

My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 281

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Chapter 281 I'm Sorry

I stood by the sink and continued to wash the vegetables, turning a blind eye to Derek. He put the grocery bags down and patted Aaron's shoulder, who was making the soup base. "God, I could smell it from outside the yard. It almost made me drool." I stopped washing the vegetables, and the words slipped out of my mouth before I could stop myself. "Then, you better continue to drool. You are not invited to have lunch with us." Hearing what I said, Aaron laughed, but Derek didn't reply. As I continued to wash the vegetables, I felt something hot blow against my ear. My body stiffened on its own accord. "Then you guys have the meat and leave the soup for me," Derek whispered in my ear. His chin almost touched my shoulder, and his hair rubbed against my ear, making my scalp tingle. "Okay, you can have the soup," I muttered breathlessly, maintaining my composure. Instead of getting angry, Derek smiled at me. "The most delicious part of a hotpot is the soup base. If you leave the best to me, Grandpa and Aaron will have a problem with it later." I was at a loss for words. Once the hotpot soup was ready, Aaron moved the pot to the induction cooker that was prepared in the dining room, and we handed the vegetables and meat one after the other. The pot was boiling, and the delicious smell wafted in the air. The four of us sat at the small square table. "It's a rare chance for us to get together. You better have some drinks with me today." James grinned happily. "No drinking," I blurted out. James looked stunned. I looked at Derek and saw him casting a knowing look at me. Realizing that I might have overreacted, I decided to tone it down. "All right. Knock yourselves out." Aaron smiled as he added some vegetables and meat to the pot. "Grandpa, Derek had a stomachache and stayed in the hospital for a few days. The doctor has advised him not to drink."

The old man nodded in understanding. He looked at Derek and felt sorry for him. "Derek, you were disobedient and never took good care of yourself when you were younger. I told you that you would reap what you sowed one day," he reprimanded. Derek lowered his head and smiled helplessly. "I'm sorry, Grandpa." Although James scolded Derek, I could see the love gleaming in his eyes. The old man pursed his lips and glanced at the boiling hot pot. After a moment's thought, he said, "It will be a pity if we can't drink while eating hotpot. I have a bottle of low alcohol rice wine. Don't worry, it won't hurt your stomach. I will go and get it." Moments later, he returned with the wine bottle and told us that one of the villagers had brewed it. He had retired from a renowned hospital, so people here often visited him when they got sick. James never charged money. The villagers sent him gifts, like the newly brewed rice wine, or the eggs hatched in their farm, to express their gratitude. He was popular, and everyone in the village respected him. Aaron took the bottle of wine and brought several glasses from the kitchen. Then, he poured a glass for each of us. The window was open, and it was snowing outside. However, the atmosphere inside was warm and cozy. When I was a child, my mother made hotpots during winter when friends and relatives came to visit us. The hotpot wasn't about the taste but the warmth it brought to our body and soul. But, today, eating with these people made me a little uncomfortable. After all, I came here because I wanted to stay away from Derek—James and Aaron knew that. Since I hadn't made up with Derek, I couldn't eat and drink

happily in front of them. However, it would be rude if I continued to show my anger, so I didn't say anything. I added mushrooms to the pot because I liked them. James was very talkative during the meal. He told us funny stories that had happened in the village and all the unforgettable memories of his youth. He laughed from time to time as he recalled the good old days. I stared at the pot and silently listened to his stories. My heart broke as I remembered his illness. I always admired his fighting spirit. We all forgot to eat as we listened to his story with rapt attention, until Derek and Aaron picked some mushrooms and put them into my bowl at the same time. The synchrony of their moves left Grandpa astounded. I ignored Derek and thanked Aaron with a smile.

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Chapter 282 The Little Girl In The Photo

James continued to passionately tell us stories as he occasionally sipped on his wine. The delicious smell of hotpot and wine wafted in the room. The old man was in high spirits. He even showed us the old pictures he had collected over the years. Perhaps to make me feel included, he patiently told me about the people and the story behind each picture. He picked up a photo and looked at it for a long time. Then, he pointed at someone in the photo and looked at

Aaron.

"Aaron, who is the little girl next to you?" Derek and Aaron unanimously looked at the picture. I was sitting opposite James, so I couldn't see it. "She looks familiar," he said. Aaron smiled. "Well, the little girl in the photo is sitting right in front of you."

Understanding crossed James' face. He looked at me and back at the photo.

"Eveline?" His eyes widened in disbelief as he handed the photo to me. "Eveline, is this you?" I looked at the picture and realized it was me. In the photo, I was standing on a big stone while Aaron was standing beside it. I remembered one of our playmates had taken this picture. But as we grew up, each of us went to different schools and eventually lost all contact. "You insisted on standing on the stone because you refused to admit that you were shorter than me." Aaron smiled at the memory. "You were so stupid and lame back then."

Hearing that, I burst out laughing that sounded like me.

"I didn't!" I didn't want to admit it.

As soon as he mentioned the past, I couldn't stop talking.

It looked like Derek wasn't surprised that Aaron and I had known each other since childhood. But he fell silent and listened to our conversation. 2

“That was why you refused to move. Was it all because of little Eveline?” James suddenly said. I stared blankly at Aaron. He just smiled without denying. The atmosphere grew tense after James spoke. Derek picked the glass and took a sip of the wine. “This wine tastes good.” I suddenly felt flustered as I recalled how Aaron had always been kind to me—be it when we were kids or now. I picked up the glass and gulped the drink in one go. The old man picked another photo and continued to look at it, over and over again, as if he didn’t want to put it down. “Look at this photo,” he said.

Aaron leaned over and smiled. “This was Grandma when she was young.”

James let out a dreamy sigh as he looked at the photo. “Yes, your grandma was a beautiful woman.” His face softened at the mention of his deceased wife. “She was smart, intelligent, and beautiful. Everyone adored her. She was always surrounded by young men. I was afraid that she would end up marrying someone else instead of me, so I wrote her poems every day. I was afraid that she would forget me. We seldom got the time to meet each other. I was always kind to her and never treated her badly because I knew how precious she was. Anyone would want to be with her. I feared that one little mistake would make her leave me and choose to be with someone else.” I wasn’t sure if I was overthinking, but his words seemed to suggest something. After that, he went on and on about his wife and their love story. Their love was strong and loyal despite the inconvenience in transportation and communication. They were loyal to each other. It was an extraordinary love story—the two had lived a fairy tale. 1 James enjoyed the meal. The four of us emptied the entire bottle of wine. After lunch, the old man went to take a nap. Aaron and I were fighting over washing the dishes. In an attempt to end the quarrel, Derek said he would do it. We both put down the dishes and left the mess for him to handle. Derek was stunned. It took him a while to realize we had tricked him. I couldn’t help but feel sorry for him as he silently carried the tableware to the kitchen.

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Chapter 283 I Miss You So Much

The snow was still sprinkling the ground, which was already covered in a few inch thick blanket of it. I squatted under the eaves to play with the snow. When I looked up, I saw that Aaron was busy building a snowman. I hadn’t made a snowman for longer than I could remember, and honestly, I felt like I was well past the age of doing that. However, when I saw this scene before me, I felt like I had been transported back to my childhood. So I went over and joined him in his pursuit of building the snowman. Aaron mentioned that we used to enjoy playing in the snow when we were children. Back then, we reveled in having a good snowball fight. It really was great fun. There was one time that he hit me straight in the head with a snowball. I cried for such a long time and he spent quite a bit of time comforting me. 2 I couldn’t help feeling silly at the mention of that childhood memory. I remembered that back then I had sworn in my heart that I would avenge myself against him some day. However, so many years passed and I had still never meted out my vengeance. But, as the saying goes, revenge is a

dish best served cold. I covertly fashioned a snowball and held it in my hand. While he was preoccupied with making the snowman, I flung the ball at him. I hadn't expected that he would be so agile and dodge the snowball in time but, lo and behold, he managed the seemingly impossible feat. And so the battle ensued. Snowballs flew back and forth, and snow hit us all over our bodies and even sprinkled all over our heads.

Just when another snowball flew towards me again, someone yanked me and then I found that I was safely in a man's arms. He wrapped my head with his coat. When I raised my head, I saw Derek with white snowflakes melting on his face.

I looked at his face and burst into a fit of uncontrollable laughter. I really couldn't bring myself to stop laughing. Derek wiped the snow off his face and stared at me with a rather morose expression on his face.

I remembered that I was still at war with him, so I stopped laughing, turned around and made to walk away from

him.

But he grabbed me and pressed me against a big tree. My back hit the tree trunk and the force of the impact caused some of the snow to fall from the tree. Before I could recover from the shock of it, he sealed my lips with his. His tongue went straight into my mouth. Everything happened so fast that it left me breathless. My mind went completely blank. It was a cold snowy day but he got me burning up like a fire. Even the pain of my back rubbing against the tree was fading away. The kiss was passionate and ferocious. The pain from my lips sobered me up. I realized that Aaron was still in the yard with us so I reached out to push Derek away, but I just couldn't muster the strength to do it. He kissed me for a long time before letting me go. By that time, Aaron had already left and there were only the two of us in the yard. We looked at each other, both of us out of breath. Snowflakes fell from the sky and landed on his body. His face was always so intoxicating, and his kiss was as addictive as drugs. I doubted that I could ever give that up. Suddenly, he leaned towards me and rested his head weakly against my shoulder. "I missed you so much." His deep, soft voice suddenly rang in my ears.

My heart started to pound against my chest once again. I was afraid that James and Aaron would see this and made to push him away, but he held me tightly and gently rubbed his cheek against my ear. I tried my best to remain calm. I didn't want to admit defeat just because he kissed me. I said in a calm and slightly mocking tone, "Missed me? Maybe you just missed someone who cooks your meals for you? or someone who warms up your bed?" The pressure on my shoulder disappeared. Derek slowly raised his head and looked at me with a helpless, heartbroken expression on his face. "I lost my heart. You have taken my heart from me like a thief in the night. Nothing felt right without you at my side. Every day when I got home, the whole house just felt lifeless and barren," he said. I knew sometimes men only meant half of what they said, and often, even less. Men were fickle and often their apparent sincerity was actually quite fleeting.

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Chapter 284 I Didn't Sleep With Her

I looked into Derek's eyes. "No one will accompany anyone all their lives. People will have to get used to loneliness, just the way I have learned not to rely on you." Derek wrapped his arms around my waist, leaned towards me, and smiled. "I like when you rely on me. It's normal for a wife to rely on her husband. What's wrong with that?" "Because I feel that, sooner or later, I would end up losing you," I answered honestly. "Bullshit!" Derek rolled his eyes. "I'm healthy. I'm sure I will live for decades." I knew he understood what I meant but deliberately made it seem like he didn't, just to change the subject.

I lowered my head and fell silent..

"I didn't go to see Becky on purpose," Derek suddenly said. When I raised my head, I saw him staring at me intently. "Dere International has invested in that TV series. I was invited to attend the launching conference. I had just finished work at that time, so I dropped by." "But still, I believe you must have met her in private, right?" I continued to ask. Derek smiled helplessly. "I did meet her in private. But that doesn't mean I slept with her. She is a child in my eyes." "But this child is not as naive as you think," I retorted. Derek looked at me helplessly. "Eveline, I have my principles. I'm not someone who would sleep with random people." I could hear the sincerity in his voice, so I decided to stop questioning him. After a moment's silence, I said, "I met Alvaro after I finished my driving test that day. When he mentioned the land you gave him, I became curious and took his car. Why did you give that land to him? Do you know what he is going to do with that land?" Derek frowned and bit his bottom lip without answering my question. "Did the agreement you signed the other day have anything to do with that land? But why? Why did he do that? Besides, the agreement he used to threaten you has no legal effect. He was actually blackmailing you and you could just sue him. You didn't have to feel threatened." I told him my analysis. Derek raised his head and looked up at the sky, and the snowflakes fell on his face. After a while, he spoke, "That land is only a small portion of the real estate properties the Dere International owns. It won't affect me." "It will have a huge impact," I said. "He is building a graveyard there, which will directly affect the business of Flash Village and indirectly affect the relationship between you and your father. How could you say it won't affect you? You knew the consequences but went ahead with it anyway." Derek gently dusted off the snow on my shoulder and looked at me. "Not every father does the right thing. My father and I think differently on many things. I have my reasons. Even if Alvaro didn't kidnap you to threaten me, I would have still given him that land."

I stared at him in shock.

I remembered Alvaro telling me that the Sullivan family was indebted to him. But what on earth did the Sullivan family owe him that was worth a piece of land? There must have been a reason behind Derek's decision. Just as I was about to question further, I heard James' voice from the window on the second floor.

“Eveline, come inside and warm yourself. Derek likes to get wet in the snow. Let him stand outside.” My face flushed with embarrassment as I realized he would have seen everything.

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After going inside the house, we went upstairs together. Aaron and James were sitting beside the electric heater, watching TV and warming themselves. My fight with Derek ended just like that.

That night, I turned on my phone and found that I had received a lot of missed call notices. Some missed calls were from Derek; others were from Louise.

There was one message from my best friend that shocked me.

After reading it over and over, I was still stupefied. Louise claimed that she and Layne had gotten a marriage certificate and would hold their wedding ceremony tomorrow. She was also asking me to be her maid of honor. Seeing that I wasn't looking well, Derek held me in his arms and asked me what had happened. I quickly deleted the message from Louise, and lied to him that it was because Louise was in a bad mood and was asking me to accompany her. Derek had a feud with Layne, so he probably wouldn't allow me to attend their wedding. Moreover, Felix was one of his best friends. I was worried that Derek would tell him the news of the wedding. I couldn't imagine just how devastated Felix would be and what he would do if he were to find out that Louise was getting married, considering how he desperately searched for her in his quest to get her back. Derek suddenly snatched my phone away and placed it on the bedside table. He got on top of me and began to shower me with a passionate kiss.

After we shared a deep, long kiss, he stared at me breathlessly. “Honey, I've been craving for you since your absence,” he said. Then, he started kissing my neck. This time, he was even more aroused. The following morning, we said goodbye to James. Derek, Aaron, and I left in two cars. One was leading, the other was behind. I saw James standing at the door and watching us leave from the rearview mirror. I thought that even though Grandpa looked cheerful, he would probably feel sad now that we were leaving. After all, he had been living a lively life since we started spending time with him. It was already eleven in the morning by the time we arrived at Sousen. I asked Derek to drop me off at Louise's community. After he left, I took a cab and went to the hotel that Louise had mentioned. The hotel was well-decorated, and it exuded a joyous ambience. I called Louise and soon found the room. The moment I entered the room, I saw her sitting in front of a mirror in a beautiful white wedding gown, motionless. She must've noticed that I was already in the room, but she didn't look back. People claimed that a woman would be the most beautiful on her wedding day, and I believed that to be true. From what I could see in the mirror, Louise was indeed her most beautiful self today. And I must say that this dress she was wearing was

the most feminine style that she'd ever worn. But even though this was supposed to be her happiest day, I couldn't sense any happiness from the look on her face. Gently, I placed a hand on Louise's shoulder. "Lulu, have you really made up your mind?" She smiled at me from the mirror and said, "Even without this wedding ceremony, Layne and I are a legally married couple. To be honest, it doesn't matter to me if there's a wedding ceremony to be held or not. Layne is the one who wanted to do this. He said he didn't want me to settle for less." I could tell from the way that she was smiling that it was forced. I was really worried about my best friend, so I couldn't even force myself to smile. "Lulu, all I want is for you to be happy." Louise turned around and held my hands. "Eve, I'm not scared, so why are you afraid? In this society we live in, divorce is the worst thing that could happen to me." "Stop it, Louise. That's not gonna happen." I didn't want to hear her say such unlucky things on her big day. "Today is your wedding day, Lulu. Since you've already decided to marry Layne, and you've reached this point, all I can do is to hope that you can live a happy life with him and grow old together. What kind of bride would say such ominous words on her wedding day?" Louise chuckled at my remark. "I was merely saying it casually. If I do end up getting divorced, I'll just marry Tom Cruise!" When I saw her smile, I smiled too. Now that things had come to this point, I figured it wouldn't help to overthink. In some occasions, the more unreliable things looked, the more reliable they would actually become. Perhaps they really could be happy. With that, I decided to put on the veil for Louise and fixed it in front of the mirror.

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Chapter 286 I Won't Agree

After some time had passed, Layne arrived. He was wearing a suit today. It was the very first time I had seen him in such formal attire. Usually, his style was starkly different. He walked up to Louise, gestured at himself, and asked with a smile, "How do you like it?" I could even make out a trace of shyness and nervousness on his face. Louise nodded and beamed at him. "You look fantastic in this suit." Layne held her hand, lifted it gently to his lips and tenderly kissed the back of her hand. He complimented her, "You look absolutely gorgeous today." I couldn't recall where I had read it, but there was a saying that basically stated that rough men would always be careless and straightforward. However, if they found their true love, they would give all their tenderness and sweetness to her. The reason a rough man treated a woman in a rough manner was simply because he didn't love her that much. With this at the back of my mind, I figured that Layne must love Louise very much. I truly did hope that this was

true.

With a loud bang, the door was violently flung open. We all turned and looked at the door simultaneously, only to be met with the sight of Louise's father storming in angrily. "I'm your father. Who allowed you to get married without my permission?" After finishing his words, Colin pulled Louise up from the chair and dragged her off with him. Louise shook off her father's hand and stepped away from him. She looked at her father with a sneer and looked at him as if she had

completely alienated him from herself. "What's wrong with you? You don't like my ex. Now you have a problem with my current partner." Pointing at Louise, Colin snapped. "I won't stop you from finding yourself a boyfriend. But look at what kind of person you decide on being with! Lulu, you are humiliating me." "What kind of person am I?" Layne chuckled, put his hands in his pockets, looked at Colin casually and asked "Father-in-law, what kind of person do you think I am?" "I'm not your father-in-law." Colin interrupted Layne, filled with rage. "Listen, I won't agree to let you marry my daughter. You'd better give up this idea as soon as possible." Layne walked up to Colin slowly and seemed to want to say something, but Louise stopped him dead in his tracks. "Please go out there now. The guests will be arriving shortly. You'd better be there to welcome them." When Layne's sharp eyes looked away from Colin and turned to Louise, he immediately looked at her with a softened, affectionate look. "Okay." And then he left.

I knew that Louise was as stubborn as a mule. Fearing that she would get into an uncontrollable, heated argument with her father, I rushed over to hold her hand and pinched her palm to calm her down. "Lulu, please calm down and talk to your father decently," I pleaded. Then I tried to persuade Colin, "Mr. Larson, you—" "There's no point." Colin interrupted me. He pointed at her dress and said, "Change your clothes and leave with me this instant." It seemed that Louise was trying to take a deep, steadying breath. She held my hand very hard, as if she were suppressing her emotions. "Dad!" Her voice was trembling. Colin was also stunned. Louise continued, "I thought you were being honest when you agreed to let me be with Felix that day. At that time, I was actually very touched. I thought that you still loved me and gave in just for my sake. I even reflected on myself in my heart. I used to be too stubborn and wayward, and I didn't have any respect for you at all. That day, I made up my mind to change my ways. But what has that achieved? It turned out that you were just lying to me. You didn't accept Felix at all. You said that he was a punk and tried every possible way to separate us. Now, I've decided to marry a real gangster. Are you satisfied now?" At this moment, there was a trace of guilt on Colin's face. After a while, he said, "I'm doing this for your own good."

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Chapter 287 Don't Marry Him

I was utterly flabbergasted. However, Louise smiled. "Thank you for your kindness. I'm okay now. You're my father, and of course, you are qualified to stay and attend our wedding. However, regardless of whether you attend or not, the wedding will still go on as planned. I don't mind if I don't have your blessing, not in the least bit." Colin's chest heaved violently. "Lulu, won't you listen to me obediently?" From where I was standing next to Louise, I could hear her breathing becoming increasingly faster. I could even see that her hands had begun to tremble. "Fuck off!" Louise roared with all the strength she could muster." I was completely dumbstruck and so was Colin. After an inordinately long pause, he finally returned to his senses and recovered from the initial shock. He turned around and left. He wore an intensely hurt expression. I thought that,

no matter how disrespectful Louise had been to him in the past, she had never shouted and blatantly sworn him before. After Colin left, Louise slumped into the chair. She just sat there, gasping for breath. I squatted down next to her to check on her. I found that tears had welled up in her eyes. Knowing the truth, I felt terrible for her. I took out a tissue to wipe her tears and persuaded her to feel a little better. "Lulu, don't cry, otherwise your makeup will be completely ruined," I urged. Louise raised her head and tried to hold back the tears which were threatening to freely flow down her cheeks. "Crying is a woman's right, but I won't cry," she said. Although she said that, I knew she was not feeling good at all. After some time, the make-up artist came in to fix her makeup for her. I stood by the window. I looked down and saw Colin leaving the hotel. He went straight to a car that was parked along the pavement. Just then, the passenger side window was rolled down. I was astonished by what met my eyes. Was Linda possibly the person sitting in the passenger seat? Colin sat in the driver's seat and quickly drove off. Hadn't Linda been kicked out of Colin's house already? In any event, Linda had slept with Felix before. How could Colin accept her after that? I recalled what Louise had said to her father a moment ago and I was terrified to the core. I changed into the bridesmaid's dress Louise had prepared for me and also got the makeup artist to apply my makeup for me. When almost all the guests had arrived, Layne came in to get Louise. I went downstairs with them. Louise, who had been in such an irate state just a few moments ago, calmed down. She even smiled gently at Layne when he came to get her.

There were not many guests, and most of them were friend's of Layne.

The wedding ceremony commenced. Louise walked arm in arm with Layne along the red carpet towards the stage. Layne's friends were all vivacious and upbeat. The whole wedding process was accompanied by applause and cheering, which made it quite a lively affair. Just when Layne and Louise were exchanging rings, Felix appeared like a thunderbolt out of the blue and rushed towards the stage without saying a word. He, however, was stopped by Layne's men before he could reach the stage. Soon, a fight ensued between Layne's men and Felix. But he was no match for so many of them on his own. He received blow after blow.

"Let him go!" Louise suddenly shouted. The men stopped immediately and looked at Layne. They didn't step back until Layne gave them a specific look that instructed them to do so. With blood at the corner of his mouth, Felix rushed onto the stage and held Louise's hand pleadingly. "So much time has passed. Are you really still angry with me? You might be really mad at me, but why did you make such an impulsive decision? You've forgotten that you promised that you would marry me. I beg you, please don't marry him, please?"

Felix said, almost humbly begging her.

While her hand was still in his grasp, she answered him. "I'm not angry."

All at once, Felix's eyes lit up with joy. "Then come with me. I will listen to you from now on. I'll do whatever you say, okay?" "Let go of her!" Layne growled in threat. Of course, Felix wouldn't let her go, but if things went on like this, the situation would soon be out of control.

I walked over and tried to persuade Felix to stop his dramatics.

"Felix, calm down. Let's talk about this later," I said. "If I wait until later, she will already be someone else's wife," Felix suddenly shouted. "I'll leave with you," Louise said out of the blue. But the next moment, Layne had caught her by her other hand. Louise said to Layne, "Wait for me here. I'll talk to him. Don't worry. I'll come back and finish our wedding."

She looked serious. Layne hesitated for a few seconds and finally loosened his grip trustfully.

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Chapter 288 This Is The Last Time

Felix took her hand and strode out. In her wedding dress, Louise trotted along behind him. I was worried about them, so I followed them right away. In a nearby snow-covered park, they stopped, and I stood a good distance away from them. "Felix, can you please stop doing all these childish things? It'll be impossible for us to ever be together again. I once wanted to be with you. And I honestly feel sad that we couldn't anymore. I'm aware that it wasn't your fault, but it already happened. I wanted to pretend like it never did, but I couldn't bring myself to believe my own lie." At first, Louise was able to speak calmly, but it didn't take long for her to finally break into tears. Meanwhile, Felix leaned against a tree, lighting a cigarette. After unsuccessfully trying to light it several times, he got frustrated and decided to throw it away. It was then that he took off his coat and put it on Louise, considering that all she was wearing was her thin wedding dress. Afterwards, he wrapped her in his embrace.

"Louise, I love you with every fiber of my being. I really do. But I can't explain why in hell I love you so damn much!" Tears began to well up in my eyes when I saw the two who loved each other so much couldn't be together.

I went further back and decided not to intrude on their private moment. After a long time, Louise finally walked towards me. She held the hem of her dress and was walking as if all her purpose in life had crumbled. Her makeup was practically ruined, and her face was devoid of emotion.

I met her halfway to comfort her. She held my hand and said weakly, "Let's go back. Layne is probably still there waiting for me." In the end, the wedding ceremony pushed through and it was completed. Layne pretended as if he didn't notice that Louise had been crying, and just let her go back to her room to get some rest after the ceremony. After the party, Louise got in his car and went home with him. At this point, I finally admitted that my best friend had, in fact, married Layne. Derek told me over the phone that he was in Blue Sky, so I hailed a cab to get there. I found him sitting on the sofa in a booth, and Felix was lying on the floor, lifeless and amidst a clutter of thrown away beer cans

Eric was also sitting on the sofa in silence. Perhaps he felt like there was nothing he could do for Felix. Upon opening his eyes, Felix belched when he saw me. Then,

he tried to grab another can of beer from the table. However, Derek stopped him. Felix shook his head, clearly wasted. "Just one more can, man. One more... please. Just let me drown my sorrow with alcohol for the last time! From now on, I, Felix Chadwick, will be heartless. Don't try to stop me, Derek." His words made me feel sad for him. In the end, Derek decided to let go of the man's hand. Felix grabbed a can of beer and gulped it down. After that, he threw the can as far as he could. By now, Derek must've lost all his patience and pulled the hapless man up. But as soon as Felix was pulled up, he turned his head and threw up all over Derek. I wanted to help him out, but I didn't know what to do. Disgusted by what Felix did, Derek threw him aside and took off his own suit jacket. "Give me your jacket. I'll go to the bathroom and help you clean it up," I said. Derek nodded and handed me his suit jacket. Then, he pulled Felix up again and dragged the man's seemingly lifeless body to the bathroom. I walked into the ladies' room with the suit jacket and was about to wash off the vomit. But I was worried that there were some important things inside its pockets, so I went to check all of them. It was then that I found a U disk from one of the inner pockets. I remembered that this was the U disk he won in a bet in the underground casino that day. Truthfully, I had always been curious about what was in it, and why he was willing to bet everything to get it. As I held the U disk in my hand, I wanted to put it away, but I was hesitant to do it. I was the one who had Derek's suit jacket last, so if this flash drive were to go missing, he'd know that I took it. While I was deciding what to do, someone patted my shoulder. Startled, the U disk fell from my hand by accident and went into the sink. And before I could grab it, a red-haired woman buried her face in the sink and threw up. As a result, the U disk slipped into the hole of the sink along with her disgusting puke. I was totally stunned.

The red-haired woman was still vomiting. I felt desperate and didn't know what to do.

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Chapter 289 Forget it

I stood by the sink with the still unwashed suit jacket in my hand, staring at the woman who was yet to finish vomiting on the sink. 2

After standing there for a long time, I finally decided to just wash the suit jacket at another sink. And when I went out of the bathroom, I found that Derek was waiting for me outside. Seeing that he was alone, I asked, "Where's Felix?" "I asked one of the waiters to help him back to his room. He's probably asleep by now," he said. Then, he walked over to my side to take the suit jacket from my hand, but I gripped it tightly. Confused by my reaction, he asked, "What's the matter?" After a moment of hesitation, I muttered, "I, umm... accidentally dropped the U disk in your pocket into the sink." I thought he would lose his temper, but to my surprise, he didn't. He just stared at me for a time, and I couldn't understand what sort of emotion his eyes displayed. "Never mind that. Let's just go," he said lightly. I believed that the contents of that U disk must've been important. Perhaps it contained sensitive information. But Derek didn't seem to care that much. In the end, he didn't take his suit jacket from me. He just

turned around and walked on. I followed behind him hurriedly We had only taken a few steps, but Derek and I stopped at the same time. We happened to notice a greasy man with his hand on a sexy woman's waist, walking towards us. It was Edward. Based on his initial reaction, he saw us as well. Then, he smiled and walked towards us. "Ah, Mr. Sullivan! What a pleasant surprise!" He glanced at me with a sly smile on his lips. "It seems that Mr. Sullivan is quite a loyal man." I understood what this awful man was implying. Derek invited this man to dinner last time, and he brought me along. He and I were still together now. Edward was a jackass, and did he think that everyone else was just as bad as him? Quietly, Derek held my hand and flashed Edward a faint smile. "Enjoy yourself, Mr. Jackson. It's on me. Anyway, my wife and I must take our leave. Goodbye," he said. "Always the generous spirit, Mr. Sullivan. Thank you!" Edward grinned, revealing his white teeth. Then, he took his hand off the woman's shoulder beside him, and pinched her face. The beautiful woman seemed shy by this, so she pushed him away, and her reaction made him laugh. Based on Edward's complacent look, he might not have seen through the trap that Charlene, Louise and I had set for him last time. Derek and I didn't stay any longer. Not long after that encounter, he took me out of the bar. After dropping off his suit jacket at the dry cleaning store, we drove home. Along the way, Derek barely talked. I figured he might be upset because I lost his U disk. After fidgeting for a long time, I lowered my head and grabbed the hem of my clothes. "If I had asked someone to remove the sink and drain the pipe, maybe I could still find your U disk." Suddenly, an idea occurred to me as I looked up at him. "How about we go back and remove that sink right now? We can still find it!"

A suffocating silence ensued in the car. Derek just kept looking at the road ahead. The neon lights outside the car window reflected in our eyes. I had absolutely no idea what he must be thinking, and I wondered if he was mad at me. It took a long time before he finally broke his silence.

"Don't worry about it." I didn't believe that he didn't mind losing that u disk. But over the next few days, he didn't seem angry or depressed because of what happened. Our life together seemed normal. A few days later, I suddenly received a call from Lavinia in the morning.

My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 290

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Chapter 290 A Refined Life

About an hour later, Lavinia's assistant, the same woman I met at the hospital, arrived in a car at the gate of the

villa.

Since I had prepared everything already, I went into the car along with my bag. The assistant seemed to be in her thirties and had a very elegant air about her. I guessed that everyone working for Lavinia must've been influenced by her in more ways than one. Like Lavinia, her assistant was also a kind person. Perhaps

she was worried that I'd be bored along the way, so she chatted me up throughout the journey. Thus, I didn't feel like the journey was long until we finally arrived at the gate of a manor.

The manor was large, and there was a European style villa inside.

After getting off the car, I followed the assistant all the way into the manor. The entire manor was covered in snowfall, but the cobblestone paths were cleared of snow.

Then, the assistant led me to the villa. --

Ono

The villa was delicately decorated. One look, and anyone would know that the person living here must be a person

of refined tastes. In the living room, I saw Lavinia sitting on a European style leather couch, reading a magazine. There was a thick stack of books on the coffee table in front of her. "Mrs. Mayer, Eveline is here," the assistant declared as she walked over to Lavinia's side. Lavinia looked up at me, smiled, and pointed at the sofa by the side. "Please have a seat." I nodded politely, went to the sofa, and sat down. Lavinia put down the magazine she was reading and gave me her attention. "I've been meaning to invite you to my house, but I've been quite busy lately. I told you that I wanted to thank you somehow, but it took me so long to get in touch with you. And for that, I apologize." I waved my hands in dismissal. "Mrs. Mayer, it's all not that big of a deal. Saving you was not something I was expecting payment for." Afterwards, we discussed for a while regarding some common topics on medicine and healthcare. Later on, Lavinia said that she would personally cook a meal for me to show her sincerity. I didn't expect a woman of her stature to ever need to cook by herself. There were servants in Lavinia's house, but none of them seemed to work in the kitchen. I felt awkward just sitting around and waiting for the dishes to be served, so I followed her into the kitchen to see if I could help with anything. The moment I entered, I smelled an aromatic fragrance coming from the pot on the stove. I asked Lavinia what was in the pot, and she told me that it was a nutritious soup. It turned out that she was a skilled cook, and it piqued my curiosity. "Do you normally cook by yourself, Mrs. Mayer?" While cutting up some vegetables, she replied, "Whenever I have the time, I cook for myself. And if I'm being honest, I enjoy cooking." The food that Lavinia cooked wasn't that heavy on the stomach. She cooked a few light but nutritious dishes, including a soup. She told me that a truly healthy diet should be light. A light diet was not only good for a person's health, but also a person's skin.

At that moment, I really envied her and yearned for her lifestyle. It wasn't just because she was beautiful, looked years younger than her true age, and had a noble air about her; it was also due to the fact that she was living a refined way of life.

After the meal, Lavinia and I talked in the living room some more.

There, I happened to notice a poster on the coffee table. Out of curiosity, I picked it up.

After reading the content, I was surprised to know that Lavinia was looking for apprentices.

Lavinia was one of the most influential people in the cosmetics industry. Many people would kill for a chance to be

her apprentice.

"Are you interested?" said a gentle voice. When I looked up, I found that Lavinia was staring at me with a kind smile.

I figured she asked me that because she noticed that I was pleasantly surprised to see the poster, and she must've

seen the interest in my eyes.

Truthfully, this was an exciting opportunity, but I was scared that I wasn't qualified to be one of her apprentices. After a moment of pondering, I told her my idea of combining traditional medicine and cosmetology. I never would've imagined that she would concur with my idea after hearing it. "That's an incredible idea! I can tell that you've got ambition, Eveline. If you can integrate cosmetology into traditional medicine, I'm more than certain that it will be a raging success. I'm willing to teach you everything I know. But the question is; are you willing to learn under my tutelage?"

As I locked eyes with Lavinia, I nodded eagerly.

"Of course, ma'am! It'll be an honor," I said.

A graceful smile appeared on Lavinia's lips. "I'm honored as well. All industries and skills need to be inherited.

When I recruit apprentices, I not only pay attention to their talent in the craft, but I also take their personalities into consideration. Eveline, I want you to know that I appreciate you a lot." The best thing I got out of this trip was the fact that Lavinia had accepted me as her apprentice. Before I left, she gave me lots of books and documents relevant to the field. She asked me to read them first before she could teach me everything she knew gradually.