

My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch

Chapter 431

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Chapter 431 Kinship

Mandy reminded me a lot about Becky.

They were both young, beautiful girls, and both acted on impulse, ignoring the consequences.

The other two police officers stayed back and recorded my statement before leaving.

The noise and fuss woke up my two children.

Just then, a nurse came over and informed me that she was taking the children to get their vaccine shots.

Derek picked up one baby, and Alvaro picked up the other.

“Come to Daddy!” Alvaro grinned. I felt he had said that on purpose to piss Derek off.

But the baby suddenly cried in his arms.

“We are connected by blood. The baby can instinctively recognize its father,” Derek said indifferently.

“What would a baby know?” Alvaro snorted disapprovingly. “It would consider anyone who gives milk as its mother. Hold him and see if you can stop him from crying.”

Derek put the baby in the crib and took the other baby from Alvaro. Sure enough, the baby gradually stopped crying.

Derek looked at Alvaro and smiled smugly. Feeling dejected, Alvaro immediately picked up the other baby.

Fortunately, the baby didn't cry in his arms this time.

"My daughter is better. But my son is too naughty," he said to hide his embarrassment.

Derek stopped in his tracks and turned to look at Alvaro.

"You are holding my son now."

"What? No!" Alvaro was taken aback.

He checked to see if Derek was right and shook his head in disbelief.

"Shouldn't the boy wear blue and the girl wear pink? Why is it in reverse?"

Derek smiled proudly. "I like dressing them this way. They are my children."

Alvaro was rendered speechless. Before he could say anything, the child in his arms began to cry.

He pointed at my son and threatened, "Son, don't cry. Men don't shed tears easily. Don't embarrass me."

But as if determined to humiliate Alvaro, my son cried out loud.

Alvaro grew angry. He looked up and glared at Derek, who was walking out with my daughter in his arms.

“Derek, what genes have your children inherited? Why are they crying so much?” Alvaro said, trying to save himself from embarrassment.

“Smart, loyal, and strong-minded genes,”

Derek said calmly without turning back.

This little episode dispelled all the worries and sadness in my heart.

I drifted off to a peaceful sleep before they came back.

When I finally woke up, I heard faint voices.

I slowly opened my eyes and found the ward was empty. I looked around and realized the voices came from the balcony.

“You should go and see Ady,” said Derek.

“Ady is not an ordinary woman—she has defied death. A knife stab won’t hurt her in any way,” said Alvaro.

Judging from his words, I felt Alvaro and Ady knew each other well.

I suddenly remembered Ady staring at Alvaro with a deep look when he came to my office. Recalling the scene made me realize she wasn’t looking at a stranger. However, I didn’t think too much about it then. After all, Alvaro was an attractive man. Women tended to check him out. Ady was my driver, and she had seen Alvaro several times.

Was I too careless? I couldn’t even make out if they knew each other.

Derek had arranged Ady to stay with me. But how did she know Alvaro? A thousand questions buzzed in my mind.

Their relationship was so complicated that I couldn't figure it out.

Besides, Derek and Alvaro were archrivals. They hated each other. I was surprised to see them talk happily, cracking jokes.

"No matter how strong Ady is, she is still a woman," said Derek.

I wanted to hear more information, but one of the babies began to cry.

The two men stopped talking and walked into the room.

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Chapter 432 Strong Independent Woman

I pretended that I was awakened by the baby's cry. Derek walked to the crib and found the baby's diaper was wet. He quickly filled a basin with warm water to clean the baby.

He had to take care of me and the two babies. Derek hadn't done these things before. He didn't know anything at first but learned everything quickly. He had become an expert now.

Alvaro stood beside Derek and looked at the baby helplessly. He didn't know what to do. Finally, he advised me to rest well and left.

My secretary came to inform me about the functioning of the beauty salon during the past few days. Apparently, everything was going well, so she asked me to rest assured.

At first, I liked doing everything by myself.

But now, I finally understood that Alvaro was right when he said a boss only had to give orders.

“You have worked hard during my absence, and I appreciate it. Please find two people who are good at postpartum care. I want to do a live broadcast.” My secretary looked stunned.

“I’ve thought about it for a long time. Most pregnant women are worried about losing shape after giving birth. Postpartum care would help women get back in shape and take care of their children without compromising their beauty. It has great market potential,” I explained, smiling.

“I’m going to expand Jolly Beauty Salon’s postpartum care service. I could be an example for other pregnant women. I’m planning to do live broadcasts on a regular basis for the next three months so that everyone can see instant effects. Then, I’ll take this opportunity to promote our postpartum care service directly to the market.” Hearing that, my secretary nodded, smiling. “Okay, I’ll contact appropriate candidates as soon as I go back.”

After my secretary left, Derek, who had been silent all this while, smiled at me. “Eveline, you are a talented businesswoman. You have a keen sense of the market. I’m proud of you. You have chosen the right path.”

Although I looked calm, my heart was bubbling with joy.

Derek was a business genius, and I used to know nothing other than being his doting wife.

I always felt inferior to him and thought we were poles apart.

However, his praise boosted my confidence. I had a sense of accomplishment growing in my heart.

I didn't need anyone else's approval. However, his appreciation was priceless. I was proud of myself.

"But don't work too hard," Derek continued.

"Don't forget that you are still weak. I always believe that women don't need to work hard. Smart work is better than hard work. You can live an easy life."

I raised my eyebrows disapprovingly. "Of course, I need to work hard. Women don't have to rely on men for everything. We are strong, independent, and can live the life of our choice without anyone's help."

Derek lowered his head and sighed.

"That's also a reason why I don't want you to work too hard. I'm afraid you wouldn't want me to be in your life anymore."

He was right. That was exactly why I worked hard. I didn't want to go back to being the woman who thought Derek was the center of her universe and prioritized love above everything else.

"I have to learn to be independent,"

Isaid solemnly, suppressing the sudden sadness in my heart.

Derek looked at me helplessly and held my hand. "Well, if one day I am down and out, I will rely on you."

Really? Would that day come?

I didn't think so. He was smart and could control everything. Such a day would never come.

When the doctor came for rounds, he advised me not to be afraid of the pain and start walking to prevent intestinal adhesion.

I did as he said. But I couldn't even get out of my bed on my own.

Derek helped me move my feet to the edge of the bed. Then, he held my arm with one hand and my waist with the other and hoisted me up.

A sharp pain shot up from my abdomen as soon as I placed my foot on the floor. I bent forward and moved carefully.

The warm August breeze seemed to comfort me. I stood on the balcony, and I subconsciously looked at the green expanse downstairs.

There were several benches on the lawn. Patients were basking in the sun and walking with their families.

Just as I looked around, my gaze settled on a place.

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Chapter 433 Names

I saw Alvaro holding Ady's arm and walking on a path.

She looked petite beside Alvaro.

It was surprising to see such strength and dexterity in a petite woman.

They sat down on a bench.

Alvaro was different from his usual self. He was strangely silent around Ady.

The way the sun filtered through the branches and cascaded on the two people sitting on the bench made it look like a watercolor painting.

Although Ady was in her hospital gown, she looked beautiful.

After a while, Alvaro stood up to leave, but Ady reached out and grabbed his arm.

Alvaro lowered his head and looked at her before sitting back.

Ady had always been cold and aloof—she seldom smiled at anyone.

However, today, she looked gentle beside Alvaro.

She was like the cold winter plum blossoming in the icy land.

I didn't know how long I had been standing on the balcony when Derek came to me.

“Do you have any names in mind for our children?” Derek asked.

I had already decided their names when I found out that I was pregnant with twins.

I looked down at the lush grass downstairs. “My son's name is Dexter, and my daughter's name is Edith.”

Derek repeated the names as if trying to hear how they sounded and asked, “Do the names have any special meaning?”

Of course, they had, but I didn't want to tell him.

On the day I got discharged from the hospital, Alvaro came with a brand new baby carriage for the twins.

“You didn't have to spend too much money,” I said. Alvaro snorted.

“What do you mean? As a father, it's my responsibility to buy things for

my children. Now everyone in Chinston knows that you have given birth to my children. | will obviously take care of my babies.”

Derek glanced at Alvaro but didn't say anything. After we returned to my apartment, Derek helped me lie on the bed. Then, he began to clean the house, wash the children's clothes, and cook.

I couldn't do anything now. He had to manage the household chores by himself. I was weak, so I couldn't help him in any way.

He didn't relax until the nanny came to help.

I wanted my babies to be healthy, so I chose to breastfeed them. But I didn't have sufficient milk to feed both my children, so I had to resort to milk powder.

The nanny slept in the same room with us, so that it would be convenient for her to take care of me as well as the babies. Derek slept in another room.

He behaved well because the nanny was with me at all times. He would sometimes kiss my forehead while playing with our children but never got intimate.

A few days passed. My wound healed, and I could get out of the bed and walk without anyone's help. Sometimes, I would go to the living room to watch TV or stand on the balcony to bask in the sun. One day, at noon, the nanny was putting the children to sleep. I sat in a chair on the balcony and gazed at the towering buildings.

Suddenly, I felt a hand on my shoulder. I turned around and saw Derek handing over a bag to me. My breath caught in my throat when I opened it. My phone and necklace that were snatched were inside the bag.

The necklace and phone stirred strange emotions in my heart.

The incident at Lensy and the pain of losing the necklace rushed into my mind at once.

Derek put his arm around my trembling shoulder and gently held me in his arms.

“I found the people who had robbed you. They had sold the phone and necklace, but I managed to track them down. Do you realize how dangerous it was for you to leave alone?”

“What do you think I should have done? Tell me! How could I stay after what happened? What about my dignity and self-respect?”

I raised my head and glared at him. The anger that was simmering in my heart bubbled up in an instant.

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Chapter 434 You Arranged It

In my heart of hearts, I hoped that Derek could offer me an explanation; perhaps even just a beautiful lie.

But sadly, he just looked down and clammed up. The look on his face was the epitome of helplessness.

“Eveline, the earth is round. No matter how far you go, you’ll eventually return to the starting point and come back to me.”

Still, he refused to give me an explanation.

My heart was filled with sadness, yet I looked him in the eye and pretended not to care.

“How are you so sure about that? What if I refuse to go back to you?”

He sat on the armrest of the chair, gently stroking my shoulder with his palm. The warmth of his strong hands felt all too real.

“If you refuse, I’ll follow your footsteps and search for you in every corner of the world,” he replied.

I sighed, staring into the distance in silence.

I wasn’t like Becky, who’d do whatever she wanted.

And it wouldn’t do me any good if I were to become too willful.

Personally, I preferred not to dwell on one problem. But if he didn’t give me an explanation and untie the knot in my heart, there was no way I could go back to him.

Ironically, in the past, his heart and mine were inseparable despite the fact that our lives and status were very different.

But now that our status had become almost the same, a vast emotional wall divided us.

A few days after my children became a month old, they cried nonstop one night. Even though they weren’t sick or anything, they refused to eat. Considering they were still infants, all they could do was to cry, and they were unable to express themselves. I completely panicked.

The nanny told me that they might be suffering from constipation, but she didn't dare to jump to a conclusion. She suggested that I took them to a hospital for a checkup.

It was then that I thought of Doctor Swain. Thus, we immediately took my children to his clinic.

Doctor Swain prescribed some traditional medicine and advised me to take them. That way, I could administer the medicine to my babies through my breast milk.

The smell of the medicine pervaded in the air, especially in the kitchen.

Once the medicine had cooled down, Derek handed me the bowl.

After taking it, I took a sip. It tasted so bitter that I almost vomited.

“Forget it. Give it to me,” said Derek.

I looked at him and asked, “Are you going to drink it? But what will you do after that?”

He took the bowl and gulped down a large amount. All of a sudden, he held the back of my head and kissed me.

He pried my teeth open using the tip of his tongue, allowing the liquid medicine into my mouth.

This was the first time that he kissed my lips ever since we met again, and it had to be this way.

Even after we were separated for more than half a year, his kiss was still potent enough to make my mind go blank. And miraculously, the medicine tasted less bitter in my mouth.

Once I had swallowed the medicine, he let me go and then he flashed me a bright smile. His smile was still as charming as ever.

He took another sip, and repeated the same method until he finished feeding me the entire bowl of medicine.

“Is it still bitter? Drink some water to cleanse your palate,” he suggested.

He then picked up a cup on the table, intending to drink some water.

But before he could, I swiped the cup from his hand and took a big gulp, almost choking from the amount of water I ingested.

“Slow down.” Derek patted me on the back as a smile formed on his lips.

When I went back to my room, I picked up one of my babies and breastfed him. He was probably tired, so he had stopped crying.

The nanny took the other one to the living room, coaxing the infant while walking.

Meanwhile, Derek stood aside in silence. I looked at him and found that he was staring at the baby suckling at my teat. His eyes were locked on my breast and I noticed his Adam’s apple bobbing up and down.

After I had fed the children, the nanny slept with them. I was feeling restless, so I went to the living room and sat on the sofa.

Derek also came out and sat beside me.

Neither of us turned on the light, and we just sat in the darkness.

“Were you the one who arranged Doctor Swain’s two hundred thousand dollars’ worth of investment on me?” I finally asked.

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Chapter 435 The Camera

Derek sat in silence amidst the darkness.

A bitter smile appeared on my lips as I said, “I thought I was really lucky to have met some people who willingly helped me in my time of need. I thought I deserved everything that I have gained, but it turns out that it was just a beautiful illusion.” Derek held me in his arms and kissed my head. “I do not wish for you to suffer.”

When Doctor Swain spoke to me tonight, he advised me to cherish all that I had.

I knew that he and his wife were good people, and their kindness towards me wasn't entirely because of Derek's arrangement.

In their opinion, no matter how successful I could become, they believed it wouldn't be easy for me to raise my kids alone. Even if I could provide the children with a comfortable life, it would never replace a father's love.

It was easy to discern that Doctor Swain meant that I should make some compromises for the sake of my children.

Derek raised my chin, slowly leaning towards me. Not a second later, he began to kiss me with his quivering lips.

I did not refuse him, and just let him proceed with his gentle kiss.

He pulled me closer towards him with one hand, and clasped the back of my head with the other. This time, his kiss was more cautious than impetuous.

Right now, I felt as though I was about to drown. And the only thing keeping me from drowning was a single straw.

But I did not resist the urge to drown in the pleasure of his kiss. The sense of familiarity had aroused my longing for him after all these months of being away from him.

On the small sofa, amidst a dark room, our bodies were close to each other. Somehow, I felt all of his suffering. But perhaps it wasn't so surprising that I could feel what he felt, for we were all too familiar with each other's bodies.

But to my surprise, he didn't do anything other than to kiss me.

From this lingering kiss, I could feel his affection, how he had restrained himself, and how patiently he had been waiting for the chance to kiss me once more.

And once he was done kissing me, he pressed my head against his chest.

I could hear the sound of his steady, powerful heartbeat.

In this quiet night, it sounded like an ancient bell; peacefully, and far-reaching.

Once my children were two months old, I went back to work full-time.

I arranged a small room next to my office. There, the nanny would take care of my children for meduring the daytime. If I were ever needed to

feed my kids, she would bring them to me. Through this, I could tend to my kids and deal with business altogether.

Jolly Beauty Salon's beauty care service empowered by traditional medicine had been widely accepted by the market. I had planned to expand my business to other products such as postpartum care, makeup, and other related fields. Derek wasn't in any hurry to go back home, nor did he ask me to come back with him to Sousen. Perhaps he knew that my career in Chinston was more important to me, and that I wouldn't want to go back to Sousen.

One day, the nanny brought the children to me. While I was feeding one of them, the baby suddenly peed.

Before the nanny could go out to grab a diaper, Ady came in with one.

It was then that a question popped into my head. Why did Ady come just in time?

Now that I had thought about it carefully, I realized that she often came at the perfect time. The more I thought about it, the more I felt that something was amiss.

About half an hour later, I walked into the lounge in my office.

It was a room for rest, spanning several square meters wide. There was a small bed here that I could sleep on whenever I need to.

I lay on the bed, checking my phone leisurely. Twenty minutes later, I heard some footsteps coming from outside.

Thus, I stood up and opened the door.

I saw Ady standing in front of the potted plant. She turned around, seemingly startled by me. “Ady, are you here to fetch water again?”

I asked, slowly walking out of the lounge with a faint smile on my face.

Ady looked down, visibly uneasy.

I walked over to her side, and removed a cloth on the potted plant. It was then that I noticed a mini pinhole camera on a branch, and took it.

I stared at the object in my hand, smiling. “Ady, what on earth is this? Explain yourself.”

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Chapter 436 Be My Model

Ady refused to look at me, and just clammed up. To offer comfort, I patted her on the shoulder.

“There’s no need to be so nervous. I know you’re just following orders. Tell whoever told you to do this that I’ll be waiting in my office.”

Having said that, I leaned against the back of my chair leisurely. Not long after, Derek showed up.

I picked up the pinhole camera on the desk and smirked. “Mr. Sullivan, I did not expect that you’re a peeping tom.”

Derek placed his hands on my desk, staring at me helplessly.

“I’m worried about you, so I wanted to see what’s going on with you. How will I ever be at ease when I have no idea how you’re doing every day?”

I scoffed at him with a straight face.

“You’re violating my privacy, Mr. Sullivan.”

He walked past the desk and stood next to me, then leaned against the desk and raised my chin using his hand.

“Are you mad me? I’m just really worried about you.”

Truthfully, I wasn’t angry. I just didn’t like the fact that I was late to catch on. It made me feel like I was stupid.

Moving my chin away, I ignored him.

But he turned my face towards him again and smiled. “Okay. It’s my bad. What can I do to appease you?”

At once, I stood up and took out a brush from the dressing case on the desk.

“I’m learning how to do makeup. If you want to make it up to me, you’ll agree to be my guinea pig. You’ll be my model and I’ll do your makeup.”

At first, Derek was staring at me awkwardly, but he eventually agreed.

I sat him on the chair, and did the smoky eyes I had just learnt.

It was hard to resist the urge to laugh when I saw my work.

Derek wanted to take the mirror, but I refused.

“If you go out for a walk right now, I’ll forgive you for installing a camera in my office without my knowledge.”

“Honey, I’m a man. At least leave me some of my dignity,” Derek said, seemingly feeling aggrieved. I frowned at him, turned around, and walked away. However, he stopped me. “Fine. I’ll do anything to please my beloved wife.”

When I saw that he was actually going to do it, my eyes widened with shock as I pulled him back. I sat him back on my chair, grabbed a wet wipe and used it to remove his makeup while laughing.

“You’re really going to go out there? If you went out looking like that, your whole image as the unbreakable and cool Mr. Sullivan would be ruined.” Just as I had completely removed his makeup, he suddenly grabbed my hand and pulled me into his arms.

He stared at me with a burning desire before he began to kiss me.

This time, the way he kissed me was wilder than before. It was so arousing that I soon got swept up in a moment.

“I can’t restrain myself anymore, can I, honey?” The sound of his voice was so attractive.

And the way he spoke sounded like he was asking for my opinion, and yet his movements and increasingly rapid breaths indicated that he was no longer able to restrain himself.

Nursing mothers had the fragrance of milk on their bodies, and this scent seemed to arouse men’s desire.

The moment he touched my breasts, they squirted out milk and soon made my shirt wet.

He let me straddle onto him, pressed me against the desk and passionately kissed me. Even though we'd been separated for a long time, we were used to each other's bodies, so he easily ignited my desire.

My body was honest, yet my heart was conflicted. I began to struggle and debate against myself. Meanwhile, my hands were unable to resist him. "Honey, be good. I've been longing for you!"

The sound of Derek's bewitching voice slowly tore down my will.

Scenes of our time together flashed through my mind. When I thought of that particular recording and the fact that he said he didn't love me, I suddenly came to my senses.

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Chapter 437 You Are Still Angry With Me

All of a sudden, I shoved Derek away with great force, and tried to control my unstable breathing.

Confused, he gazed at me with fire in his eyes. Just as he was about to cup my face with his hand, I moved away. I stood up, and grasped my shirt that had already been opened.

"I'm going to change my clothes."

I ran into my lounge as fast as my legs could carry me.

And once I had closed the door, I leaned against it and breathed heavily.

Men could have sex without love, but women could not. I couldn't just ignore my inner thoughts. Soon, I found another shirt and changed my shirt that had been soiled by breast milk.

Upon opening the door of the lounge, I found Derek leaning against the wall beside the door as though he had been waiting for me.

Calmly, I walked out, attempting to ignore him, but he soon held me in his embrace.

It appeared he had calmed down, but his breathing was still uneven. I could hear his rampant heartbeat.

"Honey, I know you're still mad at me," he whispered in my ear.

Gently, I pushed him away, walked back to my desk and sat down. Then, I opened up some folders and said, "If you want to have sex, go find someone else to do it with."

For a moment, silence ensued in the room. I waited and waited, uncertain of what he would say or do.

After a while, Derek took a few paces towards me. He stopped in front of the desk, and remained silent for a long time.

I didn't even have the courage to look at him right now. And I wasn't sure if his hands in his pockets were relaxed or clenched.

"Eveline, I'm a human, not a beast. I couldn't resist the urge to do it, because it's with you. Anyway, I'm going to see my children," he said. Minutes after he left, I stared at the door and felt empty.

I adjusted the mirror on my desk and stared at myself.

My cheeks were ruddy, and my lips were slightly swollen.

His words before he left were still resonating in my head, and they brought forth a tide of sorrow, coursing through my veins.

It seemed that we had tacitly agreed to act as though nothing had happened. Derek was still good to me and our kids, but he never took the initiative to get close to me again.

When he wanted to smoke, he would sit on the balcony for a long time.

At that moment, he was smoking on the balcony again, staring at the city's dim lights, while I gazed at his back amidst the darkness.

To me, he looked upset and miserable. I would be lying if I said that it didn't break my heart to see him this way.

When our children turned a hundred days old, we took them to a photo studio for a picture taking. At the request of the photographer, we tried our best to make the babies smile.

After taking pictures of the babies, the photographer suggested that we should take a few family photos.

While I was changing in the dressing room, I had a hard time zipping up the back of my dress. Suddenly, I felt a pair of hands zip up my dress from behind me.

A bit embarrassed, I tidied my hair, ready to go out of the dressing room.

However, Derek halted me. He held my shoulders and stared into my eyes.

"I'll be flying back to Souseu at eight o'clock tomorrow morning."

I stared back at him, dazed and surprised.

The news came so suddenly.

Even though I had been keeping my distance from him these days, I knew that the sadness I felt at this moment was true. Hearing him tell me that he was leaving broke my heart.

Even now, he was still staring at me with tenderness in his eyes.

As he held me in his arms, I felt no lust. Only affection, yearning, and reluctance to part with me.

“So, let’s take a family photo. After that, let’s go eat somewhere, okay? Just the two of us.”

At last, he let go of me and stared into my eyes once more; waiting for an answer.

I looked down and nodded slightly. Then, I saw a smile form on his lips.

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Chapter 438 The Date

After leaving the dressing room, Derek and I sat down next to each other upon the photographer’s instructions. He held our daughter, and I held our son.

The photographer pointed his camera at us and said, “Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan, please smile a little more happily. Look at your children. They’re both lovely. Anyone who’d see you now would feel envious!”

Suddenly, Derek put his arm around my shoulder and pulled me closer towards him.

At this time, our son sneezed as he sat on my lap, followed by our daughter.

Then, they looked at each other. Seeing them interact this way made me laugh.

Derek looked at me with a bright smile on his face. The photographer took this opportunity to capture a perfect moment. After saying “OK”, he put away his camera and stood up.

“You may come by and choose the photos you like in a few days.”

After leaving the photo studio, Derek and I sent our kids home and asked the nanny to take care of them.

Once we were home, I took a shower and changed into an elegant winter dress and a small suit jacket. Afterwards, I put on light makeup.

After I gave birth to the twins, my figure recovered rather swiftly. In all honesty, I was even sexier than before, because I paid special attention to postpartum care.

Many customers said that I didn’t look like a woman who had just given birth to twins.

Right now, I felt like I was going on a date with my lover, and it made me really nervous.

Having prepared for a long time, I finally came out of my room, carrying a purse.

Derek happened to be standing on the balcony and smoking. "I'm done. We can go now," I said to him. The moment he turned around and saw me, he was stupefied.

He crushed his cigarette underfoot, walking towards me with great appreciation for my beauty. "You are stunning!"

I held my purse and didn't respond.

Tonight, I was wearing a pair of ten-centimeter high-heeled shoes for the date.

I had never worn such high heels before.

Thanks to my high heels, while I stood next to Derek, I didn't need to look up too much just to see his face. Moreover, Lavinia had mentioned in one of her lessons that high heels could help a woman walk naturally with her head held high and her chest out, which would help accentuate her beauty.

Derek drove us to a luxurious five-star hotel.

In the restaurant there, a waiter led us to a private room that Derek had reserved.

The private room was nothing short of majestic. Aside from a dining table, there was also a flat-screen TV, sofas, and a bed.

The lighting was dim inside the room. There were candles and several bottles of red wine on the table, and soothing music was playing in the background.

There was an armchair at each end of the table. Derek sat me on an armchair, and then he walked to the opposite one and sat there.

Over the flickering candlelight, I stared at him as he sat across me.

He had taken off his suit jacket and was now wearing only a white shirt. His sleeves were rolled up, revealing his muscular forearms.

Then, he habitually unbuttoned the two topmost buttons of his shirt, partly revealing his chest. Afterwards, he picked up a bottle of wine, opened it up and put it back on the table.

As the conveyor belt on the table moved, the bottle of wine stopped in front of me.

Once I had taken it, I poured myself a glass of wine.

Derek opened another bottle and poured wine in his glass.

After a while, I heard someone knocking at the door. Derek picked up a remote control and used it to open the door. Not long after, a waiter pushed in a dining cart.

And once the waiter had served all the food, he politely asked us to enjoy ourselves before he pushed the dining cart out of the room.

On the large dining table, all the dishes were moving slowly along the conveyor belt.

“Have a drink with me first,” Derek said, raising his glass.

I looked him in the eye. “You...”

Before I could form a sentence, he smirked at me and said, “Don’t worry. I’ve gone to the hospital for a checkup. My doctor said that my stomach has recovered well, and it’s fine if I have a couple of drinks, but nothing too excessive.”

Even until now, he still knew me well. He figured out what I was thinking even before I could say it. Thus, I picked up my glass of wine, and the contents shone beneath the candlelight.

I raised my glass to him and gulped down my wine in one breath.

Ever since I got pregnant, I had not ingested even a drop of alcohol. The taste of the red wine wasn’t strong. It was sweet, and had hints of bitter taste.

“Eveline, you don’t want to go back to Sousen for now, do you?” Derek suddenly asked me.

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Chapter 439 I Have Never Said That

I stared at him across the candlelight as a bitter smile appeared on my lips.

“Maybe not just for the time being. I don’t know if I’ll even go back there someday.”

Derek didn’t say anything. He just took a plate of steak, slowly cutting pieces from it.

He had a knife and a fork in his hands, looking down as he carefully cut the steak, all the while looking elegant.

Once he was finished cutting it up, he put the plate of steak back to the conveyor belt.

“Eat something first,” he said.

I took the plate of steak that he passed to me and had a bite.

I wasn't sure why, but my taste buds weren't refined enough to discern the difference in the cooking skills of the chefs of this five-star hotel.

I filled my glass again and raised it to Derek, pretending to act normally. “Safe travels to you!” Derek raised his glass in response and took a sip, while I drank up the whole glass.

After having drunk so much, my vision became blurry.

I looked around the luxurious private room and saw that all the furnishings, including glasses and dishware, were of superior quality.

Now, I no longer thought that it was a waste of money to have dinner at somewhere this fancy. However, I felt that all these extravagant and gorgeous things exuded a cold and unrelenting sense of distance, just like my current situation with Derek.

Moments later, I began to feel dizzy to the point that I had to prop my head up with one hand.

As I stared at the plate of steak that had been cut neatly, I didn't know why I suddenly felt a lump in my throat, and tears started to well up in my eyes. Derek used to be so good to me. His love, care, and protection were not something a plate of steak could rival.

Sadly, it didn't last long. As with all things, that moment of my life changed.

Now, I had become successful. I made a mountain of wealth, but I could no longer get my previous happiness back.

I poured the rest of the wine into my glass and gulped it down.

Feeling drunk, I put down my glass.

The tears in my eyes rendered me unable to see the man sitting across me clearly.

He was so far from my reach across the flickering candlelight.

Whenever people got drunk, they would become more fragile and more likely to break down.

Moreover, they were prone to vent their bottled up emotions.

And as I looked at Derek's blurry form, I burst into tears.

“Derek, you shouldn't have come here. Forgetting you and becoming strong was the hardest thing I've ever done. And now that you've come here, all those efforts I exerted have gone in vain. Don't you know how difficult it was for me to move on from you? I've tried everything I could, but I still couldn't forget you! Didn't you say that you never even loved me? Because if you don't love me, why do you keep on badgering me? Why can't you just let me go? Derek, you have a hold on my heart that I just cannot break! And that very fact tortures me every single day of my life.”

At this point, I was spouting whatever came to my mind. I wiped away my tears until I felt him hold me.

“When did I ever say that I never loved you?”

“You said it, Derek. You did say it! You said you didn’t love me, and you claimed that the only one you’ve ever loved was Sybil. I know that she’s your first love. You’re free to love her if you wish. I’ve already helped you fulfill that wish. But why on earth are you still bothering my life?”

Weakly, I leaned against his arms. I was feeling dizzy and uncomfortable. My nose was blocked by mucus, causing my words to sound nasal.

Derek held my shoulders and stared at me. “Eveline, what are you talking about?”

By now, my head was too hazy and I couldn’t support myself even as he held me. I was so drunk that I could see three of him in front of me.

“You’re a man. Why do you continue to deny what you’ve said?”

I shook my head and touched my burning forehead.

I really wanted to stay sober as much as I could, and I’d rather not lose face in front of him. But in the end, I failed to hold on, and soon fell weakly into his muscular arms.

“I never said those words.”

He placed his hand on my waist, and the warmth of his breath seeped into my forehead.

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Chapter 440 I Have Evidence

“I have evidence. You can’t keep denying it.”

I felt like a fire was blazing in the pit of my stomach. The discomfort made me squirm in his arms, but every position I tried only felt worse than the last. Soon, I felt my consciousness slipping away.

Even so, I raised my head and squinted at Derek in an attempt to see his expression clearly. I failed, of course. It was as if we were miles away, but in the next second, his face was right in front of mine.

“What evidence? Where is it, then?”

His lips brushed against the shell of my ear, his raspy voice sending shivers down my spine. “It’s...”

I pressed my hands against his chest in a bid to regain my senses, but it did nothing to ease the pounding in my head.

“It was on the phone, but then... but then the phone got snatched, as well as the necklace. You have no idea how devastated I was.”

As soon as I said this, it was like a dam broke, and I burst into tears. In my drunken state, I forgot that Derek had already helped me get back those things. Not wanting Derek to see me as a sobbing mess, I found myself burying my face in his chest. In response, he nibbled my ear and let out a long breath.

“Why were you devastated? Because I gave the necklace to you, and you didn’t want to lose it... Right?”

His low voice sounded hypnotic and irresistible, and the fact that I was completely drunk wasn’t helping my predicament.

“That’s right,” I admitted grudgingly.

I became very honest when I was drunk.

Pretty soon, I was moving even closer to him. I felt the urge to air out my grievances and demand compensation.

“The truth is that I missed you very much,” I choked between sobs.

“I know, I know.”

His breath felt hot against my skin.

Before I knew it, I dissolved into another bout of tears.

“And I didn’t really want you to leave.”

“I know.”

Derek gently stroked my hair, and the familiar gesture stabbed at my heart.

I clenched my hands into fists and weakly pounded his chest.

It only lasted for a few seconds before he grabbed my wrists and pulled me into his embrace.

“You’re torturing me, you know.”

Derek’s voice trembled ever so slightly. I could tell he was trying hard to restrain himself, and I couldn’t help but feel aroused by this.

I reached up and put my arms around his neck, and then I was kissing him.

He froze, obviously stunned by my boldness, but he was responding and devouring my mouth in no time.

Derek picked me up, and the next thing I knew, he was setting me down on the large and soft bed in the private room.

I was crying again.

“You don’t love me,” I all but wailed.

“Silly girl,” he chided affectionately. He proceeded to kiss me all over my body, discarding my clothes as he went. After a while, he paused.

I instantly knew what he was staring at. I hurriedly covered the scar on my belly with my hands.

“Don’t look. It’s ugly.”

“No, don’t cover it. It’s beautiful. It’s magnificent.” Without waiting for me to move, Derek removed my hands and planted a soft kiss on my scar. “Thank you, honey. I’m so grateful to you for making me a father.”

Derek was in absolute control after that. I lost myself in his body, reveling in the pleasures of sex I didn’t think I’d experience again.

As expected, I woke up the next morning with a throbbing head. I sat up gingerly and winced. My back and waist were sore.

I looked around and realized that I was in the private room where Derek and I had dinner last night.

But I was all alone. The man was nowhere to be seen. In fact, any trace of his presence was gone from the room.

If I wasn't aching all over, I would probably start suspecting that last night had only been a dream. As it was, I could see teeth marks and love bites down my body, too.

I looked at the clock hanging on the wall. It was already half past eight.

Derek had said that he would be taking the eight to'clock flight, so he must be on the plane by now. I lay back against the pillows and pulled the quilt over myself.

His scent still lingered on the bed. Despite myself, I nestled in my little cocoon, desperate to hold onto what was left of him. We had shared the past few hours in fervent passion, but my mistrust of him still remained.

Then, out of the corner of my eye, I noticed an empty condom box that looked to have been discarded mindlessly on the floor. It shouldn't be surprising, since most hotels provided this kind of thing to certain guests.

The sorry state of the box brought a smile to my lips. Clearly, Derek had been frantic when he handled it.

We had been together for so long, but we had never used a condom until last night.

He had likely remembered the doctor's words back when I had just been discharged from the hospital. Since I had a C-section, it wasn't advisable for me to have any sort of similar operations within the following year. Namely, an abortion. Otherwise, it might damage my uterus and lower my chances of conceiving another child in the future. To be safe, the doctor had even instructed us to wait for three whole years before trying for another baby. Just then, my phone started vibrating on the nightstand.

I picked it up and saw that Derek had sent me a message.