

My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 271

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Chapter 271 It Really Didn't Hurt

After the doctor finished bandaging Derek's wound, we came out and walked towards Gifford's ward. Suddenly, Derek held my hand and stopped. Surprised, I turned around to look at him. "Does your shoulder still hurt, Eve?" he asked, looking into my eyes. I couldn't really describe how I felt at the moment. His concern made me feel warm, but truthfully, I was a little forlorn by what happened. I could feel that my eyes were very hot. In an exaggerated manner, I shook my arm and said, "Look! It really doesn't hurt." Inside the ward, Gifford was lying awake and he seemed fine. At this moment, Belinda was already in the ward. When she saw us enter, she was clearly annoyed. "Derek, you've always been a reliable person. Why didn't you think things through this time? Just look at how you've pissed off your father!" Personally, I didn't have a single clue why Gifford went ballistic. With a listless expression, Derek looked elsewhere and said, "I'm not a very good son, but I think you're a good wife and you'll look after him. You certainly wouldn't need my help here. Let's go, Eveline." Having said that, he took my hand and led me out of the ward. "You insubordinate son!" Gifford roared from behind us. Then, I heard Belinda's gentle voice trying to appease him. "Come now, my dear. Don't get angry. You're not young anymore. You need to think about your health. Do you think getting mad about it can solve the problem?" Derek pulled me away and walked in hurried steps. It didn't take long until Belinda's voice was out of earshot. Aaron didn't leave until he had driven us home. After I washed my face and rinsed my mouth, I walked out of the bathroom and found Derek was leaning against the headboard. The light in the bedroom was off, so only the cinder of his cigarette could be seen flickering in the dark between his fingers. When I got closer, I saw him look at me and place his hand on the edge of the bed. He wasn't smoking, but he let the cigarette continue burning. In the darkness, his eyes were open. They were so empty that I felt frightened. It was as if he was a soulless body, and all vigor had left him. I didn't like the feeling of seeing him like this. He was so pitiful. At the moment, he was like an injured animal, quietly licking its wounds beneath the darkness of the night. My heart ached for him. I leaned closer to him to get a better look. "Are you okay?" As those words escaped my throat, I almost felt like crying. At last, he slowly turned to look at me. It felt like a long time until he finally said, "Eveline, I'm cold. Can you please warm me up?" The tone of his voice was deep and soft. It almost sounded like he was begging. At this moment, I felt like my heart was being torn apart. Without saying a word, I took off my clothes, lifted the blanket and got under it. Then, I snuggled as close to him as possible. He snuffed out the cigarette in the ashtray on the bedside table, and held me in his embrace. I could feel the warmth of his breath on my ear. His breathing was slow and it sounded heavy. It was like a faint background music, telling a heart wrenching story. "My head hurts," he complained. I was at a loss of what to do. After pondering for a moment, I climbed up a little and gently blew on his forehead. I was very cautious with my every move. And I sure hoped that he could feel just how much I cared for him, so that it could dispel the grief he was feeling little by little. "Are you feeling better?" I asked. Derek held my hand, and pulled me down a little. His eyes regained some spark and a smile had formed on his lips. "Much better." Just when I was feeling relieved, he said, "But I still feel so cold."

I bit my lower lip, struggling to come up with an idea. When I finally figured out what to do, I could feel my cheeks burning from embarrassment as I whispered, "Let's have sex, then." "Do you feel warmer now?" I asked after we were done. He planted a kiss on my forehead, and held me as tight as he could.

In a pleasing, magnetic voice, he replied, "Yes."

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The following morning, when I opened the front door of the villa, I saw a pile of beer cans and a man lying at our doorstep. It was Felix, and he was in a pathetic state. His clothes were thin, so he was huddling up for warmth. It was really cold outside, and chances were that he might get sick if he stayed out here any longer. Hurriedly, I woke him up. He opened his eyes and slowly got up when he saw me. His hair was a mess. Half of his face, including the corners of his lips were bruised and swollen. Right now, he looked no better than a pauper. "Why are you here?" I asked. Felix scratched his hair. It was already a mess to begin with, and it was now even messier. "I wanted to have a drink with my good friend, Derek. But when I arrived at the door, I realized that it was too late. Since I'm single, I can do whatever I want. But he has a wife, so he's not as free as I am. Besides, he has that illness with his stomach, right? You certainly won't let him drink, so I figured I'd be the only one who could drink all these cans of beer here." Then, he pointed at the empty beer cans littered on the ground. I could tell that he was in so much pain from losing Louise. For a moment, I wasn't sure what I was going to tell him. "Where is Louise? Tell me." Felix suddenly looked at me with determined eyes. As a matter of fact, I hadn't contacted Louise in two days. Thus, I shook my head in response. Felix's head drooped as he picked up an empty beer can and crushed it in his hand until it was flat. While he was doing that, his face was distorted by pain and frustration. "I've searched everywhere she might've gone, but I just couldn't find her. I can't even get through to her phone. It seems that she's made up her mind. She never wants to see me again." I really felt bad seeing Felix drop this low. I remembered how happy he was when he proposed to Louise, and how happy he made her. Back then, I never would've imagined that things would end up like this. "Can't you live without a woman? Goodness, Felix! Look at yourself in the mirror. You've gone downhill, man!" I heard Derek's voice from behind me. I stepped aside as he walked out and stood beside Felix. Sitting on the ground, Felix looked up at him and saw the wound on his head. "What happened to your head? Did you two get in a fight or something?" Derek and I looked at each other, and neither of us said a word. Felix glanced back and forth between me and Derek, and a moment later, a bitter smile appeared on his lips.

"Eveline isn't Louise. How could she fight with you? You're in a happy, loving relationship right now. You wouldn't say that if you were in my shoes, Derek. I would give up anything just so she could come back to me and fight with me," said Felix. I couldn't bear to see him like this any longer, so I told him that I would call Louise and ask her of her whereabouts. Upon hearing what I said, Felix's eyes lit up. He jumped up and looked at me with all the hope he could muster.

But to his disappointment, Louise's phone was powered off. Truthfully, I already had an idea of where she might be. Chances were that she was with Layne right now. But I couldn't bring myself to say that. If I did do that, I had enough reason to believe that Felix might do something stupid again. For a long time, Felix just sat at the door. I had already prepared breakfast for him, but he still refused to come in, let alone eat. Finally, Derek had had enough of his moping, so he dragged Felix to the car. Not long after they left, my phone rang. It was an unknown number. "Eve, it's me." Upon hearing Louise's voice, I was delighted. "Lulu, did you change your phone number?" I asked. "No, this is Layne's number," she replied. So, I was right. She was really with Layne, huh? It had only been a few days. How far did their relationship develop? In all honesty, I'd rather not guess. "Eve, I'm going to get married." After getting her current location, I hung up and hurriedly left to see Louise.

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Chapter 273 Marriage Is Like A Gamble

"Lulu, are you going to get a marriage certificate? With whom? Is it Felix or Layne?". Louise smiled when she heard my question. "With Layne, of course. Eve, shouldn't you be congratulating me?" I didn't expect that her impulsive decision would last this long. Truthfully, I couldn't know for sure if it would be a mistake for her to marry Layne, but I just figured she'd need more time to think about this carefully

Just before I could ask another question, Louise had already urged me into the car.

The one who was driving it was Layne.

Thus, I didn't have any chance to say anything along the way. And I knew for a fact that Louise could be as stubborn as a donkey sometimes. Soon, the car stopped at the entrance of the city hall. "Have you really made up your mind?" Layne asked as he turned his head to Louise. Louise glanced at the entrance of the city hall. There, she saw a man and a woman coming out, and they seemed to be so happy together. "Let's grab something to eat first. I'm starving," Louise responded calmly. As a matter of fact, I sensed a little bit of hesitation from her when I saw her eyes.

Layne nodded in response and drove back to his house.

I had already been here once, and it was when I was forcibly brought here by Layne's men last time.

He asked us to go inside, while he went to buy some ingredients. In the yard, there were several people playing cards around a small table. Upon seeing us enter the premises of the yard, they greeted Louise as "Mrs. Thurman" one after the other. Ignoring them, Louise took me inside the living room. From outside,

looking in, Layne's house seemed ordinary. But once you'd gone inside, the decoration and furniture weren't bad at all. There were many kinds of fruits on the coffee table in the living room. Louise told me to make myself at home, and then she sat on the sofa and turned on the TV. She was wearing a short beige down jacket, which was probably the reason she looked thinner. Or perhaps it was just because she had lost a lot of weight from all the stress these recent days. To top it off, her face was morbidly pale.

Now that Layne wasn't around, I figured it was the best time to talk to her.

"Lulu, have you made up your mind? And Felix..."

"Just don't mention him again, okay?" Louise stopped me before I could even finish my words. 1

After a while, she glanced at the TV and said, "Eve, out of all the people in the world, you know me best. I was always very timid when it comes to love. I never dared to take the first step, and honestly, I was even too scared to love. But after everything I've been through, I no longer feel that afraid. I stopped being too cautious. And maybe it's because I have nothing to lose now that I've become fearless. Don't you agree?" Now, I realized that Louise was truly heartbroken this time. 13 After a moment of pondering, I said, "You remember what happened to me and Shane, right? It broke my heart, to say the least. But even so, I'm still afraid of getting hurt." Louise leaned against the sofa, looking at me sideways. "You're only scared whenever you're serious in a relationship. And the reason you're afraid now is because you truly love Derek." And she was right. I did love Derek with every fiber of my being. I had verified this fact several times over. I could never escape nor deny it. Did Louise mean that she didn't really love Layne so she wasn't afraid of getting hurt? "Lulu, I wish you could take some time to think about this. I still think that you and Layne are being too impulsive." Louise shook her head and smiled. "Not really. I've seen it clearly now. A woman's marriage is like a gamble. My mother lost the bet when she married my father, and that bitch Linda thought she had won. Sadly for her, many years later, she lost, too. And you lost the bet when you married Shane, but you've been blessed with good luck that you won the gamble with Derek. Eve, you're the grand winner of the gamble." I didn't think that I had won the bet when I chose to be with Derek. If my marriage with him truly was a bet, then the game had just begun. At present, it was hard to tell if I would win or lose in the end.

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Chapter 274 That's A Man's Job

After a while, Layne came back with a big bag of snacks in hand. He placed the bag on the coffee table and said, "I'm not sure what you like to eat, so I just bought whatever I could grab. Next time, tell me what food you prefer to eat and I'll buy it for you." "Sure," said Louise. Then, she poured all the food out of the bag. There were indeed many kinds of snacks. During lunch, the dining table was

filled with many different dishes. I remembered that the last time I was here, Layne personally cooked for Louise. I had this personal belief that most guys who looked unreliable were actually good at cooking. I could tell that Louise was annoyed that Layne's men were so noisy. "It's so noisy," she said. Without hesitation, Layne drove them out. Naturally, none of them had any objections. They were all cackling as they went out. "Mr. and Mrs. Thurman, enjoy your meal," they said. After dinner, Louise gathered all the tableware and Layne took them. He held her hand, staring at it carefully with a faint smile on his face. "A woman's hands are so beautiful. You shouldn't be doing housework. That's a man's job." From what I could see at the moment, he was really good to Louise. It was just as she had said, marriage was like a gamble. It made me wonder that she might actually end up living happily with him. Truthfully, I doubted my ability to judge a person's character. At the very least, the fact that I married a scumbag like Shane just proved that I was a bad judge of character. A few days later, Derek took off his bandages. And the following day after that, he went on a business trip. Meanwhile, I stayed at home. During the days he was absent, I read books, cooked meals for myself, watched TV, and went to bed alone. I was all alone while I did all those things. Somehow, I knew that I wasn't used to this kind of life. The villa felt so empty without Derek, and my heart also felt as empty. That night, I was sitting alone in the living room and watching TV. After watching a TV series, a commercial showed up, so I decided to grab the remote control to change channels. Accidentally, I switched it to a channel that was broadcasting a new TV series launching conference. I froze the moment I saw Becky. She was tall, well-dressed and her makeup was so exquisite. Even as she stood amidst a line of actors, she was still very eye-catching. I guessed that it was the TV series contract that Derek had gotten for her. Based on where Becky was standing, I could tell just how important she was as the leading actress. After a brief introduction from the producer, the next part of the event ensued. The reporters began asking questions, and the scene cut to the auditorium. In all honesty, I didn't care whether Becky could achieve her dream of becoming a star and being popular. Thus, I grabbed the remote control again and intended to change the channel. However, I was shocked to see someone I recognized.

Amidst the audience, I saw Derek. Even when the launching conference was over and the commercial was playing on the TV, I was still in a state of shock. Once I had gathered my composure, I grabbed my phone and called Derek. The phone rang again and again, but he wouldn't pick up. Pretty soon, I felt like my heart was being strangled, and I even had difficulty breathing. It was already half past nine in the evening. He should've returned to his hotel room by now. What was he doing and why wasn't he answering my calls? : After pondering over and over for five minutes straight, I was in a bad mood. Just when I was about to call him again, he called me back. I let the phone ring for a while, and took a deep breath before I answered it. "What? Do you miss me?" I heard Derek's flirtatious voice on the other end of the line. "Uh-huh," I replied. "Where are you?" I asked calmly. "In my hotel room. I just took a shower, and now I'm about to go to bed," he said. It was very quiet on the other end of the line. I believed that he was at his hotel room right now. At the very least, he wasn't in a night club. "But it's so early. Don't you have any social engagements?" I didn't ask him what I wanted to know directly. He chuckled at my response. "Why do you ask? Are you worried about me?" Since I didn't say anything, he continued, "Don't worry. I always keep your teachings in mind, and I haven't had any drinks." His words to appease me did not do anything to alleviate my frustrations. I just kept picturing Derek sitting among the audience at the launching conference, and it made me really sad. "Well, it's

easy for you to say whatever you want over the phone," I responded. "Hold on," Derek replied. Afterwards, silence ensued at the other end of the line...

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Chapter 275 I Couldn't Fall Asleep The Whole Night

I waited anxiously for a minute before I received a message on my WhatsApp account. The profile of A Cat That Likes Eating Fish was flashing. When I clicked it, I saw several photos. "See? This is my hotel room," he said. It turned out that Derek just took photos of his room. The pictures showed me every corner of his room. "Don't worry, honey. I'll keep my integrity and purity intact for you," he said while chuckling. I didn't ask him about the launching conference. I decided to pretend like I didn't know anything, and see if he would take the initiative to tell me about it once he had come back. "You should go to sleep, honey. Try not to miss me too much. And don't kick the quilt at night. Good night!"

Before hanging up the phone, he took the time to give me some reminders. But after our call, I couldn't fall asleep. He went to see Becky without telling me. Even if he had asked her to leave Sousen, he still couldn't stop caring about her. 1 If Becky's TV series became a hit, and considering that she was a popular and beautiful female star befitting of Derek's status, what would I be?

I was restless for the whole night, and I woke up late the next morning. As soon as I opened my eyes, I remembered that I had to participate in the driving test today. When I saw what time it was, I panicked. I got out of bed, washed up, and rushed to the examination venue without even having breakfast. I could tell from the look on Denzel's face that he wanted to strangle me. But fortunately, he held himself back. Perhaps he was worried that it might affect my mood while I was taking the exam. "Don't be nervous," he told me. But the moment I sat in the driver's seat, I was befuddled. I wasn't at my best self today.

And sure enough, I failed the exam. When I came out, Denzel began to scold me. "Eveline, what the hell was that? Do you think you're driving a go-kart? Weren't you driving well during practice before? Why did you become so lousy now that you're taking the practical exam?" 1 Disheartened and dejected, I said, "I'm really sorry, Denzel. I barely slept last night." "You didn't sleep well again last night? What did you do?" he asked. 2 It took me a few moments to remember that I told him the same things last time when I couldn't perform well.

"I'm sorry." Right now, I was so embarrassed that I couldn't bring myself to raise my head.

nervo

I didn't leave the examination venue until Denzel was done criticizing me.

I was so depressed by what happened. Failing this exam was like adding insult to my injury. Along the road, I walked with my head down. When I crossed the road without glancing at the traffic light, I was almost hit by a car. Fortunately,

someone behind me pulled me back. 1 The car passed me by, followed by a gust of wind and the driver's incessant cursing. The moment I turned around, I found that Alvaro was the one who saved me. When he saw my pathetic state, he bantered, "Are you seriously this sad about failing the exam?"... I had no interest in talking to him, so I wanted to just walk away. However, he pulled me again. "Where are you going? I'll drive you there." B

u cal "No, thanks," I said in a passive voice without looking back. "I heard that Gifford broke his son's head, and was so angry that he passed out and was sent to the hospital. Is any of that true?" Alvaro asked. Suddenly, I stopped in my tracks to look at him. I saw him leaning against his car, lighting up a cigarette. He looked up and wore a complacent smile. Suddenly, something dawned on me. Now that I guessed what happened, I decided to mock him. "Now I understand why you told me that you wouldn't even glance at a million dollars. I have no idea how many millions of dollars you will get for a piece of land in Sousen. You're really greedy, aren't you?" With no trace of anger, Alvaro chuckled at my remark. "I've already begun working on that piece of land. Do you want to see it?" I took some time to think about it, and decided to get in his car. Soon, Alvaro stopped at Flash Village. He rolled down the window and pointed to a patch of land just outside the village. There were excavators flattening a slope. "It's going to be a big project," he said with glee.

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Chapter 276 A Favor

I didn't expect that the land Derek gave Alvaro would be the one right next to Flash Village. "What are you planning to build over there?" I asked. The cold wintry air poured into the car, but Alvaro seemed like he was basking in the warmth of a sunny spring day.. "A tomb," he said. I was so surprised that I was left slack-jawed. I now understood why Gifford was so angry. Flash Village was a tourist attraction. If someone were to build a tomb next to it, it could affect the village's business operations. "But why?" I asked, visibly flummoxed. Alvaro leaned against the back of his seat and took a drag on his cigarette. "Because I want to," he answered with a smirk.

I was rendered speechless It was easy to tell that he only did this to get revenge on the Sullivan family. But... Derek knew what Alvaro was planning to do with the land, and yet he still gave it to him. Did that mean that the target of Alvaro's revenge was just Gifford? Alvaro and I stayed there for a while, and then he drove away from that land a few minutes later. After a long silence, he turned his head to me and asked, "Can you do me a favor?" He sounded quite sincere, but I had to be cautious around this man. Alvaro was a person who didn't play according to common sense. To me, it felt like he was always setting traps and lying in wait for others to fall for it. "What do you want?" I asked, suspicious of his intentions. He

placed his fist before his mouth and cleared his throat. For some reason, he appeared to be a little embarrassed. "My grandma got angry at me. I haven't visited her for a long time. But she's really old now, and I want to see her. It'll be better to bring someone along, because my grandma won't scold me in front of a guest," he said. "No way in hell am I going with you," I said without a second thought. Alvaro glanced at me. A faint smile appeared on his lips as he commanded, "You have to go." Was this seriously how he asked for help? I told him to let me out of the car, but he wouldn't budge.

Once more, I asked him to let me out. And only then did he finally give me some attention, albeit a little begrudgingly.

"What's the rush? We're almost there, anyway."

Right after he said that, he took a sharp turn. The car drove into a village and finally stopped at the entrance of a farmhouse.

"Get out," he ordered.

Unwillingly, I got out of the car and followed him towards the farmhouse.

The gate of the courtyard was open, and there was a woman in her seventies sitting under the eaves. Upon hearing some footsteps, she raised her head and pushed her glasses up, taking a careful look at

us.

"Alvaro! Oh, I thought you'd never drop by again," she said with disdain. Alvaro was right. The old woman was mad at him. He took a few steps forward, putting on a polite smile. "Grandma, we have a guest, see? Be nice, please?"

After he said that, Mrs. Barton looked at me. "Who is she?" she asked. To my surprise, Alvaro held my hand and declared "She's my girlfriend, Eveline." "What the hell are you talking about?" I glared at him and tried to get rid of his hand. However, he held my hand so tightly and whispered in a voice that only I could hear, "My grandmother has been expecting me to bring a girlfriend back. Look, I just want her to be happy. Just do me this favor. I'm begging you." In spite of what he said, I still glared at him with blazing eyes. Mrs. Barton's eyes lit up. She immediately put down the needlework she had in hand and waved at me. "Come here, Eveline. Come, darling. Let me have a good look at you!" I didn't have the heart to see an old woman be disappointed, so I obliged to her request and slowly walked to her side.

The old woman held my hand and asked me a lot of personal questions. She felt sorry for me when she heard that my parents had passed away. It wasn't until Alvaro noticed my exhaustion from answering all the questions that he pulled me up and said, "Grandma, that's enough talking. We're really hungry now." It was then that his grandmother came to her senses, stood up, and went to the kitchen to prepare something to eat. After she left, I said to Alvaro, "Tell your grandma the truth. I'm leaving now, and you can't stop me." Having said that, I turned around, ready to leave. However, he grabbed my wrist and looked into my eyes. I

could see the sincerity and determination in his eyes. "We can leave after lunch. I've never seen my grandma this happy. Do you really have the heart to hurt her like that?" I really didn't want to break a sweet old woman's heart, so I decided to stay for lunch, at least.