

My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 441

Chapter 441

Chapter 441 The Answer

“Honey, I’m leaving. I don’t want to wake you up. Rest well. Last night, you mentioned something about evidence, so I turned on your previous smartphone you put in your bag. I saw the evidence and heard the recording. You silly girl. The answer is on the computer. Go ahead and check it once you’re awake. I’ll contact you after I get off the plane.”

I received the message at 7:45 am. He must’ve sent it before he boarded the plane.

The computer ?

I looked up and saw the computer in the private room, and my previous phone was on the desk. After putting on some clothes, I walked over.

The computer had been turned on and it was in sleep mode.

Hurriedly, I tapped on keyboard, and soon, the computer’s screen lit up.

An audio application had been left open. After gathering enough courage, I played it.

“Derek, you still love my sister, don’t you ?”

“No.”

“Do you love Eveline ?”

“Yes. I love her with all my heart.”

Hearing those words left me confused.

I couldn't believe what I had just heard.

“So... this is the truth? I misunderstood everything?” I muttered, shocked.

Either the recording Becky sent me before or this one on the computer, must've been edited and altered.

And Derek meant to say that this recording on the computer was the truth.

Should I really trust him?

He said he loved me with all his heart? He really said that?

I had been troubled by this matter for so long. And now, I found that it was all just one big misunderstanding. I couldn't tell how I felt right now.

I was excited, regretful, and sad altogether.

Even if I had misunderstood the recording, what about the photo on the news? Was it also a misunderstanding?

When I came out of the hotel, I called Ady and asked her to come to the underground parking lot of the hotel. Soon, she arrived and drove me home. Upon my arrival at home, the nanny told me that my children were very obedient last night. She only fed them once in the middle of the night, and then they slept until dawn.

I hadn't breastfed my babies all night, so my breasts felt bloated.

After feeding my little angels, I took a shower and changed my clothes.

Then, I told the nanny to go to the company with me, just like before.

As soon as I arrived at my office, my phone rang. Derek was calling me.

I checked the time and saw that it was half past ten.

As I leaned against the chair, I answered the phone.

“Are you having a hangover?” he said in a gentle, charming voice.

“My whole body feels sore. Derek, I...”

“I’m sorry, honey. It’s just that I haven’t had sex with you for a long time, so I was unable to control myself last night. I promise I’ll be gentler next time,” he replied.

Next time ?

He was in Sousen, and I resided in Chinston. Both of us were busy with our own businesses. I wasn’t sure when we would meet again.

“Thanks for taking care of the babies. I’ll make it up to you and our kids in the future. By the way, remember to take photos of the kids every day and send them to me, so I can see them grow,” he added.

Neither of us mentioned the audio recording again. And I didn’t ask about the photo on the news. Perhaps he would explain it to me one day. I’d rather not dwell on this one thing.

After all, he was the father of my twins, and the kids needed him. 2

If the audio file that he gave me was true, his words were good enough for me.

“Honey, I’m about to have a meeting right now. Give me a kiss before you hang up,” Derek said over the phone.

Even though he wasn’t in front of me, I was still blushing.

“Derek, you’re really...”

He chuckled and cut me off. “Are you embarrassed? I really want to see how you look right now.”

“You should go to your meeting. Do you want everyone to wait for you?” I asked.

“So what? They can wait. I’m the boss, and I have the final say in everything,” he _ replied disapprovingly. 1

“Alright, alright. Just go! I’m hanging up now,” I remarked.

“Wait!” he exclaimed. “Fine. Since you don’t want to kiss me, I’ll kiss you.”

Right after he said that, I heard a kissing sound from the other end of the line.

“Did you feel it?” he asked.

I didn’t say anything. I just touched my face and stared at myself in the mirror, only to find that I was blushing.

My cheeks were ruddy, and my eyes were filled with affection. 1

“Go to your meeting! I don’t think it’s appropriate for the boss to be late for his own meeting,” I argued.

Derek chuckled at my remark. “Okay. I have to hang up now. I’ll call you when I’m free. Remember to miss me, okay?”

At long last, the phone call ended. When I raised my head, I saw Alvaro leaning against the doorframe with his arms crossed.

I had no idea when he arrived. It appeared as though he had been standing there for a while.

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Chapter 442 Why Can’t You Like Me Back

“If you don’t wanna leave him, then why did you leave back then?”

Alvaro slowly entered my office. He didn’t have his usual frivolous smile this time.

Instead of answering his question, I asked, “What are you doing here?”

He placed his hands on my desk, staring right at my neck.

I remembered that Derek had left love marks on me when we had sex last night, so I instinctively grabbed my collar.

Alvaro chuckled at my response. “I missed you, so I had to come here.”

I could smell the strong odor of alcohol on him. When I looked at his face, I noticed that he was drunk. His face was a little red.

For some reason, he was acting different than usual today. He seemed upset about something. Not long after, I picked up my purse and calmly walked out of the office.

“I’m leaving now. If you want to stay in my office, be my guest.”

Just as I passed him by, he grabbed me and pressed me against the desk.

All of a sudden, he ripped my collar open.

Lately, most of the clothes I wore were loose for the convenience of breastfeeding. And because of what he did, my bra was exposed.

“Alvaro, what do you think you’re doing?”

I asked, covering my chest with both hands. Alvaro had one hand pulling my collar open as he stared at my neck with his scarlet eyes. Then, he looked me dead in the eye.

“I want...”

He bit his lower lip, stopping midsentence. He just stared at me, stubborn yet reluctant to speak.

At this time, Ady rushed into my office.

“Alvaro, let her go!” she shouted at him.

Without even glancing back, Alvaro responded, “This is none of your business.”

Ady was rendered speechless for a moment, and her eyes displayed how conflicted she was.

A moment later, she said, “I have no right to command you, and I don’t care for you either. However, I have a duty to protect my employer.” Alvaro scoffed at her. “I wonder if Derek is able to fly back to Chinston right away.”

It was then that Ady stood rooted to her spot. Suddenly, Alvaro turned around and shouted, “Who do you think I am? I won’t harm Eveline. Can you just go?”

“Ady, it’s fine. Leave us,” I said to her.

Ady glanced at me and then she took a long hard look at Alvaro before she left my office.

Once she had left, I lowered my gaze. I’d rather not stare into Alvaro’s eyes, for they were brimming with overwhelming emotions.

“Get out of my way. I wish to see my children.” He didn’t move, but he loosened his grip on my collar. He then put his hands on both sides of my body and leaned closer towards me.

“Look at me before you go to see your babies.” The sound of his voice was much calmer now. Perhaps he had forced himself to calm down after he left his previous sentence unfinished.

“Look at me, Eve. How do I look?” he asked.

I fell silent for a few seconds and kept my head down.

“Handsome,” I exclaimed.

All of a sudden, he pinched my chin and turned my face towards him. “You’re not looking at me,” he said, sounding upset.

What ?

I wasn’t sure if he was just pretending to be insane because he was drunk. Several minutes ago, he was like an angry lion, ready to devour me. But now, he was like a child that had been wronged.

“I was telling the truth.”

I tried my best to smile as sincere as possible. “Then, why can’t you like me back ? Tell me, what have I been doing wrong ? I can change for you. I’ll do anything as long as it’s for you.” 1

This time, I was rendered speechless.

“So many women in Chinston have fallen head over heels for me, but you’re the only exception. Believe it or not, I only need to wave my hand and women would swoon over me,” 1

Alvaro said with a proud smile.

I couldn’t remember from which book I had read a particular sentence before, but it said, “The more conceited a person appears, the more self-abased he is in reality.”

Truthfully, Alvaro had every reason to be conceited. However, love wasn’t something that trapped itself within the bounds of reason. A person might love someone who was deeply flawed, yet he or she might not love another even if that individual was perfect in every way.

“I do believe you.” I nodded firmly.

Alvaro scoffed, visibly unhappy. “You’re the only one who refuses to look at me.”

I didn’t dare to look into his eyes, for I was unwilling to see the pain in his eyes. Feeling awkward, I replied, “I’m a married woman, Alvaro. And I have two kids now.”

He nodded and pulled his collar in frustration. “So, I brought this upon myself, huh?” 2

The moment he spoke, I smelled the strong stench of alcohol, and it made me take a step back.

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Chapter 443 I Will Never Do Anything To Hurt You

Perhaps he noticed that I was alarmed, so he took a step back and helped me up.

“Are you afraid of me?”

When he asked me this question, he seemed to be in a trance. It was as though he had just woken up from a dream. He was completely different from the raging lion he was before.

I looked down, shook my head, and said nothing. All of a sudden, he slapped himself across the face. “What the fuck am I doing?”

Just before he could slap himself again, I stopped him.

“Enough!”

After tidying up my clothes, he looked down and said seriously, “Don’t be scared, Eve. I will never do anything to hurt you. I won’t ever harm you for as long as I live.”

Having said that, he shook his head. And like all drunk people, he appeared to be feeling discomfort.

Thus, he lay down on the sofa and patted his head. “Do you mind making me a cup of coffee to sober me up? I drank too much last night, and now I have a hangover,” he requested.

I let out a sigh, but I still made him a cup of coffee. Moments later, I put the coffee on the table and asked, “How much did you drink?”

Alvaro placed one hand on his forehead as he closed his eyes and answered, “I didn’t keep track. All I know is that I drank the entire night in a room next to yours. While you were enjoying a romantic night, I had to stay at an empty room all on my own.”

His words left me stunned.

It turned out that he was also in that hotel last night, and he was just next door.

As he lay on the sofa, a bitter smile formed on his lips.

“Back when I was a child, whenever my dad would drink and chat with your father, he would mention something about an engagement between us. Honestly, I took it seriously. I really believed that someday, you’d be my wife. At the time, I was so naive that I didn’t know that many things could change in a decade or so.”

Truthfully, I wouldn't have remembered that if he hadn't mentioned it.

Because, at the time, I didn't take it to heart. I just thought of it as a joke between adults.

Finally, Alvaro fell asleep after murmuring for a long time.

He even forgot to drink the coffee that I made for him.

Not long after, I fetched a blanket and used it to cover him up.

By the time he woke up again, I was sitting at the desk and breastfeeding my son.

Upon hearing the noise, I knew he was awake. But right now, my baby was eating. I wanted to stop him, but he was too indulged in nursing from me. Seeing that Alvaro sat up with his head on his hand, I felt nervous. "I'm feeding my child," I said. He nodded in response, and he didn't get up nor look at me.

Once I was finished feeding the baby, I gave him to the nanny and asked her to take him out.

After drinking his cold coffee, Alvaro lit a cigarette. "Did I do something weird?"

"Yep," I replied casually.

With self-mockery, he chuckled. "Just forget. I was acting crazy."

I averted my gaze to him from the screen of my computer. "You'd best recover soon," I joked. With a cigarette in his hand, he stood up and approached me.

“Not every problem could be solved. Even if I do wish to be normal, it’s impossible. It’s too late to do anything. Just leave it be.”

As he spoke, he took out a small toy rabbit from the pocket of his trousers, and the toy was as big as a baby’s fist.

He then placed it on my desk and pressed the switch. The rabbit began to move along the desk, and sang while walking.

“Give this to your kids.”

Having said that, he put one hand in his pocket, and left my office.

“There’s a group of ducks swimming under the bridge in front of the gate. Come and count how many ducks there are. One, two, three, four...”
The rabbit sang a happy children’s song as it walked on. Just before it could fall from the desk, I reached my hand out to catch it.

As the rabbit sang in my hand, I felt conflicted. After turning the toy off, I put the rabbit aside and made an internal call.

Moments later, the HR manager came and handed me Ady’s resume.

It was my decision to hire her, and I never actually reviewed her resume.

Only now did I find that her resume was too plain. Aside from some basic information, many places were left blank.

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Chapter 444 Yearning

In the car, I casually asked Ady about her previous job.

“I used to be an illegal boxer and then a security guard,” she replied in a light and calm tone.

“And what is your relationship with Alvaro?”

She paused for a brief moment before saying, “We’re friends.”

My intuition instantly told me that she was lying—they couldn’t possibly be just friends, at least not in the conventional sense. Ady clearly didn’t want to tell me the truth, though, so I refrained from prying any further.

In any case, I knew that she was not an enemy. Derek trusted her, after all, and she had also risked her life to save me. Most importantly, I always thought of Louise whenever I saw Ady. When I got home, I took out the necklace and put it on.

At the back of my mind was a nagging worry for Layne and Louise. I had no idea how his case was going.

A few days later, I picked up the photos from the studio and sent a copy to Derek before setting the family picture as my phone background.

I resolved to focus all my energy on expanding my career, if only to ease my torment from missing him.

Thankfully, it didn’t take long for my labors to bear fruit. Jolly Beauty Salon eventually became an entire enterprise that handled a wider range of business. I had begun to open several branches all over the country as well, and it helped a lot in boosting the company’s popularity within the market.

Occasionally, I would see Becky on TV. She only ever played minor roles these days, and most of her characters were rebels or villains. Her name had become a hot topic on various forums, and not necessarily in a good way. She seemed to always be involved in scandals and other unsavory rumors.

Many netizens who had a lot of time in their hands kept comparing her current appearance with photos from when she had just started in the entertainment industry. Anyone with a discerning eye could tell that she had undergone plastic surgery, and this particular topic just never lost steam. Becky still looked beautiful, of course, but she had decidedly lost the air of innocence that was expected of a young woman like herself. Cindy, on the other hand, had been thriving since her victory at the Singing Youth. She was now the ambassador for numerous brands, and she was invited to perform in practically every channel's New Year show.

Indeed, God was fair. He blessed those who did honest work, and gave the cheaters their due. Before I knew it, the New Year was just around the corner. I found myself dreading the holidays, as it sparked the yearning for family and loved ones.

Even so, I immersed myself in my work and acted like a dead weight wasn't sitting at the pit of my stomach.

When night came, however, the sorrow and loneliness all but drowned me.

This would be the first New Year since Jolly Beauty Salon was founded, so we all decided to hold a party.

On the day of the event, I just sat in the corner and watched everyone else have a good time. Try as I might, I couldn't fill the gaping hole in my heart.

When I walked out of the hotel hours later, I folded my arms over my chest and looked up. Festive fireworks were lighting up the night sky. Miles away, the same scene must be painted on the sky above Sousen.

“Do you remember?” Alvaro asked as he walked up to me. “Last year before New Year’s Eve, I invited you to have dinner with Grandma and me.”

“I’m sorry,” I said guiltily.

But he just shook his head and looked up with a bitter smile. And then I heard him sing an old song under his breath.

“If fate exists, then everything is destined...”

It made me wonder—if fate existed and everything was destined to happen, could I still erase some of my regrets in life?

I went home and booked the earliest flight before New Year’s Eve.

I wanted to go to Sousen. I wanted to see Derek.

I couldn’t wait any longer.

My first thought when I landed in Sousen was how different it was from Chinston.

It was snowing here now, but not in Chinston.

I was shivering even as I exited the airport, and I had to adjust my scarf just to keep my face warm.

I intended to surprise Derek, so I hadn’t informed him that I was coming.

I hailed a taxi and headed straight to the villa. But when I arrived, his car was nowhere in sight. No one answered the door, either, despite my ringing the doorbell twice.

Derek wasn't home.

Everyone should be home for the holidays, especially the CEO of such a big company. Where else could he be?

Was he with Gifford, then?

It was New Year's Eve. No matter their differences, those two men were still father and son. It shouldn't be all that surprising for them to share a meal on this special day.

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Chapter 445 Be Careful

It was still early, so I went back to my old house. After I had been away for nearly a year, this place had become more lonesome than usual. The other family that had been living in this alley seemed to have moved away already.

Because I came back in a hurry, I'd forgotten to bring the key to this old house. I just stared at the house for a while before I finally decided to leave. After having a quick meal at a restaurant, I remembered that Derek didn't like to stay in his father's house. If he went there to have dinner with him, he wouldn't have gone there so early.

It made me wonder if he was still in his company. Thus, I took a cab to Dere International. Once I was there, I stared at the towering building ahead of me.

I was about to go in, but then I stopped in my tracks. Then, I turned around and entered a coffee shop across the street.

There, I ordered a cup of milk tea and sat by the window.

If Derek was in his company, I would be able to see him as soon as he walked out of that building. Very few people would be sitting in a coffee shop, considering that it was New Year's Eve, so it was tranquil in here.

Aside from me, there was only one male guest. He had his back to me as he sat at a table in front of me. Our tables weren't that far apart.

There appeared to be a half-full cup of black coffee on his table.

From time to time, he would glance over the window as though he was waiting for someone. Moments later, another man came in and walked straight to the first man's table. Then, he took out a stack of photos from his pockets and threw them onto the table.

"Take a look," said the man who just arrived.

The man with his back to me picked up one of the photos.

When I glanced at the photo, I was stupefied.

The person in the photo was Derek!

"Is this the guy, Doug?" asked the man who just arrived.

"Yes! I'm positive, it's him. I can recognize him from a mile away!"

Doug, the guy with his back to me, replied through gritted teeth.

The other man pulled out a chair and sat across him, looking around vigilantly. Not a minute later, his gaze fell on me.

As I took a sip of my milk tea, I realized that my hands were trembling.

To calm my nerves, I took out my earphones from my purse and put them into my ears. Afterwards, I turned to the window and pretended to listen to music.

The man withdrew his gaze from me and asked, “What are you planning to do?”

“Kill him!” said Doug.

His words, though simple, were enough to frighten me.

“Tonight is a good opportunity. Do you have the ticket I asked you to get?” asked Doug.

The other man patted his chest. “Of course, my man! I’d never let you down.”

Having said that, he took out a few tickets from his inner pockets and unfolded them with his fingertips.

Doug nodded in response. “Ken, tell everyone to be ready. Whoever has the fucking audacity to screw up my business, I’ll kill him myself!”

“You got it!” Ken responded.

Doug turned his attention to the building of Dere International. “I want Derek to die tonight,” he said.

I bit the straw, trying to calm down. However, my mind was becoming more chaotic as the seconds passed by.

Just then, my phone rang.

Both Ken and Doug looked at me with curiosity. Derek was the one calling me.

Before answering his call, I lowered the volume first.

“Honey, I miss you!”

Derek’s husky, alluring voice came from the other end of the line.

Tightly, I held my phone and stared at Dere International’s building. My palms were sweating profusely.

“I miss you too. Come back and celebrate New Year’s Eve with me, okay?”

For a few seconds, Derek fell silent. “Um... honey, I’m sorry, but I can’t. I have some important business to attend tonight. I won’t be able to keep you company.”

At this point, the men at the other table weren’t uttering a word. Inside the quiet coffee shop, only a soft background music and the sound of my voice could be heard.

“It’s the New Year’s holiday! Why are you still so busy?” I complained.

Derek chuckled at my remark.

“Once I’m done with work, I’ll come to Chinston to accompany you and our kids. Now, open the camera. I want to see our little angels.”

I glanced at the men at the other table and replied, “They’re asleep.”

“Oh, I see. Maybe next time, then. Anyway, I have to go. I’ve got some urgent matters to attend,” said Derek.

“Be careful,” I said hurriedly.

As soon as I finished speaking, he disconnected from the call.

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Chapter 446 The Cruise Ship

About five minutes later, Derek came out of the gate of the Dere International building, and Timmy followed him.

“There he is!” the man named Ken whispered to remind Doug. Derek and Timmy went straight to the parking lot. Doug also stood up and left. Ken hurriedly gathered the photos and the tickets on the table. Just as he walked past me, several tickets fell at my feet.

Ken bent over to pick it up, and his eyes roved over my legs. He flashed a lustful smile when he saw my stockings.

“Beauty, you have a nice figure.”

“Hurry!” Doug urged him without looking back. Ken quickly picked up the tickets on the floor and followed him.

After they left the coffee shop, I bent down and picked up the ticket beside my foot.

It was for a New Year masquerade party on a cruise ship hosted by the Alma Department Store. I knew about the company. It was popular a few years ago, but it insisted on holding on to the traditional business concept. As a result, it lost most of its market share to newly rising department stores.

Considering the downfall, the Alma Department Store should be going through a tough phase now. I was surprised to see the company hold a big New Year party.

Before I started my own business, I didn't understand many things. However, I could analyze every aspect of business now.

I realized the company had hosted a party to maintain connections and solicit sponsorship.

I called Derek right away, but he didn't answer. Then, I glanced at the ticket in my hand and made a decision right away.

I put the ticket in my purse, went to a mall, and bought a black evening dress, a shawl, and a pair of stilettos.

Then, I went to a top-grade styling salon and got my hair and makeup done.

Once ready, I checked myself in the mirror. The reflection looking back at me _ seemed unrecognizable.

It was getting dark, so I took a taxi to the beach. Once the cab reached the destination, I gazed out of the window at the brightly lit cruise ship. The muffled music playing on the ship permeated in the air.

“Miss, would you like to go anywhere else?” the driver asked since I was still in the car.

I took out three hundred dollars from my purse and handed it to him. “I’ll get off later.”

The driver took the money and nodded. “Okay.” Many fancy cars arrived one after the other, and more people got on the cruise ship.

After a while, the familiar Maybach trundled to a stop.

Derek and Timmy got out of the car.

Derek was wearing a gray overcoat, his buttons were undone. He got out of the car and lit a cigarette, exuding his unique masculine charm as usual.

Then, he and Timmy got on the cruise ship.

After a while, Doug and Ken arrived. They were surrounded by several other people.

They got on the cruise ship after Derek.

The cruise ship looked lively and peaceful from afar.

However, I felt the atmosphere was inexplicably strange—as if some horrifying conspiracy was brewing in the dark.

I got off the taxi and strutted toward the ship.

I handed the ticket to the guard at the entrance. “Welcome,” he greeted me politely and pointed at a box of masks.

“Miss, please choose a mask of your choice.”

I glanced over and picked a purple mask from the lot.

Several purple sparkling ornaments were embellished on the mask, and a few feathers of the same color were attached on either side, making it look dreamy.

I quickly slipped on the mask, held my purse, and confidently walked to the main hall.

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Chapter 447 I'm Looking For My Husband

The music changed as the ball commenced. People swayed their bodies in rhythm to the music.

The place was dimly lit except for the colorful neon lights that flickered with music. I looked around and saw people chatting, sipping on the drinks in their glasses.

Perhaps because I was alone, several men looked at me. However, I tried ignoring them.

I scanned the room and soon spotted Derek.

He was sitting quietly on a sofa in the left corner of the hall. He wasn't wearing any mask. He was holding a glass of wine and staring at the dance floor intently as if he had something in mind.

Just then, Ken and Doug also came to my view. They were sitting on the right side of the hall, far away from Derek, which made me temporarily relieved.

Just as I was about to walk toward Derek, a man approached me.

“Miss, may I have a dance with you?”

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Chapter 448 My Husband Is The Most Handsome Man In The World

“What does your husband look like? Tell me. I’ll help you find him.”

Ken patted his chest, pretending to be generous.

I looked at Derek dancing in the middle of the dance floor. “My husband is a tall, handsome man.” “More handsome than me?” Ken curled his lips in disdain.

I examined Ken’s face. His face looked bony with protruding cheekbones. His dark complexion, sunken eyes, and flat nose made him look like a hooligan.

One could never call him handsome. I gritted my teeth to suppress my

anger and said,

“I think my husband is the most handsome man in the world.”

Ken snorted with disdain. “Handsome men are always unreliable and fickle. Otherwise, why would he leave you alone and have fun?” :

I lowered my head and reached for the glass on the table.

Ken patted my shoulder. “Beauty, don’t be sad. I’ll drink with you. You’ll forget all the problems when you get drunk.”

I nodded. “Okay, let’s get drunk. It will take my mind off the problems.”

When he heard that, Ken’s face lit up, and he immediately poured me a glass of wine.

He handed me a glass and rested his hand on my thigh.

I casually moved my legs away and flashed a seductive smile. “I want you to drink with me.” Ken’s eyes glinted with excitement as he looked at me as if I were a lamb waiting for slaughter.

“Oh, it’s my pleasure. I’ll drink with you.”

Then, he poured a drink for himself.

When he picked up the glass and clinked glasses with mine, I flashed a charming smile and pressed my glass to his lips.

“Let me feed you.”

Ken smiled at me and pursed his lips to get close to the glass.

“Okay, you feed me, and I’ll feed you.” He then pressed his glass to my lips.

I endured the disgust in my heart and drank the wine. I looked at him and watched the drink in my glass enter his mouth.

By the time we finished drinking the wine, Derek finished his dance and left the hall.

Feeling uneasy, I stood up and said, “I want to go to the bathroom.”

“Okay, let me help you.”

Ken grabbed my hand and led me out, winking at his buddies.

On the way to the washroom, I saw Derek walk out of the men’s room.

He didn’t even look at me.

I wanted to stop him and tell him that he was in danger and that he had to leave right away. But I couldn’t do that because Ken was with me.

The moment he walked past me, I felt as if something was missing in my heart.

“Do you want me to help you inside?”

Ken asked, leaning against the doorframe of the ladies’ room.

I shook my head. “It’s not appropriate for you to come into the ladies’ room.”

“You can do it alone?” he asked me.

I nodded and staggered in.

“Okay, I’ll wait for you outside.”

I heard Ken’s muffled voice when I closed the door. As soon as I entered the bathroom, I immediately straightened my back, not bothering to look drunk anymore.

I walked to the sink, took off my mask, opened the tap, took a handful of water, and splashed it on my face.

I knew it was going to be a long, tiring night. Derek was surrounded by danger.

I had never been an adventurous person. But I had to do something for Derek tonight.

I had always been a timid person, but Derek was in danger tonight. I decided to let go of my fears and protect him.

I put on the mask again and walked out of the ladies’ room, staggering outside, pretending to be drunk.

My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 449

Chapter 449

Chapter 449 Do You Want To Sleep With Me

Just as I had expected, Ken was still waiting for me outside. The minute he saw me, he held me.

“You look hammered. Let me find you somewhere you can rest for a while.”

Naturally, I knew what he was up to. I pretended to be drunk, leaning against his shoulder and nodding.

Moments later, he took me into a private room and locked the door.

The light in the private room was dim, and I could hear the faint music coming from the hall.

“Come on, let me help you lie down on the bed,” Ken suggested eagerly.

I wrapped my arms around his neck, and pressed him against the wall. In a drunken voice, I asked, “Why did you bring me here? Do you want to sleep with me?”

At first, Ken was stunned. But not a second later, he changed his mind and boldly wrapped his arms around my waist. He probably thought that I was too drunk to resist right now.

“I do. Your husband is barely around, so you’re probably so lonely. I’ll dispel your loneliness and make you happy. You wanna do it?”

While he was speaking, his mouth was inching closer to my face.

I immediately turned my face away, enduring my disgust towards him, and put on a smile.

“There’s no need to hurry. I need to take a shower first.”

Having said that, I let go of him and walked towards the bathroom in the private room.

“I’m coming with you.” Ken followed me, possibly with perverted thoughts in mind.

In order to stop him, I turned around, raised a finger and shook it at his face.

“Nuh-uh. Why don’t you go warm up the bed and wait for me instead?”

Ken was so eager to do it that his eyes lit up. I noticed his Adam’s apple bobbing up and down as he nodded repeatedly.

“Sure. I’ll warm up the bed. I’ll be waiting.”

I nodded in response before I went into the bathroom.

Once I was inside, I turned on the shower tap and let the water fall to the floor, pretending as though I was really taking a shower.

I rummaged through my purse for something that I could use. Inside, there was a fruit knife that I had prepared during the afternoon.

If needed, I could use this to defend myself. About half an hour later, I leaned against the door, listening carefully.

There seemed to be no sound coming from outside. A few minutes later, I opened the bathroom door with the fruit knife tight within my grasp.

Ken was lying motionless on the bed.

Cautiously, I walked to the bed.

I could hear him snoring. It seemed that Ken had already fallen asleep.

Upon realizing that, I put away the fruit knife, squatted down next to the bed, and pulled his coat aside with my trembling hands.

God knew just how nervous I was. Somehow, I felt like my heart was about to leap from my throat. And sure enough, there was a pistol on his waist. While I was taking the pistol from him, I checked if Ken was waking up.

Though I had spiked the glass of wine with a drug, I wasn't sure how effective the drug would be.

It would be bad if he suddenly woke up halfway. At long last, I got the pistol.

I breathed a sigh of relief, putting the pistol in my bag before walking out of the private room.

After asking some staff for directions, I finally found the kitchen and prepared a few glasses of wine.

Just then, several waiters and waitresses came to fetch the wine. Meanwhile, I secretly observed them and pulled a waitress among them aside. I handed her five hundred dollars and asked her to bring the spiked glasses of wine to Doug's table.

I had lived at the bottom of society, so I knew commoners well. If they could earn five hundred dollars just by serving some wine, they would do it in a heartbeat.

After taking the money from me, she brought out the wine with her.

Not long after, I went back to the hall.

At this moment, several people were sitting beside Derek and talking to him. It wouldn't be convenient for me to get close to him, so I had to sit somewhere with a better vantage point. Doug's buddies were eating and drinking happily, but Doug, himself, was more cautious. He wouldn't

even touch the wine on the table, and he had been staring at Derek's direction with hatred in his eyes.

After a while, the music suddenly stopped. The host announced that the chairman of Alma Department Store, the sponsor of this ball, was about to give a speech.

The chairman was a guy with a round head. He had a fat face and a thick gold chain around his neck, and he spoke as though he was a very wealthy man.

As a matter of fact, he didn't even look like a chairman of a company at all. He was dressed up like a gang leader, and he acted like one, too. After his speech, the audience burst into applause. The chairman stepped down from the stage, and clinked glasses with those who were ingratiating themselves with him.

The atmosphere seemed harmonious and gleeful, but I knew this wouldn't be a peaceful night. All this time, I had been feeling tense.

Within the blink of an eye, the chairman left. I didn't know where he was now.

Meanwhile, everyone continued eating, drinking, or dancing.

To me, this scene appeared like the calm before a storm.

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Chapter 450

Chapter 450 A Seedy Operation

After a while, I saw Timmy suddenly stand up and leave.

The guests continued to mill around the hall, holding conversations with each other in hopes to form an advantageous relationship.

Only Derek remained sitting, leisurely sipping his wine, as if his surroundings were none of his concern.

A moment later, the woman who had danced with him earlier approached and sat close beside him. She put her hand on his shoulder and slowly flitted her slender fingers down to his chest. Her intentions were clear. She wanted to seduce him. But Derek didn't even spare her a glance. He brusquely removed her hand from his body, his face twisted in disgust.

Humiliated, the woman had no choice but to stop her advances and flee.

Meanwhile, the men around Doug were collapsing one after another, all piss-drunk. Unlike them, Doug sat ignoring the ruckus around him, his hawk eyes fixed on his prey.

All of a sudden, the lights went out, and the entire hall was enveloped in darkness.

As expected, the place erupted into chaos as the people clamored and called for each other.

Within a few seconds, the lights went on again. My first instinct was to make sure Derek was okay, but he was gone.

Across the hall, Doug jumped to his feet and looked around as well.

I frantically searched the hall for Derek. It didn't take long for me to realize that he was no longer there.

I rushed toward the narrow passage nearest to where Derek had been before the room went dark. In contrast to the noise in the hall, the passage was quiet and empty.

I had no idea if he had come this way or not, but my intuition was telling me to keep walking.

In the next second, a hand shot out of nowhere and grabbed me, pushing me into a room.

“Just stay here and don’t go out no matter what happens.”

It was Derek.

I needed to let him know that someone was trying to hurt him.

I whirled around and tried to hold on to him, but he had already stepped back and closed the door on my face.

His abrupt actions caused a gust of wind to blow into the room, making me shiver.

I was undeterred, though. I quickly opened the door, only to find Derek gone again.

All I saw was Doug’s fading back as he pushed forward into the passage, his murderous intent apparent.

He was probably chasing after Derek.

I immediately discarded my high heels and ran after him barefoot.

Soon, the passage forked into two paths. I faltered. I had no idea which way Derek had taken.

Before I could hazard a guess, I heard a commotion coming from one of the paths. I followed the sound and found myself walking out onto the deck.

Several handcuffed men were being dragged out of the bottom cabin by what looked to be undercover police.

One of them was the chairman of the Alma Department Store.

There were about seven of them in total, and they were ordered to line up and squat.

It hadn't been long since the chairman had stood proudly in front of everyone as he spoke onstage. Now, his head was lowered in shame and dejection. Just then, other guests flocked over to the deck. They sported similar expressions of shock and curiosity, and proceeded to discuss among themselves in hushed voices.

As for me, I was utterly clueless. What crime had these men committed? As things stood, it was as if tonight's party was only a front for some seedy operation.

Nevertheless, it was none of my business. All I cared about was Derek.

I carried on with my search, but I still couldn't find him, nor Doug, or even Timmy.

Could Derek have already known about the danger that had been waiting for him?

There were so many undercover policemen on the ship. Would Doug dare act recklessly?

I remembered how he had gnashed his teeth when he had mentioned Derek in the coffee shop earlier, as well as the ferocious glares he had

been throwing Derek all night. The more I thought about it, the more he seemed like a desperado who was willing to risk everything.

A man like that was not afraid of anything or anyone.

The idea terrified me.

My shawl had long been gone, and I was now standing on the deck in a flimsy dress.

There was snow everywhere, but I didn't really feel the freezing cold. If anything, my palms were sweating. I was slowly spiraling into a panic. Perhaps Derek had returned to the hall, after all. I darted back into the hall without a second thought.

To my dismay, I was met by a current of people who were rushing outside. They had probably heard that something had happened, and were scrambling to see exactly what it was.

I was the only one going against the flow, and I struggled not to be swept away or worse, get crushed.

Even so, I made sure to scan the faces that were passing by me. I still hadn't seen Derek. A lump rose in my throat, and I knew that I was going to burst into tears at any second.

All of a sudden, strong fingers grasped my wrist. I was pulled behind a pillar and into a warm embrace.