles nailed to the wall. I couldn’t move him at all. “If you struggle again, I’m going to kiss you,” he suddenly whispered to my ear. I was rendered speechless.. He stared at me with determined eyes, as if he was telling me that he was capable of doing anything. Seeing that I didn’t move, he smiled with satisfaction and helped me tidy up my clothes. I didn’t even dare to look at Gifford’s expression at the moment. He already had a bad impression of me, and now, it might be even worse. I would never be able to prove to him that I was blameless. As I heard a set of footsteps, I summoned the courage to turn around again. I saw Gifford walking away without even glancing back, while Belinda gave me a contemptuous look before following her husband.

Once they had left, I shoved Alvaro away, causing him to stagger back before steadying himself. Then, he raised his head and chuckled. 1 “What do you want?” I asked, clenching my fists. Alvaro stared at me and smiled. It seemed as though he was amused that I was annoyed. I took a deep breath and gnashed my teeth. All of a sudden, he lightly tapped my forehead. “Silly girl, you shouldn’t frown. It’ll give you wrinkles,” he remarked. Not wanting to waste time on him anymore, I pushed his hand aside and strode away.