

My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 277

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Chapter 277 You Should Feel Honored

It seemed that Mrs. Barton was delighted to see her grandson picking up food for me. "Eveline, look at how sweet my dear Alvaro is!"

This time, Alvaro picked up some food for his grandmother and smiled. "Grandma, I've always been nice to people, remember? And I love you very much. Don't you feel it?" The old woman giggled with glee. "You should love your girlfriend even more." After dinner, we were on our way back. Mrs. Barton walked me out of the yard, holding my hand and telling me to visit her again. Though I promised to visit her, I swore to myself that I would never come back here again. While Alvaro was driving me home, I put on a stern face and said, "You'd better straighten up that matter with your

grandmother. Otherwise, she'll be very disappointed in you." I was alarmed when I saw him raise his hand. I figured he was about to attack me, so I dodged on instinct. He seemed amused by my reaction and chuckled. Then, he turned on the music. It turned out that he just wanted to listen to some music. After a while, he told me, "It'll make her happy, even if it's just the apple of Sodom." Somehow, I thought that all elderly people had the same expectations. Whether it was Derek's grandfather or Alvaro's grandmother. They all just hoped for the best for their beloved descendants "You should find yourself a real girlfriend and make your grandmother happy," I suggested.

Since Alvaro didn't say anything, I turned to look at him.

I noticed that he was just looking ahead with a faint smile on his lips. Moments later, he replied, "I've never given anyone a chance to be my girlfriend. You should feel honored." This time, I was rendered speechless. I rolled my eyes at him, and turned my attention to the window, just so I could ignore him.

Alvaro parked the car outside the villa. When I got out of the car, I noticed that Derek was standing on the open-air balcony on the second floor and staring at me. He happened to see me disembarking from Alvaro's car. Meanwhile, Alvaro was still sitting in his car, staring at Derek through the car window. His hand was dangling by the car window, tapping leisurely, and there was a provocative smile on his face. I couldn't bring myself to look at Derek right now, because I felt horrible. He never told me that he would come back today. As I quickly walked towards the villa, Alvaro bade me farewell from behind. Instead of looking back, I just quickened my pace. i Soon, I heard the car roaring away as I reached the inner premises of the villa. At this time, Derek was still standing on the balcony with his hands on the railing. He was looking outside, and it seemed that he hadn't moved from his spot. "When did you come back?" I asked, standing behind him. He didn't turn around even though he heard me. "Did I come home too early?" Stunned, I stared at his back, uncertain of what to say next.

“What... what do you mean?”

Slowly, Derek turned around, leaned against the railing, bowed his head and lit a cigarette. After putting it in his mouth and taking a drag, he still didn't say a word. Moments later, he removed the cigarette from his lips and placed his hand on the railing. Half of the cigarette's ash fell down. “Didn't I tell you to stay away from him?” he said in a calm tone. “Yes, you did.” A bitter smile appeared on my lips. Based on the frown on his face, it seemed like he was in a bad mood. “Why are you smiling?” he asked. I did my best to stay calm by biting my lower lip. “Before you interrogate me, why don't you tell me where you went on your business trip?” I asked back. Once more, Derek looked into my eyes and didn't say anything for a long time.

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Chapter 278 We Have All Changed

Derek's silence hurt me. I smiled bitterly. “You can't say it, can you? I don't think I have done anything wrong. But what about you? Can you really face me with a clear conscience? Or do you regard me as a fool whom you can cheat on whenever you want? You thought I would never find out about it, didn't you?” 1

Derek lowered his head and frowned, his lips pursed into a thin line. The sadness and dejection were evident on his handsome face.

After a long while, he raised his head and looked at the sky

“Eveline, have you ever felt that something has changed between us? We weren't like this before. In fact, I missed home when I was out. But when I came back, everything seemed different. Is it you or me? Or have we both changed?”

His words pierced my heart like a sword. I remembered what he said when he took me home for the first time. He told me that seeing a woman cooking in the kitchen brought him the warmth of home. It broke my heart to realize that he no longer felt the same. “You met Becky, didn't you?” I asked, staring into his eyes. He looked right back at me without averting his gaze. Derek didn't deny it, which meant he met her. I nodded sadly. “So, now her presence gives you the warmth of home, right?” I turned around to leave, but he caught up with me and grabbed my hand when I reached the staircase. I looked back at him. A frown lined his forehead—he looked exhausted. I was looking forward to hearing his explanation. Part of me hoped there was a strong justification behind his meeting with Becky but what he said only broke my heart.

“You stay. I'll leave.” He let go of my hand and went downstairs. Soon, he walked out of the door. Hearing the sound of the car engine, I collapsed on the staircase. I knew I had been evading several problems. For instance, love wasn't the reason behind our marriage. I knew I shouldn't care too much, but I couldn't help myself. He had been hinting time and again that he had me in his heart. Our marriage

seemed like a fairytale to others. But it was full of cracks and problems that I had been avoiding all this while.

However, reality would always confront us sooner or later. I had no choice but to face it now. The quarrel this time was real; it wasn't an act. Perhaps we needed some time apart. I went back to my room and packed some necessities. When I went downstairs, I saw the review materials on the coffee table. I put them in my suitcase and walked out of the villa. I couldn't go to the old house or Louise's. I had to go somewhere where Derek couldn't find me until I calmed down. As I thought about it for a while, an idea occurred to me. I came to the bus station. Luckily, I caught the last bus to Qinben.

Perhaps it was fate.

It took about four hours to arrive at the destination. At six in the evening, I got out of the bus. It was dark outside.

But there was a problem. I had no idea where Derek's grandpa lived. Derek drove us here last time, and I didn't remember the route. I only knew that his grandpa lived in the countryside but didn't know the exact location. I stood at the station, not knowing where to go. Several taxi drivers asked me if I wanted a ride. Some of them grabbed my luggage, thinking I wouldn't refuse. However, I held on to my suitcase and politely declined their offers, stating that someone would pick me up. Only then did they finally leave me alone. It was a cold wintry night. Almost everyone who got out of the bus left right away. I was not familiar with this place. I stood at the station and watched the people come and go, not knowing what to do or where to go. I couldn't call Derek for the address. At that moment, a name popped into my mind.

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Chapter 279 We Need Some Time Apart

I dialed Aaron's number. I felt anxious when I heard the beeping sound, fearing that he forgot to bring his phone or didn't hear the phone ringing.

Fortunately, a few seconds later, he picked it up.

"Eveline?"

It was a bit noisy at the other end of the line. I even heard Felix calling out to Derek in the background. I held my phone and asked Aaron, "Can you go somewhere quieter?" "Sure. Hold on," he said. A moment later, silence ensued at the other end of the line. "So, what's up?" asked Aaron.

I wetted my dry lips and said, "Aaron, can you tell me where your grandfather lives?" "Hang on... Where exactly are you right now?" he answered. "I'm at

Qinben Bus Station.” Afterwards, I added, “Don’t tell Derek. Please.” Aaron didn’t ask me why I was there. “It’s really cold outside. Go to the waiting room for the time being. I’ll be right there. Just stay put, okay?” There wasn’t anyone in the large waiting room, but it was warmer than being outside. I thought that I would have to wait until ten in the evening, but Aaron appeared at the door of the waiting room around nine.

He took off his coat and put it on me without even saying a word. “Did you take a plane? How did you get here so fast?” I remarked.

Aaron chuckled. “I’m a very good driver.”

Now that we were inside his car, he turned on the air conditioner. I felt much warmer immediately, so I took off his

coat.

“So, what happened? Did you and Derek fight?” Aaron asked while we were on the way to his grandfather’s house.

After a moment of pondering, I answered, “I think he and I need some time apart.”

“Derek is in a horrible mood today. He didn’t even listen to me when I told him not to drink. I was about to call you, but I was surprised that you called me first,” he replied. My heart skipped a beat. I couldn’t believe that the first thing that I thought of was Derek’s bad stomach. About half an hour later, we arrived at the house of Derek’s grandfather-James Sullivan.

It seemed that he had already fallen asleep before we got there, but he was awakened when we knocked on the door. Moments later, he came to open the door for us. Based on the look on his face, the old man seemed surprised to see us here. “Eveline, Aaron! What brings you two here?”

“Uh, Grandpa, it’s really cold out here. Do you mind letting us in first?” Aaron suggested. With that, James let us in at once.

I told the old man that I had to call Aaron when I got lost at Qinben Bus Station, hoping that he wouldn’t tell Derek that I was here.

Given that James was a clever, experienced man, he realized that something was wrong immediately. He smiled at me and said, “Did you have a fight with Derek?” Since I wasn’t responding, he added, “Don’t worry. I won’t tell him you’re here. You’re welcome to stay here. Let that brat search for you in every corner of the world! Haha!” His words made me wonder if Derek would actually look for me. Honestly, I wasn’t sure. I wasn’t even certain if I was that important to him. Derek once told me that he wasn’t afraid that I’d do something stupid, because he was certain that I would never do them. Therefore, he probably wouldn’t worry about me as much as he worried about Becky. Naturally, I didn’t run away from home just to make Derek worry. I just wanted to be alone. So many things had happened in the past few weeks, which left me no time to think about our

relationship. In fact, my relationship with Derek had been gradually changing since Becky showed up in our life.

The foundation of our marriage wasn't solid enough. It could collapse easily if a strong enough wind blew against it. James brought me to the room that Derek and I slept in the last time we were here.

Thinking back on that night, I realized that I had so many expectations for our future marriage life at the time. And perhaps it was for that reason that I finally agreed to have sex with him. But sadly, things didn't go as I had hoped them to be.

I decided to turn off my phone and cut off all contact with him.

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Chapter 280 It's Snowing

The following day, I noticed that Aaron had no intention of leaving the house. "Aren't you going to work?" I asked. Aaron was helping James clean the yard with a broom. When he heard my question, he stopped to look at me and smiled. "I'm taking a few days off. People aren't machines, Eve, and I need time to readjust myself. It'll be a good chance for me to get some rest." Because I had nothing better to do, I took out my examination materials. James and Aaron were both doctors, so I figured I could ask them some questions that I didn't understand. Some said that people nowadays would die without their smartphones. I had been experimenting on this theory for a while now, and I found that even without a smartphone, people wouldn't die. I just focused all my energy on studying every day. And once I got tired of that, I would cultivate some flowers along with James and I would listen to him discuss floriculture. In other times, I would watch him and Aaron play chess. In all honesty, I kind of liked this routine. Without the Internet, I could spend more time doing things with people. My life was moving at a slower pace, and it was much simpler than before. I could tell that James was very fond of Aaron, but he treated Derek so differently. There were times that he could be quite hard on Derek. It was normal for elders to prefer obedient children. Aaron was gentle and kindhearted. Perhaps the reason James doted on Aaron the most was because the latter followed in James' footsteps to become an excellent doctor. To top it off, Aaron managed to make great strides in the field of medicine. So, it wasn't that surprising that James was quite proud of him. Derek, on the other hand, must've been an unruly child back when he was younger. Despite how smart and gifted he was, I was sure that he must've been a pain in the ass. During my fifth day of staying in Qinben, I opened my eyes to a beautiful morning. The first thing I saw was a vast expanse of snowy land, just outside the window. Oh, how I loved snowy days! Even though I could see snow every winter, the first snowfall of each year was the most exciting one of all. Both Aaron and I agreed to James' suggestion to eat hotpot and enjoy the nice weather. During winter, hotpots were the best choice of meal. We would sweat and feel warm while eating them. Aaron and I planned to buy some ingredients, but it was difficult to go out during snowy days. James told us that he would just

call someone to bring us some food here later. While Aaron was preparing the soup base, I washed the vegetables. By the time I was almost done, I heard someone knocking on the door. At this time, James was sitting on a chair, listening to the radio. He said that it was probably the delivery guy that would bring us the ingredients, and told me to open the door. The moment I opened the door, I was stunned. The delivery guy was here and he was so handsome. It turned out that the delivery guy was Derek, and he had several heavy bags with him. Our eyes met, and we were both rooted to the spot. After a moment of being shocked, I managed to compose myself. I guessed that it was either Aaron or James who sold me out. I was actually weirded out by how I felt right now. Back when I left home, I was so angry that I wanted to explode. But now that a few days had passed already, my anger had all but dissipated. Now that I was looking at Derek's face, I realized that I actually missed him. I lowered my head to hide my emotions, and took the bags over. "Thanks for delivering these. You can go ahead and leave now." I put down the bags and tried to close the door, but Derek used his arms to prevent me from closing it. Annoyed, I stared at him, but he just looked back at me with a smirk on his face. "It's very cold outside. Do you really have the heart to shut me out here?" The sound of Derek's voice made it seem like he was pleading. "It's not that easy to deliver food on a snowy day. Just let him in, Eveline, so he could warm himself up a little," said James. When I turned around, I found the old man still sitting on the cane chair with a radio in his arms. He then looked at Derek's expression and took pleasure in his misfortune. It was as if the old man was saying "Karma is real, boy!" Since James was the one who said it, I had no right to shut his grandson out. Thus, I loosened my grip and was about to pick up the bags. However, Derek took them before I could. "They're heavy. Let me do it." . . Since he offered to help me, I didn't refuse him. I just turned around and went back to the kitchen. After greeting his grandfather, Derek brought the groceries to the kitchen.