

My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 301

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Chapter 301 Being A Mom Can Be Hard

Not long after I left the hospital, Derek called me and said that Gifford wanted to invite us to dinner at a restaurant to celebrate Lean's freedom. I was aware that they disliked me, and I would only be miserable if I were to attend the dinner, so I chose not to go. Fortunately, Derek didn't force me, either. Knowing that Derek wouldn't be home for dinner, I wasn't in any hurry to go home. After pondering for a moment, I decided to buy some fruits and visit Tina. I figured she wouldn't be joining today's dinner, either, because the Sullivan family had iced her out along with her daughter. I didn't tell her of my arrival in advance, because I figured she wouldn't go out with Lily, considering the cold weather. So when I arrived, Tina was surprised to see me when she opened the door. As soon as I sat down on the sofa, she said, "New Year's Day is coming. I still have no idea if Lean's going to be released from prison. It must be hard for him that he'll have to celebrate New Year there." My mouth was left agape because I was so shocked by what I heard.

Tina didn't even know that Lean had gotten out of prison! This meant that Lean had not even visited Tina and Lily ever since he was acquitted.

'He has time to hang out with his pals, but he can't even pay his own daughter a visit? What an asshole!' I cursed inwardly. In the end, I decided not to tell Tina that Lean had been released from prison, thinking that he might come visit them in a few days. • Lily was clinging to Tina, so I offered to cook dinner for us. I couldn't imagine how Tina could eat, whenever she and her daughter were alone at home. I cooked two simple dishes. At this time, Tina gently placed Lily on the sofa. In order to look after the baby, we decided to sit on the sofa to eat. Sadly, Lily kept on crying, so Tina had to coax her in the middle of having dinner. Though I had never been a mother, I knew that it would be difficult based on what I had seen Tina suffer through. By nightfall, I stood by the window, staring at the night view of the city. Lean's celebration dinner must've started by now. Gifford and Belinda were probably delighted to see that their beloved Lean had been released from prison. It made me wonder what Derek would do. Would he laugh with them or drink alone? Moments later, we finished our dinner as Lily incessantly cried through the meal. Afterwards, I went to wash the dishes. It was getting late, but no matter how hard Tina tried to coax her daughter, the baby refused to sleep. Watching Tina take care of Lily alone made me realize just how hard it was for her. Thus, I decided to stay the night. At the very least, I could do some housework around here to help Tina out. At ten in the evening, we heard a knock on the door. At this time, Lily had already fallen asleep. Fearing that the knock on the door would wake up the baby, Tina quickly ran to open the door.

It was really late now, so I told Tina to ask who it was first. She nodded in response and walked to the door, then asked who it was. "It's me," said a familiar voice from outside. I recognized it to be Charlene's voice. The moment Tina opened the door, Charlene entered the room, dragging Lean behind her. It seemed that the young man was drunk. If it weren't for Charlene, he probably

wouldn't even be able to keep himself standing. Charlene threw Lean onto the sofa, causing him to collapse over it. "Listen up, Lean. Your woman, and your daughter both live here. Be a man and take care of them!" Meanwhile, Tina was standing aside, staring at the scene unfold and unable to utter a word. She never imagined that the man she had been praying to come out of prison would suddenly appear in front of her. It was easy to tell that she was probably shocked and excited right now. Lan Be Hard – Annoyed, Lean shouted, "Stop it! That's enough!" Charlene kicked him a few times. Tina tried to stop her, glancing at Lean with concern. "Charlene, please stop it!". This was the sad part of loving someone. Despite Tina's efforts to stop her, Charlene continued scolding Lean. "Tina is only eighteen years old. If you're not going to take responsibility for your actions, do you mean to say that you're going to let her take care of the child alone? For God's sake, Lean! Lily is your daughter! Don't you have even a shred of conscience in your heart?" Lean closed his eyes, visibly irritated. "It was an accident. I didn't even want to sleep with her in the first place. And what's wrong with her age? She's eighteen, right? She's an adult now, and she should face the consequences of her actions." I wasn't Tina, but I knew that Lean's words must've been devastating to hear.

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Chapter 302 Please Hug Lily

Charlene slapped Lean across his face. However, he didn't respond. Just then, the sudden cry of the baby resounded from the room. It looked like Tina was still in a daze. She stood still, staring at Lean. I went inside and took Lily out. The little one wriggled in my arms; her eyes were still closed, and her face scrunched up. Perhaps she had realized the person holding her wasn't her mother and began crying. I rocked her in my arms, but the crying grew louder. I had no choice but to hand her over to Tina. Lily became quiet as soon as Tina took her. She settled on the sofa and began to feed Lily. Lean slowly opened his eyes and looked at Lily, his eyes heavy and intoxicated. Everyone fell silent as Lily drank her milk because we didn't want to disturb the baby. Lily eventually drifted off to sleep while sucking the milk. Tina summoned up the courage and looked up at Lean. "Her formal name is Mistake Sullivan." Lean laughed, shaking his head. "Damn it! I just said it casually. I can't believe you have named her that way." Charlene raised her hand to slap Lean again but stopped on second thought. Tina could tell that Lean still cared about his daughter, so she took Lily to him. "Lean, please hold Lily." "No." Lean looked away and muttered, "I'm drunk. What if I drop her?" Tina's shoulders slumped with dejection. She returned to the sofa and sat down. Moments later, Lean began to snore. Derek told me that Charlene was transferred to the Western Region, so I looked at her and asked, "I heard you went to the Western Region. When did you come back?" "I heard Lean was released from prison, so I came back," she replied. Charlene didn't leave that night either. We both slept in the same room, and Tina slept in another room with Lily. Before I fell asleep, I heard the sound of the door opening next door, so I got up to check what was going on. The moonlight flooded through the window. I saw Tina draping a blanket around Lean in the living room. She squatted beside him and studied his face. After a while, she lowered her head and kissed his cheek.

My heart broke at the sight of her. I felt sorry for this 18-year-old girl because she had fallen in love with someone she shouldn't have.

Early in the morning, Charlene and I woke up to someone crying. We looked at each other, got up, and walked out of the room. Tina was sitting on the floor, holding Lily's feeding bottle, tears streaming down her face. "What happened?" I asked, sitting beside. Tina looked up at me as she began hitching with sobs. "Lily and Lean are missing." Charlene and I were taken aback. We quickly searched every room in the house. Tina was hugging her knees, crying like a baby. "It's useless. I searched every corner of the house. I even looked under the bed. Lily is missing." I looked out of the window. It was the crack of dawn, and the sun had just peeked out. "When did Lean leave?" I asked. Tina shook her head. "I don't know either." Lean could have left. However, Lily couldn't walk. Someone must have taken her away. There were only two possibilities. Either Lean had forgotten to close the door after leaving, and someone must have taken Lily away, or he must have taken her with him. I shuddered and looked at Charlene. She was also staring at me as if she had guessed the same thing.

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Chapter 303 Searching For Lily

Tina was incessantly crying. Now that she was immersed in sadness, she probably didn't think of these possibilities. I squatted down, patting her on the shoulder in an attempt to comfort her. "Tina, you need to stop crying. Lily is missing, and crying won't solve that problem, would it? What we need to do now is to find your daughter!" Upon hearing my remark, Tina wiped her tears using the back of her hand. She stood up, nodding and sobbing at the same time. "Okay, let's go out and search for her." After heading downstairs, Charlene, Tina, and I went on separate areas to look for Lily. Tina was in a bad mood right now. I was really worried about her, and I couldn't leave her on her own, so I kept her company the entire time. We were running around places like a headless chicken, blind and aimless. Without us realizing it, dawn had already arrived. Tina cried the entire time. She would ask every passerby while showing them a picture of Lily on her phone, but ended up with no clue. In all honesty, if someone had kidnapped Lily, they would've gotten far by now. They wouldn't just stand around and wait for us to find them. Out of helplessness, I decided to call on Derek and told him that Lily went missing. He told me that he'd be with us soon, and asked us to wait for him in one place. However, I received a call from Charlene before Derek could arrive. Thus, we didn't have time to wait around for Derek. We immediately hailed a cab to Gifford's house. Despite the fact that the front door of the house was closed, we could clearly hear the baby's cries from outside. "That's Lily! She's crying in there." The second Tina heard the baby's cry, she was so excited that she repeatedly knocked on the iron door. "Open the door, please!" Tina knelt on the snow outside the door, begging over and over, but nobody answered her. Gifford and Belinda loathed me, so I stayed out of Tina's way, fearing that it would only make things worse if I intervened. Derek called me again, asking me where we were. I was hesitant to tell him our location. My husband was a righteous man. And if he were to find out the truth, he would certainly not feign ignorance about

it. It worried me that this matter would only intensify his conflict with his father, "You're in front of my dad's house, aren't you? Answer me, Eve." I didn't respond to his question for a long time. Based on his question, I gathered he must've heard Tina crying over the phone. Once I told him that we were indeed at his father's house, Derek immediately hung up. And in less than ten minutes, he arrived. As I watched Derek get out of his car, I felt very conflicted. Tina was Lean's woman, and Lily was Lean's daughter. Logically speaking, Derek was in an awkward position, and he had no right to interfere. Back when Lean was imprisoned, Derek was the one who took care of Tina and Lily, out of his sense of justice and responsibility. And now, Lean had taken away his own daughter, so what right did Derek have to interfere? "Mr. Sullivan, Mrs. Sullivan, please give Lily back to me! I'm not going to ask you for anything. I just want my baby back. Please!" Tina's voice was hoarse from crying, and her hair, despite being tied up, was now disheveled. Her face was covered in tears, making her look pathetic and pitiful. I wasn't sure who was in the house, but they must be so cruel. Tina had been crying out here for so long, and Lily was crying inside. Despite the fact that both of them were crying, whoever was in the house with Lily, still didn't put an end to this miserable situation. Derek walked over, bowed his head and lit a cigarette. In a calm voice, he asked, "Tina, you just want to get Lily back, right?" Tina grasped the iron door with both hands. Her shoulders were twitching as she slowly raised her head to look at Derek. Her eyes were bloodshot and swollen, making her look particularly pitiful. "Yes, Derek. I just want Lily back! She can't live without me, and I can't live without her, either! Derek, please! I really can't live without my baby!" Anyone with a conscience wouldn't have the heart to watch this scene unfold. Derek nodded, took out his phone, and called someone. To I stared at him blankly, uncertain what he could do at this point. He couldn't be a peacemaker in this situation, because neither Lean, nor Belinda would appreciate his effort.

When the phone was answered, I was horrified. – It turned out that he had called the police.

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Chapter 304 Call The Police

The Souden police were very efficient. Within less than five minutes, I could already hear their siren from a distance. Two police cars quickly pulled over behind us. Several policemen got out of the cars. It was then that Derek walked over to their side and shook hands with their commanding officer. "Were you the one who called the police?" said the police captain. Derek nodded and pointed at Tina as she knelt on the snow-covered ground. "I did. By the way, she's the mother of the missing child."

Tina was tearful and devastated at the moment. After she realized what was going on, she crawled to the police captain and held onto his leg. "My baby is in there! Listen! She's crying right now. She's so scared of strangers. She doesn't want anyone aside from me. Please, sir! Have mercy on me and my baby." The police captain nodded in response. "Don't worry, ma'am. If what you're saying is

true, we'll definitely help you." I walked over and attempted to help her up. "Tina, you need to calm down. These good policemen will help you, I'm sure." Finally, Tina stopped crying and loosened her grip on the police captain's leg. Afterwards, the police captain knocked on the door and shouted using a megaphone. Soon, the iron door was opened from inside. It was Belinda who opened it. At the same time, Lean was standing in the living room, wearing a frown and smoking with reckless abandon. After speaking to the police, Belinda explained that Lily was her granddaughter, and that the baby's father was at home. The police captain stared at Belinda with suspicion. Then, he turned his gaze to Tina. "Do you have a marriage certificate?" Tina shook her head, devastated by this matter. The next moment, she got down on her knees and bowed before Belinda, "Mrs. Sullivan, please! Have mercy and give me back my daughter!" Each time that Tina kowtowed, it would leave a print of her head on the snow. Meanwhile, Belinda just stood there with her arms crossed over her chest, towering over Tina arrogantly. "If you insist on getting this child back, then you'll agree that from now on, the girl will have nothing to do with our family," said Belinda. Tina slowly raised her head and removed the strands of hair on her face. She turned away from Belinda and glanced at Lean. After calming down, she managed to stop herself from crying. "I've never wanted anything from the Sullivan family, and I've never expected to be with Lean. I just wanted to see him safe and sound. And now that he's out of prison, I'm already happy. I don't have anything else to ask for." "We have a deal, then!" Having said that, Belinda turned around and walked into the house. Soon, she came out along with Lily as the baby cried in her arms. Tina was so excited to get her daughter back that she rushed to Belinda and took Lily from Belinda's arms. Lily was crying so hard that her face began to turn red. Once she was in her mother's embrace, she nuzzled against Tina's chest. Though her crying was faint now, she still couldn't stop from crying. The police said that they would escort Tina home. But before she could go with them, she took one last look at Lean. Lean didn't even dignify her with a glance. But I could see that he didn't have the heart to be cruel to his daughter. After the police car drove away, Lean strode to a corner of the yard and got on his motorbike with a cigarette in his mouth. Before he could leave, Belinda grabbed his arm. "Where are you going, Lean? It's so cold outside! You shouldn't leave. I was making some soup for you. Once I'm finished preparing it, you can have some." Lean turned on his motorbike, letting the engine roar. "I'm annoyed. Can't I just go out for some fresh air? I'm sick and tired of being locked up. Are you seriously going to lock me up now that I'm home?" Belinda withdrew her hand and answered, "I'm only doing this for your own good." Ignoring her, Lean turned his motorbike around and sped out of the yard. After watching her son leave, Belinda's eyes fell on me. At once, her gaze became sharp. I'd rather not look at someone as cold-blooded as this woman, so I turned away. Then, I went to Derek's side and held his cold hand. "Let's go," I told him. Derek threw away his cigarette butt, and then we got into the car one after the other.

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Chapter 305 You Are Not A Man

Derek started the car and drove so fast. I could sense that something was wrong with him, so I looked at him to gauge an answer from his face. He was looking

straight ahead, and his eyes were sharper than usual. It took a while, but we finally caught up to Lean. Lean took a look behind him and sped up all of a sudden, widening the gap between us. With both hands on the steering wheel, Derek began to speed up as well. Not long after, the distance between our car and Lean's motorcycle was shortened, but Lean managed to move even farther away. The brothers were chasing each other on the road. This situation was very dangerous, so I held the seatbelt as if my life depended on it. "Derek, please slow down!" ** "Sit tight." The moment he said that, he drove even faster. As we chased Lean, we soon drove out of the downtown area. Both Derek and Lean drove on a wide and empty asphalt road now. I wasn't sure if Derek had already floored the accelerator, but I could feel that we were moving at a blinding speed. It didn't take long until we caught up with Lean. Throughout the entire endeavor, my heart was pounding. I was sitting tightly on my seat, too horrified to move a muscle. After overtaking Lean's vehicle, Derek suddenly took a sharp turn and floored the brakes of the car. I stumbled forward, almost bumping my head against the glove compartment. When I turned my head, I saw Lean rushing towards our car. Just when I thought that he would collide with our car, he stopped. Through the window, I saw his anger, and his eyes displayed just how displeased he was by what happened. By the time I had gathered my composure, Derek had already opened the door and got out of the car. After dragging Lean off his motorbike, Derek threw a heavy punch at his face. I was so shocked by what happened that I wanted to get out and stop them. However, the door on my side was being blocked by the motorbike that Lean had parked. They were fighting each other like they weren't even brothers, but mortal enemies. I had to crawl to the driver's seat to get out of the car. Derek and Lean were about the same height, but the former looked stronger than the latter. However, Lean was a force to be reckoned with. He adhered to no rules, and each punch he threw was enough to deck an ordinary man with one hit. Compared to someone like him, Derek was at a disadvantage.

I tried to put a stop to their fight, but my words were left unheard. Thus, I squatted down to pick up several snowballs, and – hurled them at Lean.

Lean probably didn't expect that I'd do that, so when he tried to shield himself from the snowball, Derek took the opportunity to fight back. This time, Lean was forced to take a few steps back. The thought of what he did to Tina and Lily made me so angry. And that thought led me to spiral out of control. I kept on grabbing snowballs and throwing them at Lean just to vent all my pent up anger. "Lean, be a man! You need to take responsibility for what you did. It's like you're not even a man at all!"

To my surprise, my participation in the fight actually made them stop. Derek had never seen me behave like this, and I could see from his reaction that he was shocked. After being hit by my snowballs, Lean was practically covered in snow, and he began laughing. When he opened his mouth, I noticed that his teeth were stained with blood, and they looked particularly bloody. He wiped away the blood from the corner of his mouth using his thumb. Then, he flashed me a sinister smile. "Eveline, thanks for this lesson. It seems that you're now ready to pay for the price of cheating on my brother," he said. I was at a loss by what I heard him say. "What nonsense are you talking about?" It seemed that my reaction amused him even more. "I'm not spouting nonsense. Alvaro told me that you seduced him that night. He kept telling me how good you were in bed, considering you've been married twice. Didn't the bed collapse because you two were having passionate sex?" I was furious. How dare this brat slander

me like that? Panicking, I turned to Derek. When he heard Lean's statement, his face changed dramatically. I grew agitated and angry. I grabbed another handful of snow, formed it into a ball, and threw it at Lean.

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Chapter 306 Rage

Despite the flurry of snowballs being thrown at him, Lean still smiled triumphantly. "What is that? Are you trying to cover your shame with anger? I'm sure that, as a remarried woman, you've gotten good at seducing men. You seduced my brother first, and then you seduced Alvaro. Just so he could save you, Alvaro ended up getting injured. My, my... Is he that addicted to having sex with you?" Every word that came out of Lean's mouth was slowly driving me into the pits of despair. 6 I almost went ballistic. With rage bubbling up in my chest, I rushed towards him, grabbed his collar, and tried to slap him across the face. He avoided the first hit, but then I began to hit him like a lunatic. "What the hell are you saying? What fucking nonsense are you spouting? Don't you know how important a woman's reputation

is?"

It didn't seem like my fists were hurting him. He just shrugged me away. Then, he laughed maniacally and continued hurling horrible comments at me. "You're nothing but a remarried woman. How dare you talk about dignity and reputation? What a joke!" Derek came over to pull me away, but I didn't have enough courage to look him in the eye. I just lowered my head, gasping for breath. 6 Even though Lean was bluffing in an attempt to ruin my name, I was ashamed to look Derek in the eye. Lean kept on mentioning Alvaro. At this moment, I just wanted to confront Alvaro and ask him why he would ruin my reputation like that I pushed Lean away and shook off Derek's hand. Then, I went to the car and sat in the driver's seat. "Eveline!" I heard Derek's agitated voice. But at this moment, I was out of my mind. I started the car and drove away, despite how unskilled I was at driving. From the rearview mirror, I saw that Derek was running after the car, but he soon gave up. I drove farther and farther away and he slowly vanished from my sight. As I held the steering wheel tightly, my chest was filled with rage. I felt like I was about to explode. I didn't even feel scared that I was driving along the road. My phone kept on ringing, but I didn't answer it. After a while, I heard a roar of an engine from behind me. From the rearview mirror, I saw that Derek was riding Lean's motorbike to catch up with me. , I didn't want him to catch me, so I stepped on the accelerator to speed up.

"Eveline, stop the car!" I could hear the faint sound of his voice along with the roar of the motorbike's engine. I had lost my cool back there. What Lean said had left me disheveled and ashamed of myself. I didn't even get the chance to prove my innocence and I couldn't face Derek. 2 By now, Derek must've realized that the more he tried to chase me down, the faster I drove, so he decided to slow down. At an intersection, a child suddenly crossed the road. I was so panicked that I forgot to step on the brake. In order to avoid running the child over, I

turned the steering wheel sharply, causing the car to rush towards the median on the roadside. Bang! Finally, the car had stopped. My head bumped against the steering wheel so hard.

Through my blurry vision, I saw that there were lots of people gathering around me. But I soon lost consciousness.

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Chapter 307 It's Just A Flesh Wound

The moment I woke up, a pungent smell of disinfectant pervaded my nose. 1 Slowly, I opened my eyes and saw Aaron standing by the bed in a doctor's coat. Seeing that I had regained consciousness, Aaron was relieved. "Ah, Eveline. You're finally awake!" Then, I noticed that Louise was also in the room. "Eve, oh, my God! You're awake! You scared me to death. You don't even have a driver's license yet, and you dared to speed across the highway. You're unbelievable!" I looked around the room and saw that there was nobody else. Louise must've figured out what I was thinking. "Derek isn't here. He went to Dere International to deal with something, so he called me to come here and take care of you. If he hadn't called me, I never would've known that you got into an accident!" Aaron changed the IV drip bag for me and smiled. "People say that those who know nothing, fear nothing. Well, it turns out that, that saying is true for new drivers as well." Louise chimed in, "Eve, you're usually more timid. Why did you do it?" Seeing that I wasn't uttering a word, she waved her hand in front of my eyes and joked, "Eve, why aren't you saying anything? Has the accident made you a fool?" Aaron laughed at her remark. As a professional, he drew an authoritative conclusion of my condition. "Eveline, you got lucky this time. It's just a flesh wound," he said. He still had to go to work, so he left a few minutes later. When I remembered what Lean said, my heart broke. Numbly, I stared at the ceiling and muttered, "I now understand how 'Felix must've felt back when he couldn't explain what happened.'" The moment I mentioned Felix's name, Louise looked at me with confusion. Then, I told her what happened during the entire day. Starting from when Lily went missing, down to Lean's slanderous remarks about me. After having heard the story, Louise clenched her fists. If Lean were here right now, she probably would've punched him black and blue already. 6 "If we'd known how much of an ingrate Lean was, we wouldn't have gone to great lengths to help him out of prison." I was aware that the reason Derek helped Lean out had nothing to do with this. He was Lean's elder brother, and he probably knew the young man's personality. The only viable reason he helped Lean out was the very fact that he was his elder brother. Louise wanted to stay with me in the hospital, but I didn't think it was necessary, so I told her to go home. By nightfall, she had already gone home. Derek hadn't shown up yet. He didn't even call me or send a message, at least. It made me wonder if he was bothered by the things that Lean said. Truthfully, I was aware that no man wouldn't feel troubled after hearing stuff like that. Besides, Derek had always been sensitive about my interactions with Alvaro. As those thoughts plagued my mind, I felt dizzy. Rumors were very powerful things. At times, they could be even more destructive than knives or any form of firearms. Wounds left by weapons could heal with time, but rumors

and slanderous remarks could carve an unhealable wound in one's heart. Not only could it hurt people, but it could ruin years of trust and affection between them. I wasn't sure when I drifted to sleep. But by the time I woke up again, the ward was dark, and I had no idea what time it was. The light from the corridor peered through the curtain, and then, I saw a person sitting in front of the bed. Without hesitation, I slapped him across the face. Because of how strong I slapped him, my palm hurt as well. I gnashed my teeth just so I could endure the pain. But it was so painful that I still groaned.

Not long after, Alvara noticed that something was wrong. He turned on the light at the bedside and saw that there was a needle wound injected into the back of my hand, which was the hand I used to slap him just now. It had swollen up. He pressed the emergency call button, and soon, a nurse entered the room. The nurse took out the needle from my right hand and transferred it into the other. "You're aware that she's having an intravenous drip, aren't you? Why didn't you keep an eye on her?" The nurse cast Alvaro a reproachful glance, but the latter didn't utter a word.

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Chapter 308 I Don't Want To Live Anymore

After the nurse left for a while, Alvaro looked at me. "I heard you were racing the car on the road? If my memory serves me right, you haven't got your driver's license yet. Do you want to die?" Tears welled up in my eyes. "Yes, I don't want to live anymore!" I shouted. "Why should I live when someone keeps messing with my life instead of letting me live in peace? Why does someone have to ruin my happiness on purpose?" Sitting in a wheelchair, Alvaro looked at me helplessly. "Are you referring to me? Why do I not want you to live a good life? Don't get me wrong. I have a grudge against the Sullivan family, not you." I couldn't hear his explanation, so I continued to cry. I was on the verge of breaking down. Big fat tears slid into my ears from the corners of my eyes. "You are a man. How dare you say that? What nonsense have you talked to Lean? Do you know the consequences of what you said? I can't prove my innocence because of that nonsense. Who will believe nothing is going on between us? This is my second marriage. Life gave me another chance after my failed marriage. This is God's gift, and I want to cherish every moment of it. But you ruined everything." At first, Alvaro was confused. Then, he seemed to slowly understand what I meant. He pursed his lips and nodded. "What? Is your relationship with Derek that fragile? Will a rumor ruin your relationship? If that's the case, it doesn't matter whether he believes it or not. This is a chance for you to see his true color." Just then, a loud bang interrupted us. The door flew open, and Derek was standing at the door with a cigarette in his mouth. I stared at him in a daze. My heart skipped a beat. I thought God was testing and punishing me for some reason. I was already in a disadvantageous position, trying so hard to clarify the misunderstanding. Now, Derek saw me and Alvaro all alone in the ward. How could I explain this to him? I couldn't defend myself now. Derek's sudden appearance didn't bother Alvaro in any way. He seemed calm and composed. A smile tugged at the corners of his lips; he seemed as strong and powerful as Derek. Derek walked to the head

of the bed with slow steady steps, bent down, grabbed Alvaro's collar with one hand, and lifted him up from the wheelchair. But Alvaro didn't resist. He raised his head and looked at Derek with a hint of provocation in his eyes. The cigarette in Derek's mouth fell on Alvaro's shirt, burning a hole in its wake before falling to the floor. "I have given you the land you want. Don't be too greedy." Derek's cold voice resounded across the silent room. Alvaro looked at him and smiled. "If you cherish something enough and hold on to it tightly, no one else can snatch it away from you!" he said, stressing on every word. Derek's face, which was hidden in the darkness, seemed to get redder with rage. Alvaro grabbed Derek's fist and unclasped his fingers clutching the shirt, one after the other. After freeing himself from Derek's vice-like grip, he straightened his collar and looked up at him smugly. But I couldn't take my eyes off his collar. It was stained with blood. "You get out of the room!" I shouted at Alvaro, pointing at the door. Alvaro looked at me and nodded with a smile. "Okay, I'll go." He turned the wheelchair and slowly left. The sounds of wheels rattling against the floor grew fainter as he left. I grabbed Derek's hand and looked at him concernedly. "What's wrong with your hand?" He withdrew his hand and sat down on the edge of the bed. I could see his jaw tighten. He lowered his head slightly, and a few strands of hair fell on his face, covering his eyes. "I can't take care of you in the hospital. I want to take you home." Before I could inquire more about the injury, the door of the ward flew open.

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Chapter 309 | Underestimated You

Aaron and a few nurses pushed the stretcher in. I had hurt my head. Although it ached, it didn't affect me in any other way. However, Derek and Aaron insisted on wheeling me to the ambulance. I had no choice but to obey their words and lie on the stretcher. I went home in the hospital's ambulance. Aaron was accompanying me, and Derek drove his car. "Why are you taking me home all of a sudden?" I asked. Aaron smiled at me. "Your health is in a stable condition. It's better to treat you at home. I'll be your private doctor. You can rest in your room—it's more or less similar to being hospitalized." "But why does it seem like you guys had planned this beforehand?" I asked, arching an eyebrow. Aaron smiled at me. "Of course, we discussed this before. It was all for your good." When we reached home, I saw the door was already opened. Derek carried me out of the ambulance, walked into the house, and put me on the bed. He asked me to rest and promised to come later. Aaron dragged the hatstand beside the bed, getting ready to give me an intravenous drip tomorrow. After arranging everything, he told me to rest well and left the room. Lying on my own bed was indeed more comfortable and relieving than resting on the hospital bed. I drifted off to sleep as soon as I closed my eyes. I had a dream that night. In my dream, I went back to the place where I smashed snowballs at Lean. He continued to slander me, and his comments seemed to worsen with every passing minute. I beat him like a madwoman as tears streamed down my cheeks, wishing to scream out loud. The sadness and pain seemed to crush my heart. However, something soft against my face woke me up. I opened my eyes and saw Derek's enlarged face. My breath caught in my throat as I realized he was kissing my tears away." Perhaps the dream was too painful that I continued to hitch with sobs. He cupped my cheeks to wipe my

tears. However, my gaze fell on the bandage on his hand. "What's wrong with your hand?" "I accidentally got hurt," he replied. He lifted his head and eyed me with scrutiny. A lump formed in my throat as I recalled the dream. "Do you believe me?" My voice was hoarse. I looked at him with expectant eyes. "Yes, I do," he said affirmatively. "Why?"

Derek lowered his head and rubbed his nose against my face. His hot breath blowing against my face made my stomach quiver. "I won't believe Lean, especially when he is in such a state. I'm not stupid." Even though he said so, I still thought he must have some doubts about me and Alvaro. "Where have you been today?" I asked. He lay down beside me and pulled the quilt above us. "Well, I went to several places, including the insurance company and the Traffic Administration Bureau." His magnetic voice rang in my ear. "You drove out without a driver's license and ended up having an accident. You have to be detained and pay a fine. I didn't want my wife to face any legal problems, so I dealt with it." I had been so emotional that I didn't think of the consequences. Only now did I realize the weight of my actions. Fortunately, only I was injured. If I hurt others, I would blame myself all my life. "Why did you suddenly bring me out of hospital?" I asked, looking at his handsome face. He held me in his arms. He slid his hand under my dress and rubbed my skin. "I will feel at ease only if you sleep beside me." His fingers circled my belly. My skin broke into goosebumps, and I shrank aside. He suddenly burst out laughing. "Eveline, only today did I realize that you are the impulsive, reckless one. I underestimated you before." My cheeks flamed with embarrassment. "Well, one's impulse is their devil. People don't think when they're impulsive." Derek took a deep, long breath. "Eveline, you should be responsible for yourself. You know what? I tried to catch up with you when you were rashly driving the car, When I failed, I freaked out-I had never been this scared before." "Were you afraid that I was going to die?" "Yes." "But everyone is going to die one day." "But I don't want that to happen now. The later the day comes, the better because I want to spend the rest of my life with you." His words made my tummy flutter. But I couldn't help but wonder if he didn't care about what Lean said. Or was he hiding his emotions so that I wouldn't feel bad and lose my mind again?

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The next morning, Aaron came to give me an IV drip. Since Derek's hand was injured, Aaron cooked the meal. When I was resting at home, Lavinia called and asked me when I'd come to see her and begin learning her skills. I didn't want to tell her that I was injured, so I told her I was occupied for the next few days and promised to visit her when I was free. Tina came with Charlene to see me. She sat on the edge of the bed, holding Lily in her arms. After a moment's hesitation, she looked at me and asked, "Eveline, is Lean the reason for your accident?" Lean was indirectly the reason for my accident. I saw how ruthless Belinda and Lean were when Tina knelt before them, begging to get Lily back. Although Lean was Lily's father, I didn't want Tina to have any connection with him or his family. I shook my head. "Of course not. I'm a terrible driver." o Charlene was standing

beside the window. "Lean is a bastard!" she grunted in annoyance. "Tina, don't be upset. I don't care if Lean and my mother don't accept Lily. She is my niece." Tina's shoulders slumped with dejection. I thought for a while and asked, "Tina, have you ever thought of seeing someone else? It's time to move on. Lily can't grow up without a father." Tina bit her trembling lip. After a long while, she said, "Although it's hard to take care of Lily all by myself, I won't give up on her. No matter how hard it is, I will raise her on my own." Perhaps being a mother had made her strong. I was surprised to see the perseverance and courage in the eighteen-year-old to raise a child all by herself. Most of the time, I was alone at home. Every time I got bored, I wanted to call Louise. I almost dialed her number but was hesitant to call. After all, she had just gotten married, and I didn't want to disturb her. A week later, I almost recovered, and the gauze on my head was removed. One day, Derek called his friends home. Since Aaron was still responsible for cooking, he was busy in the kitchen. I sat on the sofa and watched TV. His friends were playing cards on the coffee table, including Felix. But he looked bored and serious as if he had become mature all of a sudden. The stark contrast in his character surprised me. It was eight in the evening when we finished eating. I continued to watch TV, and Derek joined their game. Aaron wasn't interested in playing cards, so he watched TV with me. I was watching a romantic series. It was surprising to see Aaron watch it with rapt attention. After dinner, Felix didn't play with them anymore. He just sat in a corner, smoking as he absentmindedly stared at the TV, I knew he was still upset for Louise. I wanted to find an opportunity to persuade him but couldn't say a word when everyone was around

During the commercial break, my phone rang. It was a call from Louise. As soon as I answered the phone, I heard Louise cry in pain. "Eve, help!" "Lulu, what happened?" I asked nervously. Felix turned to look at me. His brows furrowed, the concern and care evident in his eyes. Derek also stopped playing and looked at me. The clamorous house suddenly fell silent. I hung up the phone and sprang to my feet. "Hurry up! Hurry up!" I urged Derek as I pointed at the door. He threw the cards on the table and quickly stood up to grab his coat. The others also understood what he meant and cleared the mess. After Derek and I got in the car, I saw Felix follow us outside.