

My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 461

Chapter 461

Chapter 461 A Strange Instruction

Gina gnawed at her bottom lip, keeping her gaze downcast for a long moment before she finally looked up.

“Sorry, I can’t give you her phone number. She specifically told me not to give out her contact details before I came to Sousen.””

I felt my heart sink into my stomach, my eyes staring blankly at Gina as questions raged inside my head.

Why? The single word echoed incessantly in my ears, but I found no answer.

When we parted at the airport, Louise and I waved goodbyes to each other with a smile, both of us wishing each other well. The chill of departure was warmed by promises to meet again in the future. I knew Louise. Her loyalty was unquestionable. No matter how tough the road got, she would never abandon her friends.

What did she have to go through for the past one year?

I didn’t want to burden Gina, so I did not press her further. With a small nod, I acquiesced to her answer.

“I understand. You can leave now. I will make arrangements for suitable work for you.”

Gina stood up, grabbing the strap of her backpack with one hand. “Thank you,” she said politely. Ever since I had met Gina, thoughts of Louise kept coming to me. I couldn’t understand why she didn’t want to be in contact with me, even going as far as telling Gina not to give me her phone number,

It was a weekend evening. I had invited Megan and Ady to Blue Sky.

The car came to a smooth halt. I got out of it and looked up at the almost glaring brightness of the neon signs.

Had it already been a year? This place kept a lot of memories. Louise and I had often come here in the past. The last time I was here, Felix and Derek got into a fight with each other.

That was also the last time Louise came.

Tonight, I came with a feeble hope that I could get word about Louise’s whereabouts from Felix. After parking the car, Ady walked over to me together with Megan.

“What’s with the sudden invitation to take us out?” Megan asked playfully, patting me on the shoulder. I grinned at her. “We all deserve to unwind after a hard day’s work. Letting loose isn’t bad from time to time.”

Blue Sky was livelier than usual tonight. One look at the interior, and you could tell the decor had been specially planned. There wasn’t any festival that I knew of these days, so I guessed that someone was throwing a special event.

The three of us walked through the crowd to find a booth.

A group was gathered on one side of the bar, with some of them singing birthday songs as the others laughed.

In the classic Megan way, her curiosity was piqued by the activity. She was never one to miss the fun. Not long after we had sat down, she stood up again.

I called a waiter over and ordered food and drinks. Right at this time, a cart stacked with glasses and bottles of wine was being pushed over slowly by another waiter.

“Please excuse me, dear guests,” he said, politely reminding everyone to steer clear as he pushed the cart carefully.

Megan suddenly turned around, her eyes gleaming with excitement. She opened her mouth, about to say something.

She had been careless in her haste. She found herself in front of the cart’s way, realizing in horror that it was too late to avoid it.

Bang! Bang! Cling-clang!

The tower of glasses toppled to the floor, broken shards flying in all directions.

There was an audible gasp before a strange, awkward silence filled the entire room.

Determined to save face, the waiter quickly pointed at Megan.

“Miss, look at what you’ve done. All the wine has spilled!”

The next moment, everyone’s eyes fell on Megan. Embarrassment coloring her cheeks, Megan lowered her head and looked helplessly at the broken glass scattered on the floor.

I walked over to the waiter and said, “Call your boss here.”

The waiter pointed behind me and said, “He is over there.”

I turned around and made my way over, the noisy crowd parting to let me pass.

To my surprise, it was not Felix. With a birthday hat on his head, Eric stood at the center of the crowd.

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Chapter 462 Compensation

Eric was equally stunned to see me. Just as he was about to say something, I said, “Boss, can I talk to you in private?”

A few minutes later, Eric and I sat in a private room.

“Why are you in charge of this bar? Where is Felix?” I asked.

Eric sneered, fiddling with the lighter in his hand. “He didn’t leave me much choice. He left me a message and didn’t even bother calling me.” “Where did he go?” However, just as I asked the question, I already had a guess in mind.

Eric shrugged. “He didn’t mention anything about it, but I guess he went to look for Louise. He sounded nonchalant, but I knew he couldn’t let go of her.”

I thought so too. It was very likely that Felix went to find Louise. But would she accept him ?

“It’s annoying. God damn it! Love is such a fussy feeling. It’s better to be single,” Eric said with a sneer.

“So you are still single ?” I asked casually.

“I don’t want to fall in love after seeing my buddies getting caught up in relationships and suffering,” he replied.

I didn’t know that was what he truly felt or if he was pretending to be aloof.

Eric was a good-looking man with a solid career and income. He must be popular among women. Perhaps he hadn’t found his right match yet.

“Eveline, forget what happened tonight. Since that girl is your friend, I won’t hold her accountable,” Eric said earnestly.

“No need. You can hold her accountable if you want.” I smiled.

By the time I came out of the private room, the messy floor was cleaned.

When I returned to the booth, Megan sat beside me.

“What’s going on ? What did the boss say ? How much does he want me to compensate ? I can’t afford too much money.”

I rubbed my temples, pretending to be distressed. “Why were you so imprudent ? What happened ? Why were you so excited earlier ?”

Megan lowered her head like a child who had done something wrong.

“I... I wanted to tell you that the birthday man... well, the owner of this bar is quite handsome.” Before I could say anything, she apologized as if afraid I might reprimand her.

“I’m sorry. I won’t be interested in handsome men anymore. I promise.”

I controlled my laughter and asked, “So, the owner of the bar is your type, huh?”

Embarrassed, Megan nudged my arm and nodded. “Yes, I like men like him. But it’s not the right time to talk about that. How can I solve the problem? Did he quote a price?”

I cleared my throat and said, “I’m afraid you can’t afford the compensation today. The wine was expensive.”

Megan looked heartbroken.

“What do I do then? Can you give me a year’s salary in advance?”

I looked at her sympathetically. “I’m afraid a year’s salary is not enough. It looks like you have to give yourself to him as compensation, and you have to pray that he is single.”

Megan thought I was joking, so she looked at me sheepishly, her face burning with embarrassment.

“Even if I want to be with him, I don’t think he’d be interested in me.”

I shrugged. “I can’t help you with this. You have to talk to him in person.”

Then, I called a waiter. “Call your boss here.” After a while, Eric came and sat on the sofa opposite us.

Megan's cheeks turned red when she saw him. Perhaps she remembered that I suggested giving herself to him.

I quickly sent a message to Eric across the table.

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Chapter 463 Birthday Gift

Eric took out his phone. He choked on his drink as he read my message.

“The beauty can't afford to pay for the wine, so she is going to give herself to you as compensation. Do you dare to take her?”

It took Eric a long time to recover. He shifted on his seat and sat upright. He looked at Megan and then at me, the embarrassment evident in his eyes.

I stood up and said that I had something else to do and had to leave with Ady.

Before leaving, I patted Megan's shoulder and flashed a knowing smile at her.

“Have fun. He is a reasonable man.”

After leaving the bar, I sent another message to Eric.

“Well, her name is Megan Brown. She is my old classmate. Keep your hands off her for the time being?”

As soon as I sent the message, I received a call from Derek.

He asked me where I was. I said I was at Blue Sky and was about to go home. Derek asked me to wait for him.

In less than a minute, I saw Derek's car from afar. It trundled to a halt in front of the bar.

He got out of the car and walked toward me. "Don't leave yet."

"Why?" IL asked quizzically.

He put his arm around my shoulder and smiled. "Today is my buddy's birthday. Let's go inside and get a drink."

I grabbed Derek's hand, stopping him. He turned around and looked at me in confusion.

I narrowed my eyes and smiled at him. "That's not necessary. I've already given him a big gift." After that, I told Ady to go home and pulled Derek back to his car.

Derek looked at me suspiciously without starting the car.

"What big gift? Can't I have a look at it?"

I chuckled. "No, you can't. It's a secret."

Derek was a little stunned, but soon, a slow smile stretched across his lips. His bright eyes dazzled in the neon lights.

"Did you find a girlfriend for him?"

My jaw dropped in shock. “How did you know?” Derek raised his eyebrows proudly.

“I guessed. After all, he has everything now except for a woman who completes his life.”

His words made sense.

I looked at the charming man in front of me in awe. I was proud to have such a smart, handsome man as my husband.

Seeing the goofiness on my face, Derek grinned. Just as he leaned over to fasten the seatbelt for me, his warm breath tickled my forehead.

He suddenly turned his head and planted a soft kiss on the tip of my nose. A blush flamed my cheeks as my heart took a sprint in my chest. “Honey, you are still cute and innocent.”

Derek’s magnetic voice brought a smile to my face as he started the car.

I looked out of the window, feeling contented. Maybe this was love. No matter how long I had been with him, I was still attracted to him. His one word or a small gesture would set my heart racing. The unexpected intimacy always gave me a thrill. The sign of Blue Sky turned into a hazy ball of light as we drove away. I thought about what happened at Blue Sky. My heart broke as I felt bad for Felix and Louise.

“Did Felix really go to look for Lulu?” I asked, looking out of the window.

“I think so,” said Derek.

I turned to look at him.

“I’m worried about Lulu. I guess she must be having a hard time. I want to help her, but she refuses to contact me. What do you think is the reason?”

Derek glanced at me. I understood he sensed my sadness.

He held the steering wheel with one hand and touched my head with the other to comfort me. “Don’t worry. Maybe her situation is not as bad as you think. She is a strong woman and won’t admit defeat easily. The problems would only make her stronger.” 1

But I was not as optimistic as him.

“Lulu has never suffered this much before. Moreover, she has a child now.”

“A child?” Derek looked at me in surprise.

It looked like he didn’t know that Louise had given birth to Layne’s child.

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Chapter 464 Can You Play Billiards

“Yes. Lulu’s child is probably a month or two older than ours. It’s difficult for a woman to raise a child all by herself in a strange place.”

Derek suddenly pulled the car over.

I turned my head in surprise and met his intense gaze.

He held my hand and looked into my eyes. “You’re right. It’s difficult for a woman to raise a child all by herself at a strange place, not to mention you had two children. Thank you, honey. And I’m sorry you had to do everything on your own in Chinston.” 2

When I spoke about Louise, I almost forgot that I had experienced the same.

I tucked a strand of hair behind my ear and shook my head gently.

“It was not a big deal for me. I had suffered a lot ever since I was a child, so pain wasn’t new to me. But Lulu is different. She...”

“She is an adult now,” Derek interrupted me. “Every step she takes in life is her choice. If she can’t change something, she has to accept it and adapt to the situation. Everyone has to live life on their terms. No one can help them.” 2

Derek was right. Life was all about reacting to the situation life threw at us.

“Honey, you can’t help everyone and change their lives. Don’t stress yourself. Let’s not go home right now. I think you should relax first.” 1

We arrived at a luxury club. As soon as we entered the club, he took me straight to the third floor. My eyes widened when I saw the enormous billiards hall.

As soon as we arrived, someone greeted him with a smile. It looked like Derek was a frequent visitor here.

“VIP room,” Derek said to the man.

Soon, he led us to a VIP room.

The room was bigger than I expected. It not only had a billiard table but a sofa and a TV as well. It was a perfect place to unwind after a long day. “Do you know how to play billiards?” he asked me.

I shook my head. Then, I reached up and picked up a cue stick.

“Although I don’t know how to play, I can learn.” Derek took off his coat and put it on the sofa. He walked to me and reached out to take off my clothes.

I subconsciously stepped back. “Aren’t you playing billiards?”

He crossed his arms over his chest, tilted his head to look at me, and smiled. “The air conditioner is on inside. Don’t you want to take your coat off? It’s hot. Besides, it’s not convenient to play billiards in a coat.”

It turned out that I had overthought his gesture, so I took off my coat awkwardly and put it on the sofa.

I was wearing a white knitted shirt with a low collar. It was a tight top that revealed every curve in my body.

Derek walked over and stared at me intently. “Can we start now?” I asked.

“Sure.” There was a sly smile on his face.

Then, he stood behind me and taught me how to play billiards.

His chest was pressed against my back as he held my hand and explained the different angles of aiming. His hot breath blew on my skin as he spoke.

“Aim at the target, straighten the cue stick and push it into the hole. That’s it.”

I couldn't help but wonder if I was overthinking. Why did I feel he was deliberately explaining everything in such an ambiguous way?

"I'll try it myself," I said awkwardly.

"Okay."

He stepped aside and watched me play.

After several attempts, I finally knocked the ball into the hole. My eyes widened in shock, and I jumped up in joy. Derek smiled, giving me a thumbs up.

When I played again, he came over to correct my position.

His chest was pressed against my body again, and his palms covered the back of my hands. Our cheeks were inches away from each other.

My stomach flipped, and I couldn't focus when we were standing at such an intimate posture. 1

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Chapter 465 You Have A Better Figure

When I was distracted, Derek put his other hand around my waist and kissed my earlobe.

It was the most sensitive spot in my body; I shivered and almost fell.

He slowly straightened my body and kissed me passionately.

I wrapped my arms around his neck and instinctively responded to his kiss. As the kiss deepened, I remembered the door of the private room was made of transparent glass, and people were passing by every now and then. I quickly jerked up and pushed him away.

I tried my best to stay away from him and resist his charm.

Just as I turned around, I saw a woman in a sexy outfit walking past the glass door.

My desire instantly subsided. I opened the door and went out. But the corridor was vacant, and I didn't see her again.

"What's wrong?" Derek asked calmly as he followed my gaze to see what I was looking at.

I shook my head. "Nothing. I just thought I saw an acquaintance. But it looks like I was wrong." Derek returned to the private room and took out our coats. "Let's go home," he said, holding me in his arms.

By the time we arrived home, the two kids had fallen asleep.

We sat on the sofa and watched the two sleeping peacefully.

Derek looked at our little ones with a cheerful smile on his face, his eyes twinkling with joy. My heart swelled up with happiness.

We had temporarily forgotten the desire that had sparked up in the club.

"What kind of a woman have you introduced to Eric? Tell me," Derek asked.

I couldn't help but laugh as I remembered what happened at the Blue Sky tonight.

I sat on the sofa and hugged my legs as I narrated the incident to him. Derek listened to it and burst out laughing.

I leaned back and sighed with emotion.

“Well, love mostly blooms from embarrassing situations—just like us.”

My mind flitted to the time we first met.

“You had left that night. Why did you come back?” I asked.

Derek moved a little closer to me and held me in his arms. “You were crying loudly. And I have a conscience. I couldn't leave a helpless woman halfway up the mountain.”

Although reminiscing hurt, I was fortunate to have a husband like Derek.

“I don't cry aloud like that anymore. Although I do feel sad and desperate at times, I never cry aloud.”

“I want you to cry and laugh whenever you want. It's good to vent out your emotions than suppress them. But I hope you don't have the necessity to cry.

Although you are the CEO of the Jolly & Mayer Company, at the end of the day, you're a woman with emotions. Being a successful woman isn't easy—you have to endure a lot of pressure. I just want you to be happy.”

I leaned against his chest and looked at him. His words made me happy.

Later, he went to take a bath, and I removed my makeup. After he stepped out of the bathroom, I went inside to shower.

After that, I wiped my hair and walked to the bed. Derek turned around and raked his gaze across my body from head to toe, his eyes blazing with desire. He touched my thigh and trailed his fingers across my waist.

“Wow! You don’t look like you are the mother of two children.”

Derek’s Adam’s apple bobbed as he spoke.

“Your skin is smoother, and your muscles are firmer now.”

“Well, I was afraid I might lose shape after giving birth to two children, so! paid special attention to postpartum care. Now I do spas once a week in my store and practice yoga every day. They worked.” “Yeah, they do. God, look at how sexy you are. The mere sight of you turns me on.”

He put his hands around my waist and pulled me close to him. Losing my balance, I fell on him.

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Chapter 466 Tattoo

The towel in my hand dropped. I quickly grabbed his shoulder for balance.

My hair was still dripping with water. It swept across his face, leaving wet trails on his skin. Drops of water fell on our pajamas. The wet part clung to my skin, accentuating the shape of my curvy breasts.

This time, I took the initiative to kiss him.

He tightened his arms around me as his breathing grew heavy.

He planted a soft kiss on the scar on my body and examined it carefully. I could see the excitement in his eyes.

“Honey, I’m sorry!”

He kissed the scar again.

I thought the scar the bullet had caused looked obnoxious.

However, I soon forgot about it as we explored each other’s bodies. Just then, one of our babies began to cry.

I didn’t know if our loud moans of pleasure had woken up the baby. One cried, and the other followed.

Derek frowned. It looked like he didn’t want to stop.

I tried to push him away. “The babies are crying. I think they are hungry. Go and check on them.”

Derek groaned and leaned closer to me. “If I stop now, I’ll die,” he hissed through his teeth.

Although he said so, he stopped and got out of bed. He grabbed a bath towel and wrapped it around his lower body. Then, he picked up the two children and walked outside.

A couple of minutes later, he came back alone. I understood that he had taken the babies to the nannies.

He quickly shut the door, strode toward me, took off his bath towel, and continued from where we stopped.

“They’re your children,” I reminded him.

“They ruined their father’s moment. I should have spanked them.”

“You are being unreasonable.”

He lowered his head and kissed me. I stopped complaining and kissed him back. Our tongues rhythmically danced, sending my hormones on overdrive. Our ragged breathing and soft moans were the only sounds in the room.

He stroked my cheek with his thumb as he pressed himself against me.

I heard him sigh with contentment.

“Honey, I’m so addicted to you. You mean the world to me.”

I put my arms around his waist and pulled him impossibly closer. I was tired, so I snuggled up in his arms.

He, too, meant the world to me. And at that moment, I felt complete.

Then, he dried my hair and hugged me from behind as I drifted off to a peaceful sleep.

The next morning, I went to my company’s main store and found our most professional tattoo artist.

I took off my coat, and showed the scar on my chest to her.

She understood what I meant and showed me a pamphlet to choose the designs.

She also gave me some advice based on the shape of my scar. After a lot of thinking, I finally picked a goldfish pattern.

When the tattoo was almost done, I received a call from Megan. I told her that I was at the main store, and she agreed to meet me right away.

After a while, Megan arrived.

“Let me have a look at the tattoo. Where is it?” she asked.

I unbuttoned my shirt and showed it.

“Wow!” She clamped her mouth with her palm and looked at it with wide eyes. “What a beautiful goldfish! It’s so lifelike.”

I looked at the mirror and saw my tattoo. The scar was modified into a fish’s eye, and as Megan said, it looked vibrant and lifelike. The tattoo fully concealed my scar.

“Why did you get a tattoo all of a sudden?” asked Megan.

“To cover the scar.”

“Where is the scar?”

As I pointed at the scar, Megan leaned closer and squinted at it. “Why do you have a scar there? Did your husband bite you?” She chuckled.

I looked at her and smiled. I certainly wouldn’t explain the origin of the scar to her.

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Chapter 467 Pay In Installments

Megan touched my arm and said, “But then again, your scar is in such a private place that only your husband will ever get to see it. Why did you even waste your time getting a tattoo?”

I raised my chin, staring at myself in the mirror. “I did it for him.”

A smile formed on her lips when she heard me say that. “You know, you and your husband are so in love.” She sounded kind of jealous. “Have you solved the problem last night?” I asked.

As soon as I mentioned this, her mood became gloomy. She scoffed and said with disdain, “You said the owner of the bar is a reasonable man, but he clearly isn’t! That dude is straight up rigid, okay?”

In truth, I was delighted to hear her say that.

“Tell me about it,” I replied.

Megan sat on the sofa, visibly disheartened.

“The owner of the bar is handsome, but he’s too prim and proper. He even asked his accountant to bring a calculator to settle the bill, and he insisted on asking me to compensate him for the wine.”

I laughed when I thought of how that interaction went. “Didn’t you tell him that you could give yourself to him as compensation?”

Megan rolled her eyes at me. “Eveline, I think you’ve watched too many soap operas. If I were to tell him that, he’d probably think that I’m not worth the price! I can’t lose face in front of him!”

I sat close to her and asked, “So, what happened? How did you settle the bill? You probably discussed how you’d pay for it, right?”

Megan nodded, seemingly forlorn.

“Yes, we did discuss how I could pay for it. I’ll have to pay in installments,” she said.

“Tell me more.” It was hard to resist the urge to giggle. Megan rubbed her temples and said, “He offered me two different methods of payment. One is to pay him fifty dollars a day for ten years; the other is to pay him ten dollars a day for the next fifty years. I’ve never been good at math, so it all sounded complex to me. As a businessman, he’s clearly very cunning. How am I supposed to compete with that? He’s probably just setting up a trap for me!”

“Well, which one did you choose?” I asked with a smile.

“Of course, I chose to pay ten dollars a day. It’s the one that puts less financial strain on me,” said Megan.

“Hmm... How interesting!”

She turned her head and asked, “What makes you say that?”

I giggled again. “Oh, nothing. I just think you made the right choice.”

Megan sighed and retorted, “Alas, in fifty years, I’ll be in my seventies. I feel like I’d be paying for that debt my whole life.”

I held her hand, attempting to comfort her. “It’s fine, Megan. What’s ten dollars a day? It’s no more than two drinks.”

Megan replied bitterly, “Yeah. You’re probably right.” Having said that, she sighed again. “By the way, I don’t want to get involved in this kind of thing again. This is even more expensive than going to a concert!” This time, I just chuckled and didn’t say anything.

“Well, he’s still a man, after all. Last night, the negotiation lasted for so long. He even treated me to a midnight snack,” she continued.

“Oh, so he spent more than ten dollars on your midnight snack yesterday?” I asked.

“Of course!”

After chatting for a while, we left the main store and went back to the office building together.

Along the way, I sent Eric a message.

“Eric, you devious imp! Well played!”

After a while, Eric texted me back.

“Haha! Well, I don’t want to stay single forever.”

“So, what do you think? Do you like her?” I asked.

“She’s cute, and I want to know more about her,” replied Eric.

Later that day, after having dinner with Ady, I asked her to drive me to the club that Derek brought me to yesterday.

I asked her to wait for me in the car and I went upstairs alone.

The billiards hall was packed. As soon as I entered the room, I attracted a lot of men's attention. Someone even whistled at me.

I ignored all these goons, looking around with a face devoid of emotion.

There was a girl at every table. They all wore the same short skirt that revealed their slim waists. I remembered that the person who passed by yesterday was also wearing this uniform.

From what I had heard, I found out that these girls were called pool babes, and they played billiards with the customers.

I kept on looking around, but I couldn't find the one I was looking for. Someone soon came to accost me. Fearing that I'd get in trouble if I stayed any longer, I decided to leave.

When I walked out of the club and was about to get in my car, I suddenly saw several men dragging a woman wearing a pool babe's uniform behind a nearby car.

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Chapter 468 Let Her Go

"Let me go! Where are you planning to take me? No! I won't go with you!" 1

The woman was dragged to a car by several men, and she was desperately trying to get away from them. Passersby pretended not to see

what was happening. Perhaps they had seen a similar scene happen at this club multiple times.

“Hurry up, will you? Every minute is precious. Do you want to have sex or not?” someone said from inside the car. He sounded impatient.

“Sir, I’m not that kind of girl. Please, just let me go!” The men ignored her pleas and just kept pushing her into the car. She kept on struggling, whimpering, and begging to be set free.

One of the men had lost his temper and slapped the woman across the face.

“Stop pretending like a virgin! All the women working for a place like this are prostitutes! If you manage to satisfy me, I’ll pay you a good amount of money.” The woman covered her face and cried, “Please, sir... let me go. My child is waiting for me at home!” Another man chuckled, pinching her face. the car. He sounded impatient.

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“You’re still a student, aren’t you? Who’d believe that you have a child already?”

“Hurry the fuck up! You’re spending too much time dealing with a single woman!” the man in the car groaned.

The woman was holding onto the door frame as though her life depended on it, and she propped her feet against the car, refusing to get in.

“I’m giving you ten seconds to let her go!” I said, standing nearby with my arms crossed.

The men stopped. Even the woman had stopped crying when she heard me.

They all turned around and soon locked their gazes at me.

“Whoa! What a beauty!”

“Hey there, sexy! You’ve got some nice curves.”

The men’s eyes lit up as they stared at me with their obscene gazes.

When the woman saw me, tears ran down her cheeks. “Eveline!” she shouted.

The woman was Tina. Last night, when I saw her pass by, I thought that it was her. And it turned out that she really was Tina.

As I looked at her, I comforted her silently with my eyes. Then, I raised my wrist and showed my wristwatch to them. “Time’s up, boys. Why don’t you let her go now?”

The man in the car poked his head out. Upon seeing me, his eyes brimmed with admiration.

He tapped on the edge of the window with his fingers, smiling obscenely.

“Miss Beautiful, I suggest you mind your own business. Or are you trying to get my attention because you want to play with me, too?”

One of the men tried to egg him on. “Cut the crap! Let’s just take her with us as well,” he said.

I didn’t panic at all. I just stared straight at them, believing that they could see just how disgusted I was of them.

And it was perhaps this same contempt that made them want to capture me even more.

“Take her with us.”

The man inside the car winked at the other goons, and soon, they let go of Tina. Not long after, they walked towards me with fearsome expressions.

I flashed them a smirk, unfazed. To me, these people were just a bunch of clowns.

Before any of them could get close, the man walking in the lead was kicked to the ground.

Ady stood in front of me, casting a stern gaze at the perverted men before us.

The man who got knocked down was a sore loser. “Bitch! Beat that motherfucker and rape her!” he cursed.

In the blink of an eye, Ady was locked in a battle against those men.

I helped Tina escape and we waited in my car while Ady was fighting.

The man inside the car realized that the situation was becoming unfavorable for them, so he got out of the car to help. Even though Ady was fighting against several men, I wasn't scared for her at all.

Those hooligans were no match for her.

Within minutes, she had incapacitated them all one by one.

Ady returned to the driver's seat, started the car, and immediately drove us out of this place.

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Chapter 469 Difficulties

Tina and I sat in the back seat as she continued to sob relentlessly.

“Eveline, I'm sorry for bothering you,” she said, hitching with sobs.

I shook my head and smoothed her messy hair. “Don't say that. Tina, I went to the place where you lived before to look for you as soon as I returned to Sousen. But the people next door told me that you had moved away. Then, I went to the kindergarten you had worked for before, but they said you hadn't worked there for a long time. Where do you live now?” Tina lowered her head and hesitated for a long time. Biting her lip, she looked at me.

“L.. I live in... Naosi.”

I knew Naosi was in the suburbs of Sousen. It was one of the most chaotic places in Sousen.

I asked Ady to drive us there.

“Where is Lily?” I asked on the way.

Tina pinched the corner of her clothes and took a deep breath. “The woman next door has agreed to take care of Lily for me. Her husband works at a construction site, and she is a housewife. I asked her to help me look after Lily for ten dollars per evening. By the time I go back home, Lily would be sleeping, and I’d take her back home.”

I couldn’t imagine the kind of life she was living with her child.

Holding the bag in her hand, Tina looked at me cautiously.

“Eveline, can I change my clothes in the car?”

I nodded. “Go ahead.”

She took off her uniform, took out a T-shirt and jeans from her bag, and put them on. Then, she took out a small mirror and removed her makeup with the makeup remover.”

Soon, the car stopped at Naosi, and we got out.

The roads were bumpy, and all kinds of garbage were scattered everywhere.

There was a garbage dump afar, and the rotten stench of trash wafted in the air.

It was one of the most under-developed areas, and almost all the houses here were built years ago.

The landlords had moved out to urban areas and rented their houses to poor people.

Therefore, the area housed a diverse populace.

Tina led us forward. There were no street lamps in this part of the street. The soft glow of the moon was the only source of light.

As we turned into an alley, Tina slowed down and grabbed my hand.

“Eveline, walking across this path isn’t easy. Be careful.”

It was indeed risky to traverse this path. There were many discarded bottles and trash on the path. We walked carefully to ensure we didn’t get hurt.

There were bungalows on either side of the alleys. Some people were smoking in front of their houses. A man, wearing only his underwear, was taking a shower near the tap outside.

Tina quickly strutted forward with her head down, and I guessed she faced such embarrassing scenarios on a regular basis.

Our arrival garnered people’s curious gazes and whispers.

After a while, I heard soft cries of a child.

Tina seemed to have heard it too, so she walked faster toward a house and knocked on the door. Moments later, the door opened, and the child’s cries grew louder.

“Tina, you came back early today.” A woman’s voice came from inside.

“Yeah. I didn’t have much work to do today, so I came back early,” Tina replied politely.

The woman handed Lily to Tina and smiled. “Lily wanted to see you. She is like this every day. It’s very difficult to coax her to sleep.”

Tina took Lily in her arms and kissed the child’s face. “Good girl, Mommy is back. Don’t cry.”

She suddenly remembered something and quickly took out ten dollars from her pocket and handed it to the woman.

“Thank you so much.”

“You’re welcome. We are neighbors. It’s not easy for a young girl like you to raise a child all by yourself. I’ll do anything I can to help you out,” the woman said politely but didn’t forget to take the money.

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As Tina carried Lily in her arms, she led us to the house she was renting, which was less than ten meters away from the woman’s house.

It was a small room with lime walls. There were spider webs in the corner, and the floor was moist. It was as if it had just been mopped.

The room's decor was simple. Aside from a bed and a table, there was a simple cooking bench made of wood. There was a gas stove and some pots on it. It seemed that Tina and Lily slept and cooked in this one room.

Tina placed Lily on the bed, tidying up the bed sheet for us to sit on. She then put a stool in front of us, poured two glasses of water, and placed them on the stool.

“Eveline, have some water.”

She rubbed her hands on her trousers, as though she wasn't sure where to put her hands.

Perhaps having grown tired of crying, Lily fell asleep not long after she was put on the bed. There were still tears on her face, and there were red circles around her eyes. Even when she was asleep, she would still sob from time to time. She must've been crying for a long time.

Tina tucked her in a thin blanket and took out a tissue to wipe away the baby's tears.

“I used to come home late every day. And by then, she would've already fallen asleep. I had no idea that she cried herself to sleep every day.”

Tears welled up in Tina's eyes. Clearly, her heart was aching.

I was also a mother, so I could understand how she felt.

Tina sat on the edge of the bed, gently patting Lily. “Before I moved in here, Charlene often came to see me in my former apartment, and Lean even came to see our child twice. He gave me some money, but he was still as cold as ever. I know he doesn't love me, and I'm well aware that

he just gave me the money because he feels sorry for the child. After all, Lily is still his daughter.”

There was no doubt that Lean truly cared about the child. Otherwise, he wouldn't have risked his life to save her from falling down the footbridge that day.

“Lean's mother came once just to warn me not to seduce her son or try to use my child to win his heart, saying that if I do either of that, she'll make sure that I'll never see my child again.”

I could imagine just how arrogant and rude Belinda looked when she said those words.

Tina narrated her story, while I listened intently.

“I was so scared that she'd take Lily away from me and prevent me from ever seeing her again, so I decided to move, change my job, and disappear from their lives completely. This house costs around eighty dollars a month, so I can afford it.

I found a new job at a kindergarten near here. I can take Lily to work during the day, but my job there doesn't pay well. Honestly, I can barely make ends meet every month.

I knew that I'm going to need money in the future if I want to send her to school in the future. Later on, I accidentally saw a recruitment of the billiards club. The job's shift was at night, and it wouldn't be in conflict with my job in the daytime. I could earn a hundred dollars every evening. Even if I paid ten dollars for Lily's babysitter, I would still have ninety dollars left. I figured if I kept working at the billiards club, I'd slowly be able to save up some money.” Having told her story, Tina broke into tears. Even while she was crying, she still showed Lily motherly love and kept patting the child. It was as if she was taking care of her whole world.

In a world like this, a mother must be strong. I knew that Tina still had a lot of grievances left to say, such

as tonight's situation. If I hadn't run into her by accident, God knew what could've happened to her. All of a sudden, we heard someone knocking on the door heavily.

"Open the door! Open up!" said a drunken man from outside.

Tina sprang to her feet in horror, pushing the only table in the room against the door without saying anything.

Her face had turned pale when she turned around and said to us, "It's okay. There's no need to be nervous. He must've gone to the wrong door. I'm sure he'll leave after he gets tired of knocking."

Truthfully, Ady and I weren't nervous. Tina was the only one who was nervous.

And I didn't believe that the drunkard outside went to the wrong door. Tina was so quick to react just now. It seemed that the way she pushed the table was a conditioned response. This was definitely not the first time she had been harassed in the middle of the night.