

The Returning Ex

The Returning Ex Chapter 1

It was Valentine's Day—a day for love—but ironically, Sophia and John were about to get divorced. Couples crowded before the marriage registration counter, a stark contrast to the one for divorce. Sophia peered at the counter for a while and smiled bitterly. Well, at least we don't have to queue up. It's a good day to get divorced, in a way. John took a while to arrive, and Sophia saw him right when he entered. Sophia felt smug, for even though she wasn't the one who proposed the divorce, at least she didn't cling onto him. Instead, she was even happy to cooperate at this point. No matter how she looked at it, at least her dignity

was still

intact.

**John came over to her and
frowned.**

**“How
long have you been here?”**

**“Quite a while now. I didn’t
expect you to be
late.**

” Sophia smiled.

John grunted.

**“An emergency
meeting came
up, so I got delayed.**

”

**“Let’s go, then. There’s no line
here.**

**” Sophia
nodded.**

**They had signed the divorce
agreement, and
John was generous enough to
provide her
with enough alimony as well as
some shares
of the company. He had also
given her some
of his properties too. Since they
were
childless, there were no
arguments in this**

area, so the process went without a hitch.

When their marriage certificate was taken

away and replaced by a divorce certificate,

Sophia stared at it for a while and fell into a

trance. This is it, huh? As fast as the day we

were here for our marriage certificate.

Marriage and divorces were easy, but love wasn't.

Sophia knew John had never loved her, so

when he proposed the divorce, it only took

her a moment to agree. No point trying to

grab onto someone who doesn't love you. She

wasn't that type of woman.

John stared at the divorce certificate for a

long while, then he stood up and looked at

her.

"It's lunchtime, so let's grab a bite.

”

Sophia paused and gave him a smile.

“Sure.

Let’s have our breakup meal.

”

John peered at her before leaving, while Sophia heaved a sigh before following him out.

They went to a five-star restaurant, and

Sophia had to admit that this breakup meal

was lavish. Sophia was unsettled about the divorce, but she didn’t want to show it

explicitly. There was, of course, another way

to do that, so after taking the menu, she

stared at the prices, then said,

“It’s your treat, right?”

His head lowered, John took out a box of cigarettes and pulled a cigarette out.

“I gave you a ton of cash, and you can’t

even treat
me to one meal?"

Sophia snorted.

"Of course, I
can't. I have no
job, no skills, and no income
stream, so I have
to save whenever I can.

"

John held his cigarette in his
mouth.

"The
dividend I pay you every month
should be
enough for your expenses.

"

"Just tell me whether it's your
treat.

" Sophia
looked up at him.

"It is.

" He grinned.

"Mind if I do
it?" He
arched his eyebrow.
He was referring to him
smoking, and Sophia
looked at his cigarette. He
never smoked in
front of me. Wow, does he
change quickly,

and it hadn't been two seconds since we got divorced. She retracted her gaze and looked at the menu.

"No, I don't.

" Then,

Sophia

turned to the waitress.

"Give

me all of the

most expensive stuff here.

"

The waiter was shocked.

"Are

you sure?

There's a lot of them.

"

John was lighting up his cigarette, and he didn't even glance at what Sophia ordered.

"Yes, so get going.

"

The waiter smiled awkwardly.

"Of course. Do

please give us some time to prepare.

"

John smoked deep, then he puffed it out. He

**gazed at Sophia for a quiet
while before
asking,
“You haven’t asked me
why I wanted
this divorce.
”**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 2
The question took her by
surprise, but she
smiled.**

**“I don’t really want to
ask. You must
have been dying to get this
divorce, and I
could feel it.**

**” Sophia was
already prepared
for this ever since they were
married.**

**She knew their married days
were numbered,
but it came a bit quicker than
she’d imagined.**

**It hadn’t even been two months
since Old Mr.**

**Constance’s passing, and John
was already
getting the divorce.**

**John was surprised by her
answer, but only**

for a moment, then he snorted. The lack of explanation made Sophia think she hit the bullseye. John puffed a few more times and put out the remainder of his cigarette in the ashtray. Instead of continuing the topic, he asked,

“What’s your plan now?”

Sophia pondered.

“Plans?”

Nothing for now. I

just want to go around for some sightseeing.

”

She was worried about what would happen after the divorce, for everyone would laugh at her, especially when the reason she was married to him in the first place was rooted in superstition.

She was married off to the Constance Family as a ward. Old Mr. Constance was declining,

so he forced John to marry her
in a
desperate attempt to bring luck
and overturn
his condition. Sophia
remembered that John
was unwilling to do this, but
because he was
fettered by his morality and
familial ties, it
was impossible for him to reject
this
outright.

John resigned to his position
and married her
reluctantly. A human ward was
superstition,
of course, and in the end, all it
did was
delight Old Mr. Constance, but
it didn't help
with his condition. He suffered
a lot longer
than he had to, and in the end,
he passed
anyway. It hadn't been a year
since then, so
Sophia could imagine the
mockery she had to
endure. Going into hiding is a
good idea. She

looked down at her glass of water.

“I’ll come back in a couple of months to pay my respects.”

John thought about it.

“Call Zack if you need anything. He can help you.”

Zack was John’s assistant who had been working for John for a long time now. He was responsible for all of John’s work-related matters and the occasional personal matter. Sophia didn’t refuse his offer.

“Okay, then. I won’t be holding back.”

When the cuisines were served, Sophia dug in without a care. She didn’t say anything, for she didn’t know what to say. They didn’t

communicate much in
their short-lived marriage, aside
from the
occasional after-dark fun on the
bed. Now
that they were divorced, the
gap between
them became a chasm, and
they had even
fewer shared topics.

John didn't seem to have much
appetite, so
he stopped after a few bites,
but Sophia
ignored him and kept on eating.
The impulsive
order earlier came to bite her in
the back,
for it was too much for her.
Sophia couldn't take another
bite after only
having half of the food. She
leaned back on
the chair and rang for the
waiter. When he
came, she pointed at the food.
"Pack all of
these for me.
"

All those who had their meals in
this hotel

were famous figures, so it was rare for someone to pack their food up.

The waiter was surprised about this request, but John said,

“Pack it up.

”

“Of course. Please give me a minute.

” The waiter felt awkward.

When the waiter went to take the packing box, John stared at Sophia, much to her discomfort.

“What? Did I embarrass you?”

John snorted and didn't answer that.

Instead, he asked,

“I never asked you this, but why did you marry me in the first place?”

Sophia blinked.

“Because you're rich.

” Before

he could say anything, she added,
“But then I thought there are a lot of people who are richer than you.”

John arched an eyebrow.

“Is that why you agreed to the divorce so readily?”

To that, Sophia only replied with a smile. The waiter then came back and packed up their food. After that, she took the boxes and left with John. John had to go somewhere else, so he hailed a ride for Sophia. After entering the taxi, through the car window, she asked,
“What about you?”
“What about me?” John frowned.
“Why did you marry me in the first place?”
she asked.

He looked at her calmly.

“Because you’

re

pretty.

” However, before she

could laugh, he

added,

“But then I realized

there are a lot of

women prettier than you.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 3

John glanced at her for a

moment, then he

left, leaving her alone with a

frozen smile on

her face. He’s petty alright.

Can’t even take a

little hit.

Sophia went back to her place

that John

gave her, which she had been

staying for the

past few days. The design was

exquisite, but

it wasn’t lively. After coming

back, Sophia

kept all the food in the fridge,

then she went

back to her room.

As she lay on her bed, Sophia

took out the
divorce certificate. When they
went to take
their wedding certificate, none
of them
smiled, and both had a long
face. Today, she
smiled brightly in her divorce
papers' photo.
However, unbeknownst to
anyone, she was
happy when they were married,
and that was
only rivaled by her reluctance
to be divorced.
She covered her face with the
divorce
papers and hid her tearful self
away, as if
that could cover her sadness up.
Just like
that, she lay in her bed until the
afternoon.
She then texted Zack, asking
him if he was
busy, and then he called her.
"Did you two
really get divorced?" he asked.
Sophia looked at the crimson
paper.
"Yeah,

we did. It's still warm to the touch, the paper. Do you need a photo?"

"No need for that.

" Zack sighed.

"I'

ve never

seen you guys fight, so why did this happen?"

Sophia smiled.

"I didn't propose

this. You

should ask your boss.

"

"I ain't that brave,

" Zack quickly

said. John

had always been aloof, so even though Zack

had worked for him for years, he was still

scared of his boss. On the other hand, even

though Sophia was his wife and on the same

level as John, Zack could gossip with her and

even tease her at times. Not only was Zack

not afraid of her, but he would throw the

occasional witty remarks at her as well.

Sophia sighed.

“I called you because I have something to say. John told me to call you whenever I needed help.”

Zack was fine with this.

“Sure.

Tell me if you need anything.”

“I want to go on a trip, so can you pick a spot for me? And book the flight tickets as well as the hotel as soon as possible.

The duration? Yeah, I don't care about that.

Right now, I have nothing but time and money. John gave me loads of money just so he can get divorced.”

Zack paused before asking,

“Anywhere is fine?”

“No. Make sure it’s pretty and filled with hunks. You can’t be thinking of throwing me into the wilds, ” she grumbled.

Zack laughed.

“Sure. I’ll take a look and make the arrangements. ”

Sophia wasn’t in a good mood, so she hung up after finishing her business.

After spacing out for a moment, she went outside. She would have eaten if she could, but lunch filled her up and then some.

Ever the happy girl, Sophia stood in the living room, trying to come up with an idea of how people let loose after a divorce, but her mindstorm didn’t give her anything. Sophia had no relatives or friends, so she had nobody to pour her heart out to.

Left with no choice, she Googled it, and it showed her tons of answers. Sophia clicked into the first link and thought the advice of getting drunk sounded fine. At least it was better than going for one night stands. Even though the divorce saddened her, she wasn't going to fall this hard.

Nobody's worth that.

The Returning Ex Chapter 4

That night, Sophia did some charming makeup. During her days in the Constance Residence, a lot of people disliked her because she was a normie, and the reason for her marriage was ridiculous, so she led a careful life.

Thanks to that, a smoky makeup now was enough to make her feel reborn. She chose a

slightly sexy dress and looked at herself in the mirror, satisfied with her look. Then she hailed a ride and went to the biggest bar in town.

The bar was huge, enough for it to be split into a few sections across the different levels. There was a dance floor in the common area, and it was filled with customers there. Sophia looked around and saw a business area in a corner, which dissuaded her from going.

Everything there is about business. Boring with a capital B.

Sophia went to an empty seat in the common area and sat down. When the waiter came to take her order, she called for two bottles of wine and a fruit platter. Then she leaned back on the

sofa and sipped
her wine while watching the
other patrons
dance. The light was glaring,
and it blurred
her vision, but Sophia could see
that they
were happy.

A moment later, she smiled.
Sophia was
richer than them, so of course
she was
happy. Then she called the
waiter over to
order a few snack platters. With
the money
John gave her and the dividends
every
month, she could live her life
without working
for a day.

After she had a bottle of beer,
someone
came to hit on her. She was
good-looking, and
she was alone, so anyone would
come for her.

The man sat before her.
“Alone?” Sophia
squinted at him. The man was
in a casual tee,

and he looked decent.
Sophia knew everyone who
came here was in
search of fun, and they were
pretty much
open to anything. Instead of
answering, she
toasted that man and downed
her wine, then
the man responded in kind. She
smiled at him
and put her glass down, then he
refilled it
quickly.

At least that cheered her up a
bit. She was
confident in her looks, so if
nobody came to
hit on her after a whole night, it
would
impact her greatly.

Even so, she fell into a trance,
thinking about
what John might be doing. They
were finally
divorced, so she thought he
might find
someone to celebrate. That
idea worsened
her mood, so she added more
booze.

At the same time, John was in a room in the business section of the bar.

There was a meetup today, but it wasn't a formal one. It was an interested collaborator whose overseas market was doing well.

The Constance Family wanted to penetrate the overseas market, so if he could work with this guy, it would make that journey that bit easier. More importantly, the collaborator invited John out himself, so he wouldn't refuse.

The collaborator was a middle-aged man who seemed to be a regular here, but after making a token conversation about the collaboration, this man called a lot of ladies into the room.

John disliked this borderline

sexual activity,
for he would always think
about hypocrites
who eschewed this openly but
indulged in it
secretly. Even so, he forced
himself to have
a few glasses of wine.

Mr. Wolfe grinned.

“You seem
to be
unaccustomed, Mr. Constance.
”

“I don’t really come here a lot.
”

John smiled.

Mr. Wolfe swirled his glass,
hinting at
something.

“Have some wine,
and it might
cure that.
”

John smiled and toasted Mr.
Wolfe. This red
wine was brought by him, and it
tasted dry,
but not inedible. John
wondered what brand
of wine this was, for it didn’t
taste too well.

After drinking two glasses, he
leaned back on
the sofa and nudged back,
pushing the lady in
his embrace away.

The Returning Ex Chapter 5

John wasn't in the mood to do
anything
today, for he was haunted by a
feeling of
frustration ever since he had
lunch with
Sophia.

When he was back in his office,
he didn't
read the documents he was
supposed to
either, and what his
grandfather told him
before his passing rang in his
mind. He told
John to take care of Sophia, to
which John
agreed, but in the end, they still
got
divorced.

He heaved a sigh. This divorce
was going to
happen one way or another, so
he didn't
regret it. Ever since they were

married, he
was looking forward to this day,
for it wasn't
his idea to marry Sophia. He felt
guilty
though, toward his late
grandfather.

A few more glasses of wine
later, John
became more frustrated. He felt
uneasy for
some reason, and in his
confusion, John
thought about Sophia, but not
about the
divorce. Instead, he was taken
back to many
nights ago when Sophia was
taking his
pounding. He quickly shut his
eyes and
started sweating. I think I know
what's
wrong with me.

Mr. Wolfe was in the mood now,
so he
caressed the lady's hand.

"Why
don't we go
somewhere else?"

John slowly opened his eyes

and smiled.

“Sure.

”

Even though he wasn't in his best condition,

John had to be composed.

Luckily, it was

cooler outside, so it eased John up a bit.

After exiting the room, he texted the

driver, asking him to come over quickly.

Mr. Wolfe was ahead of him, holding a woman

in his arms. Buoyed by the atmosphere, he

even hummed. They went past the dance

floor after exiting the business section, and

they were just in time for the climax of the night.

The spectators were buzzing with

excitement, for the dancers were starting to

strip, much to Mr. Wolfe's interest.

“Well,

they do know how to throw a party.

” He

smacked his lips.

John looked at the dance floor,

but then he

looked further ahead and saw

Sophia

chatting with another man

behind the dance

floor. He had to squint to

recognize her, for

Sophia looked totally different

with her

getup today.

He stared at her for a long while,

but she

didn't notice him. It had been a

few glasses

of booze since then, so she was

tipsy, but not

drunk.

Her unfocused eyes didn't

escape the man

before her, so he went to sit

down beside

her.

“Are you drunk?”

“No.

” Sophia smiled. She could

still remember

the things she wanted to forget,
so she
wasn't drunk.

The man put his hand on her leg.

"Why don't
I bring you somewhere to sober
up?"

She looked down at his hand
before staring
up into his face, then she shook
her head.

"No.

" No matter how she
looked at him, John
was leagues ahead of this man.

Thanks to
him, she wondered if she could
fall for any
other man after their
relationship had
ended.

Oblivious to her thoughts, the
man tried to
hold her face.

"Let's go. I'll bring
you
somewhere fun.
"

However, before he could touch
her face,
someone grabbed his hand. I

must be hearing
things, Sophia thought.

“You
never think
before you leap, don’t you?”
John mocked. John? She slowly
looked up,
and even though her vision was
blurred, she
could still see his face clearly.
John was still
as aloof as ever, but now he
was scoffing at
her.

The Returning Ex Chapter 6
Everything after Sophia came
out of the bar
was a blank for her. It wasn’t
after she
puked did things become
clearer to her. She
took the glass of water John
gave her and
gurgled before standing up, the
fog in her
mind cleared.
“God, that felt
better.
”

John was leaning against his car
as he lit his

cigarette and unbuttoned his collar.

“Get in right now if you’re feeling better. I’m leaving,” he hissed. The night might be cool, and it might have eased his frustration, but it was still there.

Sophia leaped up, shocked.

“John? Why are you here?”

John puffed and frowned.

“If it wasn’t for me, you would have been sleeping with a random guy.”

Sophia stood up and looked around, noticing that she was at her home’s doorstep. She looked at John.

“So you went to the bar earlier? Were you the one who brought me back?”

John said nothing. He wanted to ask his driver to send her home, but with how drunk she was, John's driver was worried something might spiral out of control, so John had to do this himself.

Sophia was less than thrilled. So this guy went to celebrate after all. Her anger was fueled further by the alcohol she drank, so Sophia went ahead and leaned against him, smirking.

"So, were you trying to catch a fling too?"

John noticed what she was trying to say, and he looked into her eyes.

"Too?"

Sophia smiled, and she was all the sexier for her makeup. John had taken off his jacket, revealing the white shirt underneath. She

never used to be this daring,
but now Sophia
was tugging at John's belt, her
tone
suggestive.

"You messed up my
fling, so what
now?" Then, she started pulling
out his
tucked-in shirt.

He quickly held her hand and
looked at her.

Now the alcohol was working
its magic,
fueling his flame of lust that
had abated
earlier. He took a deep breath
and gazed at
her.

"Do you know what you're
doing, Sophia?"

Sophia chuckled.

"Of course, I
do. Why?
Don't you?"

After a while, John smiled. He
tossed his
unfinished cigarette away and
cupped her
chin.

"Were you going out with

a fling in mind
today?"

As Sophia gazed at him, the
feeling of
dejection sprang up within her
again. She
loved this man for a long time
now, but even
though they were married, he
still ran away
from her in the end. She had
nothing to lose
now, so Sophia stood on tiptoe
and pecked his
lips.

"Yeah. Why else?"

It was only a split second later,
and John
held her in his arms.

"Great.

You'll be getting
what you came for.

" Sophia
gasped and held
his neck, while he strode into
the house.

It was fingerprint-locked, but
luckily Sophia
didn't delete his identification
data, so with
one hand holding her, John

unlocked the door
and went inside.
Everything after that was a blur
for her, but
when they were about to get
down to things
in the bedroom, she suddenly
pinned him
down. There was a burning
question in her
heart which she longed the
answer for.

“Have
you cheated on me when we
were married,
John?”

“No.

” He lay on the bed, his
gaze deep, his
voice hoarse.

Satisfied, she quickly went
ahead with the
main event, but she wasn't
really great at
this sort of thing, so she
grunted, feeling
defeated. She didn't know how
she should
continue with this, but luckily,
John took the
reins.

**We just got divorced today, and
now we do
this? Is this really a good idea?
Not that
we
're stopping anyway though.
Under the
influence of alcohol, Sophia
drifted to sleep,
but John stayed awake. He
looked up at the
ceiling in the dark, his eyes
sunken.
A while later, she turned
around and moved
around like she used to do.
After finding
where John was, she leaned
closer to hug him
before resuming her sleep. John
didn't move,
but he started to frown.
A moment later, he pushed her
away and
went to take his phone to call
Zack. After
the call went through, he said,
"I want you to
look into the deal with Focker.
See if he
spiked the wine he brought**

today.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 7

John was already gone when

she woke up the

next day. She scratched her

head in

perplexion, for her memory was

fragmented,

though she could still

remember how she got

it on with her ex-husband last

night.

Wow, am I really this perverted?

We just

got divorced, and then we f*ck?

I thought

this only happens in novels! She

then

remembered Googling what a

divorcee should

do to relieve the pain, but while

she scoffed

at having a one night stand, she

ended up

doing it anyway.

Sophia flung the blanket open

to look at her

crotch. She could vaguely

remember how

hard John pounded her last

night, and the sex felt fun because it was illegal.

She dragged herself to take a bath, then when she was done, her phone rang. Sophia quickly went to take the call, and Zack told her he had booked her a ticket to Tri Asel.

The location didn't matter to her.

"Sure.

When's the flight scheduled?"

Zack said,

"Tomorrow morning.

Thought you said the sooner the better.

How's this for size?"

Sophia nodded.

"Sure. Best time slot for me.

Send me the exact time, and I'll travel to the airport tomorrow.

"

Zack hung up without saying he would send her off, then he texted her the

flight
details. Sophia sat on the bed
and read
through the text while she dried
her hair.

After reading through it, she
put her towel
down and sighed. Sophia knew
this would be a
long trip for her, and when she
came back,
she would have probably gotten
over John.

After dressing up a bit, she
went to have her
meal and bought a bouquet of
flowers before
going to Old Mr. Constance's
grave. It was...
grand, to say the least, for his
family had
spent a lot on it.

She came up to the tombstone
and put the
flowers before it.

"Hey,
Grandpa. Hope
everything is well for you up
there. There's
something I need to tell you.
John and I... Well, we got

divorced.

” Then

she added,

“I don’t blame him

though. He

couldn’t fall for me no matter

how hard he

tried. I know it’s torture living

your life with

someone you don’t love, so this

is for the

best. He gave me a lot of money,

enough to

live a good life.

”

He looked fierce in the photo,

but Old Mr.

Constance was an approachable

man, and he

treated her the best in the

whole family. She

teared up, but Sophia didn’t

allow herself to

cry. He can’t rest in peace if he

sees me

crying.

She then told him she would

embark on a long

trip, but she would eventually

come back,

even if it took decades. Sophia

even told him
she would bring some souvenirs
back for him.

After talking for a bit, she left.

There wasn't much to pack
even if she

wanted to. Sophia hadn't
stayed here for too
long, so there weren't many
things here.

Besides, taking too much
baggage with her on
a trip was less than ideal.

In the end, she didn't even fill
up a small

luggage. Sophia sat on the bed,
deliberating
if she should call John.

Eventually, she
decided to call him.

He should be resting at this
hour. Quickly,
the call went through.

"Yes, do

you need

anything?" He sounded formal.

Sophia was about to talk about
last night, but

his formal tone killed her mood.

After a few

moments of pause, she said,

**“Nothing. I just
want to tell you I’m leaving
tomorrow, and I
might be off for a long time, so
this is
goodbye.**

”

**“I know,
” John replied coolly.
Sophia pouted, feeling insulted.
She was
about to retort when a woman
said,**

“John?”

**Shocked, she quickly hung up,
but a moment
later, she held her phone,
looking defeated.**

**It’s just a woman, so why did I
get so**

nervous? Why did I hang up?

**She thumped
the bed.**

The Returning Ex Chapter 8

**With her luggage in tow, Sophia
went to the
airport early next morning.**

Because the

**flight was too early, Sophia kept
yawning**

from her insufficient sleep. Not

long after
arriving at the airport, the
announcer
started calling the passengers
for her flight
to come on board.

Zack booked a business class
seat for her.

Sophia went in first, so the
passenger beside
her hadn't arrived yet. After she
put her
luggage and sat down, Sophia
yawned a few
more times.

More passengers came in after
her, but not
many. Hmm, not many
passengers this time.

She looked around her before
lying down in a
comfy position. Then she put on
her eyeshade
and slept.

Because she didn't sleep much
last night,
Sophia drifted to sleep after she
closed her
eyes. She didn't realize
someone came to sit
beside her later, nor did she

care. It wasn't
until a stewardess came did she
wake up.

Sophia was gently nudged, then
the

stewardess told her,

"Excuse

me, miss. Do

you need anything to drink?"

Sophia pulled her eyeshade up
and squinted.

"Cola with ice, thank you.

"

After the

stewardess poured her drink,

the passenger

beside her took it for her.

She took it and had a sip before

saying thank

you, to which the passenger

replied,

"You'

re

welcome.

" Wait, that voice...

It's familiar. Too

familiar. Sophia paused for a

moment, then,

ever so slowly, she turned

around to see who

the passenger was. When she

saw who it was,
her expression froze.
John stared at her for a few
moments
before looking back at Zack.
Zack was
covering his face, for he hadn't
been able to
bring himself to look at John
ever since the
latter noticed Sophia was in the
seat right
beside him.

Sophia also looked at Zack, and
she arched
her eyebrow. Zack turned his
back on both
of them and plugged his ears
with his
earphones, pretending not to
know anything.

"Zack booked this ticket for
me.

" Sophia
smacked her lips.

"I didn't know
this would
happen.

"

Being the aloof man, John only
grunted,

stopping Sophia from asking a few questions she would like answered. It was impossible to sleep now, so she took out her tablet to binge some dramas.

It wasn't like her to binge-watch dramas, though she downloaded some shallow ones to kill time. Unfortunately, she couldn't keep her eyes on her tablet, for she started looking at John a few moments later.

John was approving some documents in his laptop. He was wearing a pair of anti-glare glasses, and Sophia had never seen this side to him.

She glanced at him out of the corner of her eye, and she had to say that John was handsome. Well, all of the Constance men were decent-looking, but John

was the
hottest of them all. That was
why she fell
for him at first sight, for she
was a shallow
woman.

Sophia knew where she stood,
so she would
admit that aside from his looks,
she didn't
like anything else about him,
but that soon
changed, though she didn't
know what the
reason was even until now.

Before they were divorced,
Sophia would
always grin whenever she saw
or thought of
him. I never felt that way about
any other
guy, though.

Then she quickly retracted her
gaze and
scolded herself, You're divorced,
so stop
thinking about this. No matter
how great he
is, if he doesn't love you, then
it's worth
zilch.

Sophia put her tablet down and wore her eyeshade again. Even if she couldn't sleep, she didn't want to see him. Not long after she leaned back against the seat with her arms crossed, she felt John unbuckling himself and left. She pulled her eyeshade up to glance at him. Probably went to the restroom. Then, she leaned back again. He came back a short while later, then he nudged her elbow, but she pretended not to notice it. However, when her elbow was nudged again, Sophia frowned. She took her eyeshade off, only to find a stranger before her, though he had a smart getup. He smiled at Sophia. "Hello."
"

“Anything?” replied Sophia.

The man smiled sheepishly.

**“Nothing. I was
bored sitting back there, and I
noticed you
look bored too, so I came to
chat.**

”

**Sophia frowned. I looked like I
was sleeping,
not bored. John had returned,
but when he
noticed someone was at his
seat, he didn’t
make any move.**

**He could see that the man was
flirting with
Sophia, but judging by the
dumb,
flabbergasted look on her face,
he knew she
didn’t notice his obvious flirting.**

**And she said
she was looking for a fling in the
bar? Not
with her stupid head she isn’t.**

9

**John just stood there and
watched.**

**It wasn’t until the guy asked for
her number**

did she realize what he was here for. This was awkward for her, for she didn't know how to refuse him politely. Sure, she did want a fling, but not this type, and certainly not in this situation. Zack had been trying to tell her something, and when she tried to reply, Sophia saw John standing just a few meters away from them.

From the looks of it, he had been standing there for a while, so in other words, he had been watching. Even so, Sophia didn't notice any signs of jealousy from him. He doesn't care even when I'm hit on? A moment later, she smiled back at that man and told him her number. She wasn't going to keep on using this number anyway, so telling him was fine.

**The man registered her number
and gave her
a call.**

**“This is my number. Call
me Collum.**

”

**Sophia nodded, her smile never
faltering.**

“Thanks. I’ll keep it in mind.

”

**After getting her number,
Collum didn’t
waste any more time. He talked
a bit more
with her before going back to
his seat, which
was just one row behind.**

**John slowly came back, while
Sophia scrolled
through her phone, ignoring
him. He didn’t
ask her what happened and
went on reading
his documents.**

**Collum started texting Sophia
after going
back to his seat, telling her why
he came on
this trip and how long he would
be staying in
Tri Asel. He even told her where**

he would be going and the people he would be meeting. Sophia was uninterested in this, but she pretended to be patient. Then Collum asked her about her itinerary. Sophia gave it a thought and told him she was on a trip, though her itinerary was random. If she felt like it, she would stay in Tri Asel longer, but if not, she would leave immediately. Collum told her Tri Asel was a good place for a trip in an attempt to persuade her to stay, but Sophia didn't reply. Collum texted her again to ask her about the hotel she was staying in. Sophia didn't pay attention to that, so she read through the message Zack texted her. The hotel she was booked for was at the seaside,

so she could
see the ocean once she opened
the window.
Not like she wanted to tell
Collum about the
hotel she was staying in though,
so she told
him her friend would be picking
her up there.
After that, she put her phone
down and
glanced at John.
John didn't show any reaction,
obviously
indifferent about what she was
doing. Sophia
felt defeated by that. Even
when they were
married, John didn't react when
he knew
someone was hitting on her, so
it was normal
that he wouldn't care now.
Since he didn't
love her, he wouldn't be
affected, though
this realization did unsettle
Sophia.
It wasn't like she didn't try for
the past
year, but John was a tough

customer. There was no opening for her, or else she would have dragged on for a bit when he proposed the divorce. Sophia looked outside the window and heaved a sigh before closing her eyes again.

They shared no conversation until the end of the flight. The passengers started disembarking, but Sophia remained in her seat. She wasn't in a rush, nor did she want to disembark when everyone was scrambling to. Then Collum came again. He was carrying his laptop bag and ignored the people around Sophia.

"I'll call you when I have time. If we're close by, I can treat you to a meal.

" He was loud.

"Sure.

**” Sophia forced a smile.
John smiled quietly and stood
up.**

**“Let’s go,
”**

**he told Zack. Zack looked at
Sophia in
disappointment before taking
their stuff and
made way for John.**

**Sophia was the last to leave,
and after
disembarking, she found out
the hotel staff
was already waiting for her.**

**After getting
into the car, she started getting
a splitting
headache, so she leaned back
and closed her
eyes.**

**We can’t even say goodbye
ceremoniously,
huh? Something just has to
happen. We
didn’t start on the right foot,
nor did the
process go well. The trilogy’s
supposed to end
well, but not in our case.
She thought that despite all**

these tragedies,
at least they had to part ways in
a nicer
form. She thought at least there
would be no
regrets when she remembered
John, but
alas.

10

. It was an hour long ride, for
the hotel was
quite some distance away from
the airport.

Sophia squinted at the hotel's
signboard

before looking around. It is a
good hotel.

The beach was just a few steps
away, and

since it was early, it was full of
people. Once

she got out of the car, the
bellboy held her
luggage for her.

Zack booked a suite for her, and
it was

facing the sea. She went inside
to take a look

before opening the window,
letting the sea

breeze caress her. The bed was

right beside
the window, so she sat on it
and looked out at
the sea.

Sophia tried to empty her mind
of
everything, including how
indifferent John
was toward her. They weren't
going to talk
anymore, so thinking too much
would just get
in her way.

Someone came knocking not
long after,
though she took her time to
take it. The
hotel manager was standing
outside, and he
invited Sophia to the bonfire
banquet at the
seaside tonight.

"Bonfire
banquet?" She
frowned.

"Yes.

" The manager smiled.

"We'll hold one
from time to time, and
everyone's invited.

"

“Okay, then.

” Sophia nodded.

The manager was holding a gift box.

“You’

re

our VIP guest, so this is made especially for

you. We took the time to make sure no two

guests will have the same thing.

” Sophia

looked at the box and took it.

The manager

bowed at her politely, then he left.

Sophia closed the door and opened the gift

box, revealing a sexy floral beach dress that

was lovingly paired with sandals.

The dress felt nice to the touch, and it was

perfect for the occasion, since she came on

this trip to have a change of environment.

She took a deep breath and decided to take

a look tonight. After taking a shower, she asked for room service. Sophia changed her clothes and scrolled through her phone to see if there were any news about her divorce. Thanks to the late Old Mr. Constance, her wedding was grand, and it was slightly newsworthy. Now that they were divorced, Sophia was worried she would be laughed at, for it was a short-lived marriage. After a while, she still didn't notice any news about her and John, nor did anyone find out about her divorce. She heaved a sigh of relief, though Sophia thought this was logical. Having a divorce wasn't good news, so compared to her, John would like it less if this were to be found out. The Constance Family had

businesses
everywhere, and their clout was
immense. If
the news about his short
marriage were to be
leaked, it would be a PR crisis.
That idea comforted her a bit,
so when the
waitstaff came for room service,
she sat
cross-legged on her bed and
finished her
food while enjoying the sea
breeze.

Her appetite was ruined on the
plane because
of how stern John was, so aside
from that
Cola, she had nothing else to
eat. Honestly,
she was getting hungry.

She went to sleep after her
meal, and
perhaps it was too relaxing that
she only
woke up at dusk because of the
noise outside.

Sophia went to look outside the
window, then
she noticed the dense crowd
working their

way toward the beach. Oh,
looks like the
banquet is starting now.
This is a big hotel that has a lot
of
customers. I bet the banquet is
a lot of fun.

Sophia quickly went to wash
herself up. I'm
here for fun. Anything not fun
like John or
the divorce can go to hell.
She put on a cute makeup today,
and coupling
that up with her beach dress,
she looked
almost illegally cute. Sophia
braided her hair
and let them hang down her
sides. Yeah, I
look perfect.

The Returning Ex Chapter 11
Instead of going down right
away, Sophia
leaned against the window to
watch for a bit.

They would need a lot of
preparation time
for this banquet, making it
pointless to go
now. But first, Sophia took a

few selfies and posted it on her Facebook. She smiled brightly for the photo, and her braids looked cuter than ever. Sophia was in her prime after all, so there was no need to turn on any filters, for she was naturally beautiful. She stared at her photo for a moment before turning it off. The photo was posted despite her knowing nobody would see it, for she didn't have a friend list anyway. All the people on her friend list were the Constances, though she wondered if they had unfriended her. She kept on watching until night had fully descended, and the noise had escalated. Now, she stretched herself fully and went out at her own pace. The banquet had started when

she arrived.

There was even a stage the management set up for their customers. There were already people dancing on the stage, while everyone else cheered.

Tables were set around the place, decked out with snacks and wine. Sophia went around to see if there was a spot for her, but everywhere was full. She wasn't in a rush though, so Sophia sauntered. When the staff noticed her, he came up and said,

"Are you alone, miss?
Here's a seat for you.

" He pointed at a table. It was rare to see a table with only four people, and all of them were women. Sophia nodded.

"Thank you.
" She then

went to take
her seat.

The women were probably in a
clique, so they
only glanced at Sophia before
resuming their
conversation. Even so, Sophia
remained
unperturbed as she poured
herself a glass of
wine and leaned back to enjoy.
However, a man came to hit on
her not long
after she sat down.

“Good
evening. Do you
mind me sitting here?” He was
holding a glass
of wine.

Sophia looked around her.
Because the other
women were huddled together,
there was
space around her.

“I don’t.

” She
arched her
eyebrow.

He sat down beside her and
looked at the
stage before chatting with her.

**“Are you
here by yourself? I don’t see
you talking to
anyone.**

”

Sophia grinned.

“Yes, I am.

**” The
other women
looked at her, then they looked
away. Adam
and Eve, not Zelda and Eve,
they said.**

**Women would hate gorgeous
women for no
reason at all.**

The man smiled.

**“What a
coincidence. I came
here myself, too. Why not? I
thought, then
when I came here, boom, they
have a bonfire
banquet. Interesting.**

**” Sophia
only looked at
the stage and said nothing.
She was quite some distance
away, so she
couldn’t see the dance they
were performing.**

A moment later, the man
leaned closer to
her.

“Since you’ll be staying
here for a few
days, and we’re both by
ourselves, why don’t
we go out tomorrow?”

Sophia turned around and
smiled at him. Her
phone was on the table before
her, and it

vibrated a couple of times. It
was a message
from Zack, though he only sent
a request for
her to share her location.

Sophia didn’t know
this existed, though she saw the
yes or no
button.

She wanted to decline the
request, but
something struck her, so she
accepted it. A
moment later, her location
marker started
blinking, much to her confusion,
but then she
kept her phone.

Meanwhile, the man kept on

talking,
“I
checked all the guides about
this place, and
there are a few interesting
places here that
we can go—”

Sophia raised her glass.

“Let’s
drink.
”

The man paused for a moment
before giving
her a toast. When they had
finished their
wine, he refilled Sophia’s glass
for her.

“How
old are you now? You look like
a fresh
graduate, so are you here for
your
graduation trip?”

Sophia raised her eyebrow.

“Do
I look like a
student to you?” Her dimples
showed up when
she smiled, and it drew the man
in as he
stared at her for some time.

The Returning Ex Chapter 12

Sophia wasn't surprised that the man was stunned after she smiled. She knew she was pretty, and even John acknowledged it.

The man noticed his rude behavior, so he smiled sheepishly.

"Won't your family get worried you come out alone?"

"My family, huh?" I don't have a family, so they won't worry. Her parents had fled when she was a child, leaving her to fend for herself all these years.

They were dead to her, so the only ones she could call family were the Constances, but now that John had divorced her, she lost them, too. For a split second there, she fell into a trance.

But it was in that split second that she heard

a familiar voice.

“Hey, there are
a few spots
here. What do you think?”

Sophia looked
back and saw Zack, while John
was behind
them, though John had
someone else by his
side now.

Sophia only took a glance at the
woman
beside him, then she looked
away. The woman
was wearing a revealing mini
skirt, her fair,
long legs visible, rocking a
spaghetti strap
tank top, and she had some
great assets, but
she wasn't as good-looking as
Sophia.

Zack didn't care how many
people were here
around the table, facing Sophia
as he
insisted,

“Hey, lady, I see you
have a few
spots here. We'll take it if you
don't mind.

”

There were six of them here, so
if Zack,
John, and the lady with him
were to sit here,
there wouldn't be enough space.

Sophia
looked at Zack like he was an
idiot. Doesn't
he feel embarrassed? He's
exaggerating
things.

The man beside Sophia noticed
the impending
crisis, so he waved Zack down.
“We're out of
spots here, so you can't sit here.
There are
more seats there though.

”

Zack ignored him.
“Eh, we'll just
bring two
more chairs here. We want to
sit here.

” Then
he looked back.
“Come here,
boss. The view's
nice here.

”

Yeah, right, Sophia thought.
You can't even
see the stage. There are pretty
women up
there performing, but you can't
see them
from here. As if the view's nice.
Zack was a
master liar, then he took two
chairs to the
table. John didn't refuse him, so
he followed
suit.

Sophia looked at John and
nodded politely. It
was easier pretending to be
strangers than
friends. Coming along with
them was the
woman beside John. The four
women who
were here to begin with looked
at each
other, then they left huffing and
puffing.

Well, at least now we have
space.

Zack wanted to have John sit
beside Sophia,
but John was quicker. He sat
down two chairs

away from Sophia, leaving one space between them, which his companion took. Sophia was still leaning back and watching the show.

Zack sat across from Sophia and asked,

“Are you here by yourself, lady?”

Before Sophia could answer, the man beside her interrupted,

“No, we’re here together.

”

Oh, I think he mistakes Zack as another guy

hitting on me. Sophia sipped from her glass, a smile dancing on her lips.

Zack was surprised, then he glanced at

Sophia, then at John. John was looking at the

stage, just like Sophia was, but Zack couldn’t

care about that now. He gave Sophia a look

and asked,

“Is that so? You two

look alike.

Are you siblings?”

Sophia almost chuckled, then

the man beside

her said,

“No. She’s my

girlfriend.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 13

Now John looked back at

Sophia. He was

wearing an aloha shirt today.

The collar was

unbuttoned, revealing his

collarbone

underneath. Instead of his

neatly combed

hair, he was sporting a casual

hairstyle today.

John was mostly the aloof type,

but now he

looked more approachable.

Sophia noticed his look from

the corner of

her eye, but she kept on

watching the show

on the stage. John stared at her

for a few

moments, then he looked back

at the stage.

His companion looked at her

too, but as a
rival. Naturally.

Women are always hostile to
their own.

However, she relaxed after
hearing the man
calling Sophia his girlfriend.

Zack was
shocked to hear that, then he
glared at
Sophia, though she ignored
him.

She didn't care what was going
on on the
stage, for her mood was ruined
when John
came here. After finishing her
wine, she
refilled it.

The bottle was near her, and
when she went
to take it, John looked at the
bottle, but he
said nothing. After watching the
show for a
bit, John's companion huddled
together with
him and mumbled something.
John leaned slightly toward his
companion,
though his eyes didn't leave the

stage. A

while later, the woman
chuckled, while John
smiled vaguely.

Sophia tried to not look at them,
but even so,

their interaction annoyed her. It
was easy

pretending they didn't know
each other, but

she was still unsettled by this.

She looked

somewhere else in an attempt
to distract
herself.

The sea unfurled itself before
her, its waves

crashing onto the ivory sands of
the beach.

She had never seen the sea in
its true glory

before, but thanks to her
divorce, now she

had the cash to come here.

The beach was getting rowdier
after the

waiters started serving the
grilled meat to

everyone. Some guests' dancing
soul was lit

up, so they performed around

the bonfire.

The man beside Sophia leaned closer.

“Wanna grill some meat? Taking part yourself makes you feel accomplished.”

Sophia glanced at him.

“I prefer to have it already cooked. I’m lazy, after all.”

John suddenly chuckled. The waves should have covered it, and it wasn’t too loud either, but Sophia heard it. It stung her, reminding her of what he used to say. John complained about her skills in bed, saying she was too lazy and passive about it. He only blurted that out whenever he was drunk, though. Sophia closed her eyes. It’s pointless thinking about that. She stood

up.

“Why don’t
we go and take a look?”

The man smiled and stood up.

“Let’s go, then.

”

He thought Zack had a thing for
Sophia, so

he wanted to leave this place.

When they came to the bonfire,
the hotel

staff quickly handed them some
meat

skewers, but Sophia didn’t take
them.

“I’ll

just watch.

”

The man took it though.

“I’ll do

it. I’ll grill it

for you.

”

“How should I call you?” Sophia
looked back

at him.

The man smiled.

“Trevor Cohen.

Just call me

Trevor. I might have been a bit
rude talking

to that guy. I hope you didn't mind.
”

Sophia knew he was talking about him saying he was her boyfriend.

“It's fine.

” She shook her head, since nobody would believe it either.

Zack kept staring at them. A few moments later, he approached John.

“Boss, the madam is—” John glanced at him, and he changed his tune.

“Sophia is such a slut!” Zack said angrily.

The Returning Ex Chapter 14

At the same time, Sophia stood beside

Trevor quietly. She looked into the bonfire, falling into a trance.

John looked at where Zack was pointing, then Zack continued,

**“But she is
really pretty. I
mean, the moment she went
there, everyone
else just looked subpar in
comparison.**

”

**John squinted. Everyone
acknowledged her
beauty, and when Old Mr.
Constance forced
him to marry Sophia, John’s
mother told him,
“At least she’s pretty, so your
kids won’t look
too bad.**

**” That was the only
good part his
mother could come up with.
Now she was standing out
among the crowd.**

**With her floral dress and her
pair of pigtails,
she looked more like a young
lady than a
divorced woman.**

**Zack lowered his voice, saying,
“Boss, why
didn’t you fall for a pretty lady
like her?”**

Why couldn’t I fall for her? John

looked at
Sophia and turned back.

“Because that’s all
she has going for her,
” he said
softly.

Zack was surprised, then he
fidgeted. Sophia
did only have her looks going
for her. She
didn’t come from a good family,
nor did she
graduate from any famed
university. Before
she was married to John, she
didn’t even
have a job. Aside from her
beauty, there was
nothing else to her.

Because of that, many from the
Constance
Family’s company didn’t believe
she married
him. There were countless
women who adored
John, and any one of them was
better than
Sophia. However, nobody
expected someone
like Sophia to marry John in the
end.

Zack looked down, out of anything to say.

John's companion looked around and huddled around John.

**"Why don't we take a stroll around, Mr. Constance? It's boring sitting around here."
"**

After pondering for a bit, John nodded.

**"Sure."
"**

This lady was sent by his partnering company, though John didn't want to know the deeper reason for this. This trip was all about

business for him. The lady was delighted

John agreed to her request, so she

straightened herself up and strolled along

the seaside with John.

Zack sat there for a moment, then he

followed John. He knew this

woman liked
John. It was obvious from how
she looked at
John, but Zack disliked her. At
least until
now, he hadn't seen anyone
more suited to be
John's wife than Sophia was.
As they strolled, John started
talking about
the collaboration, much to the
woman's
amusement.

"Everyone says
you'
re a
workaholic, but I didn't believe
them. I guess
I have to change my mind now.
You even work
when you're relaxing."
"

John chuckled.
"I would have
been sleeping in
the hotel if I wanted to relax. I
came out
here for work."
"

The woman paused, then she
smiled again.

**She invited John out tonight,
and John
agreed to it readily. She
thought John
wanted to play, but all he
wanted to talk
about was work. However, that
wasn't her
goal today. Her goal was never
the
collaboration with the
Constance Family.**

**They went to a quieter area,
much to Zack's
dismay. At the same time, he
whipped out his
phone to text Sophia, chastising
her for
letting this chance slip.**

**'How could you walk away with
another guy
when this is the perfect chance
to go with
the boss?' That was essentially
what he said.**

**After taking a glance at the
message, Sophia
deleted it. At the same time,
Trevor handed
her the grilled meat, and she
thanked him**

politely.

Trevor handed her a glass of juice.

“Do those guys from earlier know you?”

“Now where did that question come from?”

Sophia was surprised.

Trevor scratched his head sheepishly.

“I just think they were looking at you weirdly.

”

Sophia stared at her juice for a while and sighed.

“No. I don’t know those people.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 15

Sophia and Trevor stayed by the bonfire for a while more before going back to their table, but when they came back, everyone was gone.

Not that she minded though, so she sat down. After downing a few

glasses of wine on
an empty stomach and having a
few kebabs, it
was churning down there. She
tried to push it
down with some juice, but to
little effect.

Trevor was sweating from
grilling the meat,
but he kept smiling at Sophia.

“I
checked
tomorrow’s weather forecast.
They said it’s
not that hot, so let’s go on a
little trip. I’ll
plan the itinerary. What do you
say?”

Sophia stared at the seat John
was in
earlier.

“We’ll see.

” She wasn’t
in the mood to
think about the next day’s
event.

There wasn’t any show on the
stage now, for
everyone was dancing around
the bonfire,
though this was the merriest

time of the
night.

Trevor looked in the bonfire's
direction.

"Why don't we go have some
fun around the
bonfire? They're all dancing
there, and it
seems fun."
"

Sophia looked at the dancers
perfunctorily.

"I want to rest for a bit. I think
I'm down
with something.

"Yeah, I'm
feeling nauseous.

That concerned Trevor.

"What
happened?
What's wrong?"

The aroma of grilled meat
wafted from afar,
but it disgusted Sophia now
despite how good
it smelled. She looked at
Trevor.

"My stomach's acting up, so can
you go to the
reception and get me some
pills?" All the

color she got from being heated up by the bonfire was replaced by an ashen look.

Trevor quickly stood up.

“Okay.

Wait for me right here, and I’ll be back shortly.

”

Sophia leaned back, but after Trevor had left, she slowly stood up and went to the quieter side of the beach. When she got far enough, the smell of grilled meat couldn’t reach her anymore.

There was a big reef on the beach, so she went up and sat down on a spot.

The humid sea breeze caressed her, but it felt chilling to the touch. Sighing, Sophia hugged her legs and thought whether she should change her vacation spot.

If she had to see John all the

time, this
vacation would be pointless, for
it would be
impossible to forget him if he
kept showing
up.

She sat on the reef for a long
time, with
nothing but the crashing of
waves as her
company. When her sole
company left her,
she climbed down from the reef
and started
going back to the hotel.

She hadn't taken two steps
when someone
ran up to her from behind.

"So
you're here,
Sophia.

" Sophia knew who he
was from his
voice, but she pretended not to
hear him.

Annoyed, Zack picked up the
pace.

"Don't
pretend you didn't hear me. I
know you did.
"

Sophia looked back at Zack,
then she
searched for John, but he
wasn't there.

"Where's your boss?" She
pulled a long face.

"Why isn't he with you?"

Zack chuckled.

"Oh, your
ex-husband? He
went back before me. I was
about to go with
him too, but leaving you alone
with another
guy sounds dangerous, so I
came here for
you.

"

Sophia snorted.

"There are a lot
of people
here. I can't think of any safety
hazards.

"

Zack walked to the hotel with
Sophia.

"I

mean, vacation's vacation, but
stay away from
those thugs. Look at that guy
earlier. I just

know he wants to sleep with
you.
”

Sophia stopped in her tracks
and looked at
him.

“Your boss frolics around
with women,
so is he a thug too?” The
Returning Ex
Chapter 16

Zack’s expression froze, then he
looked at
Sophia, full of tease.

“Were you
jealous?”

Being the gossip guy, Zack
quickly huddled
closer to her.

“Tell me the truth.
Do you still
love my boss? If you do, I—”

“Yeah, right.

” Sophia scoffed at
him, her
expression ridden with mockery.

“I have a
whole ocean’s worth of fish to
choose from,
so why do I have to keep watch
over one in an

aquarium?”

Zack clicked his tongue.

“You

just had to

make that pun, don't you? If

the boss heard

it, he's going to feel sad.

”

“How he feels is none of my

business,

” she

replied indifferently.

Eventually, they came back to

the hotel. The

staff was already moving the

tables back

after the party had ended, so

both of them

stopped to give way for them.

Zack couldn't hold it in during

the wait, so he

said,

“Look out for the guy who

was flirting

with you today. He's overly

passionate. I

know he's up to something.

”

Sophia looked back at Zack.

“So

how do you

suppose someone's not up to something when they flirt?" Zack frowned, but Sophia cut

him off before he could start, "By being a hypocrite like your boss?"

The comment took Zack by surprise.

"Why are you berating him again? Do you hate him?"

Sophia snorted.

"Nope. Why should I?" I just feel unsettled when I think of him. I don't hate him, but something's just... there.

Zack sighed.

"I am being serious.

You'

re a

girl, so you have to look out for yourself.

Predators are everywhere, and not all of them are wild beasts.

"

"They aren't predators if I give

them
consent. Everyone's just here
for fun.
”

Sophia crossed her arms
languidly, but Zack
only blinked at her. Sophia
droned on,
“We’
re
all adults now, so be more open,
hm? I’m not a
little girl anymore.
”

Zack only blinked, much to
Sophia’s curiosity.
“What’s wrong? Am I too
dazzling for you?”
Zack opened his mouth, but
before he could
say anything, a familiar voice
said,
“Zack, why
didn’t you take my call?”
Sophia froze up for a moment
before turning
around, and John was just a few
steps away
from her. As usual, he looked
aloof. She
wondered if he’d heard what

she said, but
she bravely looked back at Zack.
“Right.

You have business to settle, so
until next
time.

” Before Zack could say
anything,
Sophia went inside the hotel.
When she went
past John, she didn’t even spare
him a look.

John was alone, his companion
nowhere to be
seen. When they went past
each other, he
looked at Sophia. The hotel was
well lit, so he
could see how ashen she was.
She had light makeup on,
lending her a clean
look. Coupling it with her messy
hair—thanks
to the sea breeze—she looked
fragile.

John had never seen her looking
this way. He
never spent much time with her,
and most of
the time, she was quietly
obedient to the

point of inveigling him. He disliked that version of her, so John looked away and went to Zack.

Sophia went back to her room, unsettled and nauseous. Her stomach never did cooperate with her since she was a child. In the end, it culminated into a chronic disease. Sophia went to the window and looked down.

John and Zack were at the front gate, having a conversation. Suddenly, John looked back and saw her right in the eyes. Sophia was taken aback, but evading his gaze was too late now, so she returned the gaze. John stared at her seriously, which was a first.

The Returning Ex Chapter 17
Sophia was woken up by the pain that night.

Her stomach was burning, while

she felt
awfully nauseous. In a daze, she
climbed out
of her bed and stumbled
toward the
bathroom.

She clutched her stomach all
the way
through and didn't turn on the
lights. Sophia
rummaged around by memory
until she got to
the basin, then she puked.

Instinctively, she
thought it was bile. The light
switch was
right beside her, so she turned
it on, but
what greeted her was a horror
scene filled
with blood.

She closed her eyes. This wasn't
the first
time this happened, so she
didn't panic.

Sophia turned on the faucet to
drain her
blood out, then she gurgled. A
moment later,
she went back to her bed, still
feeling

dreary.

**She took her phone from beside
the pillow
and checked the time. One in
the morning.**

**Sophia inexplicably felt like
laughing. If I die
here right now, nobody will
probably find out.**

**All her fear, anger, and sadness
welled up,**

**but Sophia pushed through
them. She lay**

**down on the bed, planning to
tough this out**

**until morning, but ten minutes
later, the**

nausea attacked again.

**She quickly went to the
bathroom, and after**

**another round of puking, she
thought this**

**would kill her. Stumbling and
wobbling,**

**Sophia quickly went back to her
bed, thinking**

**she should call Zack, for only he
could help**

her here.

**Her stomach was churning
badly, and she**

broke out in cold sweat. With shivering hands, she opened her contacts and squinted at the names. After finding Zack's number, she called him.

The phone started beeping, so she put it down and curled up with her hands on her stomach. It only took a few seconds for Zack to pick it up, but it felt like an eternity.

"Hello?" He sounded hoarse. Sophia took a deep breath.

"Zack, I'm—"

Before she could speak, the wave of nausea washed over her again, but Sophia held it together.

"I'm feeling uncomfortable, so can you come over for a bit?" She sounded feeble, for it took everything she had to hold herself together.

"What's wrong?" Zack asked.

**Sophia started shivering from
the pain, and
she was drenched in cold sweat.**

**“Just come
over.**

**” She couldn’t explain
more to him, for
the nausea was impossible to
hold back now.**

**She made a run for the
bathroom and
vomited blood everywhere.**

Sophia started seeing stars.

**Her stomach had always been
in bad**

**condition, and vomiting up
blood happened a
few times. The doctor had told
her to take it
slow, for her condition was
hard to deal with,
especially when it had been
there for years.**

**She was suddenly reminded of
how much
alcohol she consumed over the
past two days.**

**It wasn’t much, though
certainly a bit more
than what she was used to.**

Damn. All I want

is just an outlet to vent after my
divorce,
and my body can't even take it.
Two times. It was two times,
and this is the
feedback it gives me. She held
the basin,
while black spots started
appearing.

It was a short trip back to the
bed, but she
had no idea how she managed
it. All she
remembered was how loud
Zack was shouting
when she came back to the bed.
"Sophia! Can you hear me?!"
Sophia wanted to
say yes and tell him he was loud,
but she had
no strength for that. Zack
booked this hotel
for her, and he knew her room
number, so
there was nothing to worry
about. She curled
up and closed her eyes, then
she sighed.

John knew her room number
too, for Zack
the loose lips told him about it

when he came
back from the beach. Thus, John
went to the
reception without even
bothering to change.

Sophia sounded off in the end,
then nobody
replied when they called out to
her.

There was a receptionist
working at this
hour, so he quickly led John to
Sophia's room
with the card in hand. When
they opened the
door, John saw that the
bathroom's light and
the bedside lamp was on.
She was curled up on her bed,
her hair and
face drenched with sweat. John
quickly went
up to her.

"Sophia? Sophia!"

Sophia didn't
react, and she was deathly pale.
The Returning Ex Chapter 18
John didn't know Sophia had
this condition.

Even though they were married
for a year,

he didn't know much about her.
John quickly
picked her up while the staff
called a car
over to send Sophia to the
hospital.

She woke up for a bit when
they were about
to get to the car, but she puked
all over John
the moment she opened her
mouth, and it
was all blood.

Shocked, John quickly wiped
her mouth.

"Sophia! Wake up, Sophia! Can
you hear me?!"

Sophia squinted at him, feeling
as if she was
dreaming.

"John? Can't you stay
out of my
dream?"

John frowned.

"What
happened?"

Sophia smiled.

"My stomach's
acting up. It's
been this way for a long time
now.

**” She
leaned closer to him. She was
dreaming
anyway, so she could do
whatever she
wanted.**

Then, she even hugged him.

**“Why can’t you
be nicer to me in real life,
John?” I wouldn’t
have given up so easily if you
were that bit
nicer.**

**John froze up. The driver was
trembling
when he saw Sophia spewing
blood
everywhere, so he quickly
drove them to the
hospital. Exhausted, Sophia
drifted to sleep
in John’s arms.**

**She was sent to the emergency
room and
went under an endoscopy test.
Her stomach
was filled with nothing but
blood, caused by
internal bleeding at a few
points. Sophia was
still out after the checkup, so**

she was
admitted to a ward.
John's shirt was covered in
Sophia's blood, so
he called Zack, asking him to
send his shirt
here, much to Zack's confusion.
"Your shirt?
You're with Sophia?
It's late now though, so I don't
think I can
make it. It's the same thing if I
do it
tomorrow, no?" Zack took this
the wrong way
and thought John stayed over at
Sophia's
room.
John lowered his voice, saying,
"I'm in the
hospital. Sophia's hospitalized."
"

Zack leaped up from his bed.
"Whoa, you guys
took it so far?" He sounded
incredulous.
John closed his eyes, frustrated.
"Stop
talking and take my clothes for
me. I'm in my
pajamas now."

”

Mumbling murmurs of assent,
Zack quickly
stood up.

“Right away, boss.

Right away.

”

He hung up and went inside the
ward. Sophia
was lying on the bed with an IV
drip beside
her. She was still unconscious,
her face pale.

This was a VIP ward, so they
had everything
here. John sat down on the sofa
and stared
at Sophia for a while before
looking away.

He scrolled through his phone
for reports on
the finance world, then John
opened his
Facebook. He didn't have many
friends there,
since he changed the settings.
All the people on the list were
his good
friends and family—with Sophia
on the list,
too. He didn't know when she

was added, but he knew he didn't do it. Sophia posted two photos. The lighting was good, and she looked adorably clean, just like a fresh graduate. John looked at it for a moment and unfriended Sophia. They were divorced now, so cutting ties was the most appropriate course of action. The Returning Ex Chapter 19 Zack came quickly with John's apparel in hand. He went inside the ward, not knowing why Sophia was hospitalized, but he was shocked to see John drenched in blood.

"You really go far.

" His eyes widened.

John ignored him and took his clothes before going to the restroom to change. Zack then went to look at Sophia. She was asleep and

stable, though she was still pale.

After John came out from the restroom, he looked at Zack.

“You can take care of her. I’m leaving.”

”

Zack quickly stopped him.

“Hold

up a sec.

You’re leaving just like that?”

Out of habit, John frowned.

“What did you expect?”

Zack looked back at Sophia.

“Aren’t you

gonna wait until she wakes up?

And chat?”

Pivoting, John went outside.

“We have

nothing to say.

” But when he

was at the

doorstep, he stopped and

looked back at

Sophia.

“Our plan still goes on.

If you can’t

take care of her, get a caretaker

to do it.

”

Before Zack could say anything,
he closed
the door and left.

Sophia woke up in the
afternoon, still groggy.

She looked up at the ceiling for
a long while.

Zack was sitting on the sofa,
now in his fifth
match of the game. When
Sophia woke up, he
quickly went up to her.

“You’re
awake. Do you
feel unwell?”

Sophia concentrated on her
stomach, but
there was no pain anymore.

“No. Nothing at
all.

” She looked at Zack.

“Thanks for taking
me here.

” She remembered
calling Zack last
night.

“Huh? I didn’t do it. Your
ex-husband, my
boss, did.

”

Sophia paused.

“John?”

“Who else? I don’t have two bosses.

” Zack

sat down beside her bed.

“What

happened?

The doctor said you got internal bleeding in

your stomach, gastritis, and an ulcer. Didn’t

know they come in packages like a mobile plan

these days.

”

Sophia got out of the bed.

“My

stomach

hasn’t been cooperating with me since I was a

kid.

” Sophia couldn’t remember the day she

didn’t have any gastric problems. Heading

over to the washroom, she went to wash

herself up, still feeling feeble.

Zack stood at the washroom

doorstep.

“The
doctor said you’ll have to stay
here for a few
days, but we might have to
leave before you,
since we can’t stay here.

”

Sophia grunted.

“Yeah, sure. It’s
fine. I can
handle myself well. If I can’t, I
can just get
myself a nurse.

”

Zack was still worried about her.

“I’ll talk to
my boss and see if I can stay for
a few more
days.

”

“It’s fine,
” Sophia replied.

“I
don’t want to
see him anyway, so leave me
alone.

”

Zack said nothing. Now that
Sophia was
awake, he went out to get some

food for her.

Sophia wasn't hungry though,
for she couldn't
feel a thing in her stomach.

She went back to her bed and
saw her phone
beside it. Oh, he brought it here
along with
me last night, huh?

Sophia took her phone,
planning to call him,
but she thought he might be
negotiating with
his partnering company. Not
wanting to
disturb him, she chose to send a
text.

She tried to thank him on
WhatsApp for
sending her to the hospital, but
the option to
add a new contact popped up.
In other words,
he removed her contact.

Sophia stared at the screen in
surprise, and
after a long while, she let out a
laugh. This is
what's good about John. He
never
procrastinates. If he doesn't like

me, then

that's it.

No negotiations. Without
hesitating for a bit,
Sophia deleted his number.

After putting her
phone down, she looked
outside the window
and sighed.

The Returning Ex Chapter 20
Sophia thought John wouldn't
come anymore,
but she thought wrong. He
came that very
afternoon, and he brought
fruits with him
too. When he arrived, Sophia
was playing
blackjack with Zack.

John stopped at the doorstep.
The door was
ajar, and he could hear what
they were
talking about. From the sound
of it, Sophia
was fine now; she could even
laugh.

"I don't
need a caretaker. I've been in
the doctor's
office because of this condition

more times
than I care to remember. It'll
take me a
couple of days, but I'll be fine.
”

Zack had a strip of paper on his
face, and it
dangled around when he talked.

“That’s
because you don’t take care of
it. The doctor
told me so. Can you take this
seriously?”

Sophia smiled.

“I’m winning
this.
”

Zack looked at his cards and
tossed them
away.

“Yeah, I give up.

” He continued,

“Say,
the boss doesn’t know about
this, does he? I
don’t think he knew about your
condition until
last night.
”

Sophia tossed her cards onto
the bed.

“Yep.

He knows nothing about this at all.

”

“You’ve been married to him for a year, and he knows nothing about this?”

Zack mumbled.

Sophia chuckled.

“It’s normal.

He doesn’t know much about me anyway.

”

“So how did you get through all those days anyway?” Zack looked at her.

Sophia tidied all the cards.

“Maybe because I let everything slide.

” She

looked down.

“If I

have to dwell on every little thing he did or didn’t do, I’d have a heart attack on top of my gastric problems, so yeah.

”

John stared at Sophia from outside. He had always seen this smile of hers

before this; it
looked fake, but also helpless.
John went inside quietly, then
when Zack
looked back, he was shocked.
He and Sophia
were sitting on the bed
together, but when
he saw John, Zack quickly
jumped down,
looking awkward.

“Boss, you
should have
called before you came.
”

John put the fruits he brought
on the sofa,
not looking at Zack.

“If I did,
you wouldn’t
have gossiped about me behind
my back.
”

Zack looked at Sophia and
smiled awkwardly,
but Sophia didn’t return it.
After seeing
John, she couldn’t even smile,
but John didn’t
mind.

“The partner has run into

some
problems. Maybe they're trying
to change the
terms, so we'll be staying here
for a few days
longer.

”

Zack arched his eyebrow.

“We're staying?”

He looked at Sophia.

Sophia didn't look at them, nor
did she hear

what John said. All she did was
look outside

the window. She was petite to
begin with, and

with her wearing the patient's
clothes, she

looked pitiful.

“Oh, that's nice.

” He meant for

Sophia to

hear that.

“Mrs.... I mean,

Sophia has to stay

here for a while, so we can take
care of her.

”

Sophia looked back at Zack and
chuckled,

while Zack winked at her.

**“Um,
it’s getting
late, so I’ll be buying us some
dinner. You
guys carry on.
”**

**There were a few hours away
from
dinnertime, so Sophia knew
Zack was trying
to give them some space. John
should know
that too, but none of them
talked.**

**Zack took his phone and quickly
left the
room. After closing the door, he
looked
inside through the window.**

**John was sitting
on the sofa, while Sophia
leaned back against
the bed and covered herself.
At this, Zack sighed. What are
they doing?**

**They don’t have to be so
awkward even if
they’
re
divorced.**

The Returning Ex Chapter 21

After Zack's departure, the room fell into silence for a while. Sophia didn't feel like talking, while John was a man of few words. She tried to read some entertainment news on her phone, but it was impossible. She felt skittish when John didn't appear, but when he did, for some reason, she got more nervous. This was a frustrating feeling, for it was just like when they were married. She would long for his return, but when he did, she pretended not to care. This is one annoying feeling. After turning things over in her mind, she put her phone down. "Thank you for what you did last night," she said. "I would have done it no matter

who it was.

”

John glanced at her.

Sophia nodded.

“I still want to
thank you. I—

”

Before she could finish, his
phone rang. John
looked at it and stood up.

“Rest
up. I’ll need
to take this.

”

Sophia grunted and looked
outside, but after
he left the room, she looked
back. A moment
later, she went to the room’s
doorstep. The
door was ajar, and John was
taking the call
right outside. She couldn’t hear
who the
caller was, but John’s voice was
audible.

John said,

“Yeah. I need to stay
here for a
bit. Something came up.

” The

caller then said something, much to John's curiosity.

"Isabelle? I'll handle it once I return.

"

Sophia froze. She might not have seen who Isabelle was, but she'd heard mention of her name frequently. All of the naysayers in the Constance household would mention this name every time they gossiped about Sophia.

Sophia knew if she hadn't married John, he would have married Isabelle, for she was his fiancée. In other words, Sophia took John away from her. Old Mr. Constance insisted on this marriage, so John canceled his wedding with Isabelle and married her instead.

Sophia lowered her gaze and, after some contemplation, went back to

the bed. Ward
was a superstition anyway, and
she couldn't
keep someone who married her
against his
own will.

Now she lost him, and he
started contacting
Isabelle again. Funny, really. I'm
a clown in
the grand scheme of things.

It ended up being a long call,
and when John
came back in, she was already
lying on the
bed, her eyes closed, her
breathing stable.

John thought she was asleep, so
he walked to
the sofa quietly.

Only, Sophia wasn't asleep
actually, for she
wasn't tired. She merely
thought there was
nothing to say between them
anymore. If it
was in the past, she would have
been
delighted at the chance to be in
the same
room as him.

He was busy, and he didn't care
about her, so
he never spent time with her.

Now that they
were divorced, she had this
chance to be
alone with him, but alas,
everything changed.

Sophia sighed silently, then she
turned her
back on John. Oblivious to what
she was
thinking, John scrolled through
the itinerary
on his phone. After skimming
through it, he
looked up at Sophia and
frowned.

John waited for a long time, but
eventually

Zack came back, and with
dinner. He wasn't
lying, but when he saw them
being so distant,
Zack's face fell. He put their
food on the
coffee table and pointed at
Sophia, asking
softly,
"When did she fall
asleep?"

**John leaned back on the sofa,
resting his
eyes.**

**“Since you went out.
”**

**Hearing that, Zack looked back
at Sophia
with disappointment.**

The Returning Ex Chapter 22

**Initially, Sophia was only
feigning sleep so
she wouldn't have to face John
alone, but
then she drifted to sleep. When
she woke up,
the nurse was about to give her
an injection.**

**It was a hemostatic injection,
and it
contained anti-inflammatory
medicine.**

**Zack and John were still sitting
on the sofa
in the ward. After Zack was
done reading the
document, he handed it to John
for approval.**

**None of them looked at Sophia.
Looking at the nurse, Sophia
pursed her lips.**

“I don't need the injection. This

has been a
problem for quite a while now,
so I'll just
take the meds.

”

The nurse didn't smile at her.

“Do you know
how serious your condition is?
It's precisely
because you don't care that
you're in this
shape. You're still young, so
take care of it,
or it'll haunt you for life.

” She

took out the
tourniquet.

Sophia extended her hand
reluctantly, and
the nurse wrapped the
tourniquet around her
as she patted Sophia's hand.

“You're so young,
so how did your problem get so
serious?”

Sophia looked away from the
syringe, but she
answered,

“I didn't pay
attention to it, so
this happened.

”

John was reading his document, but then he looked up at Sophia. She was obviously scared of getting injected, but still she toughed it out. John was curious, for Sophia changed after the divorce. She wasn't like this before, but what was she like, anyway? John had to think long and hard to remember. Marrying Sophia wasn't his own idea, so he didn't treat her well after the marriage. He knew he was busy, and he let himself go with the flow of work. Only by being busy could he avoid seeing her, but she didn't mind. When he told her he didn't have time for a honeymoon, she said she didn't mind. When he said he would be working overtime

and not come home for dinner,
she said she
didn't mind too.
There was one time when he
came home late,
so he slept in the guest room.
The next day,
he told Sophia he didn't want to
disturb her
sleep, but she didn't get angry.
In fact, she even told him to
take care of
himself. She never showed
anything else but
obedience before him. If he was
honest
about it, she was almost servile.
Thus, he got
used to her acting that way.
John stared at her, then he
snorted. The
first time she showed some
change was
probably when he proposed the
divorce. John
thought she might cry or refuse
to give an
answer, or even reject it
outright, but none
of his predictions came true.
All she did was freeze up for a

moment to
process her shock, and a
moment it was. He
could see it in her eyes, but
aside from that,
he didn't notice any sadness in
her eyes.

Then, she nodded in assent.
John never expected that, then
came the
day, and she cooperated with
him. As if she
wanted to cut all ties with him,
she started
hooking up with other men
after their
divorce.

John massaged his forehead
while looking at
her. Her eyes were closed, and
after the
injection was done, she slowly
put her hand
down, unmoving. John frowned
curiously.

Which side is the real her?
After setting the IV drip up, the
nurse
reminded her about a few
things before she
left. Sophia lay on the bed and

looked up at
the IV drip. She was still pale,
but her
expression was calm.

John was still looking at her.

“What’s your
plan after this?”

Sophia was surprised, then she
looked at
John.

“My plan? Getting on
with my vacation
after this, of course.

” She
looked at Zack.

“I
haven’t asked you about my
itinerary. Where
am I going next?”

Zack blinked at her and avoided
meeting his
gaze with John’s, for Sophia’s
itinerary was
almost the same as John’s.

The Returning Ex Chapter 23

John knew what the answer
was once he
noticed Zack looking away. He
sneered, but
he didn’t expose Zack. A
moment later,

Sophia got her answer too, so she sighed quietly and looked away. Feeling awkward, Zack stood up and changed the topic.

“Um, I got our dinner, so have it while it’s hot.

” He placed the food on her table and opened the lids. It was bland, to say the least.

There wasn’t even any color in the food, just like Sophia’s face.

“Hey, what is this? How am I supposed to eat this?” Sophia was irked. Zack glared at her.

“Your stomach needs rest, so light food is all you can eat. Don’t complain and stuff it down.

Once you get better, you can eat whatever you want.

”

Turning around, he then

uncovered what he bought for himself and John. Sophia was vexed now, so she complained,

“What’s this? What are you guys eating?”

Zack looked at her innocently.

“Seafood and a lot of meat. Why?” Sophia glowered at him,

but Zack ignored her and went on with

setting up their dinner before inviting John.

“Dig in, boss. Our stomachs are healthy, so

we can eat whatever we want.

”

With gritted teeth, Sophia

glared at Zack,

while John ignored them. He

tucked into his

food before telling Zack,

“I’ll be

going for an

appointment tomorrow night.

You don’t have

to come with me, so stay here.

”

Sophia was surprised.

“I can be

discharged

tomorrow,

” she said.

John looked at her.

“You’d

better listen to

the doctor’s orders.

”

Sophia nodded.

“I did ask the

doctor, and all

I have to do is get some

injection, then it’ll

heal up if I rest. I don’t have to

be

hospitalized that long.

”

John frowned as per usual.

“Zack, verify that

with the doctor tomorrow.

”

He doesn’t trust me? Sophia put

on a long

face.

Zack was digging in happily.

“Sure. I’ll ask the

doctor after this.

”

She looked at her porridge and

veggies, then

she looked at them having

seafood and meat.

Damn. What's the use of money
if you can't
have good food?

Sophia didn't feel too happy, so
she didn't

eat much. After two bites, she
put her spoon

down and leaned back on the
bed. It was a

luxurious ward, but she didn't
feel at home

here. John left after finishing his
dinner,

saying he had business to settle.

As for what

it was, Sophia didn't want to
know.

After cleaning their stuff away,
Zack asked

Sophia,

"Did the doctor really
say you can get
discharged?"

Sophia grunted.

"Yeah. I just

need some

injection, and the rest depends

on me. I can

just heal up at home. No

hospitalization

needed.

”

Zack nodded.

“Yeah, that’s better anyway. No place like home, am I right? At least you feel better at home.

”

After giving it some thought, Sophia turned to Zack.

“Who’s your boss going on an appointment with tomorrow night?”

Zack sat down on the sofa.

“Not sure, but it’s probably with Infinity Group.

”

Then he quickly added, “Remember the woman you saw back at the beach? She works with Infinity Group. She obviously likes the boss, so look out.

”

Sophia sneered.

“Why should I?

Does this

have anything to do with me?”

However, she

still gave it a thought. Zack

didn’t notice

that, nor did he care, so he

went back to his

mobile game. Sophia took her

phone, and a

plan started forming in her

mind.

When the nurse came to pull

the syringe out,

Zack asked if Sophia could be

discharged the

next day. The nurse answered

while tidying

up the apparatus,

“Yes.

Another injection tomorrow,

and you can be

discharged, but...

” She looked

at Sophia.

“You

need to take it slow and heal up.

Your

condition is severe, so if you

don’t keep an

eye on it, it will get worse.

”

Sophia grunted.

“Yeah, I

understand.

” After

the nurse was gone, Sophia

arched her

eyebrow.

“I’ll be discharged

tomorrow

afternoon. You have nothing to

do, right?

Come pick me up, then.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 24

Zack didn’t even hesitate.

“Sure.

I’ll come

pick you up when you’re done.

Look at my

boss. He won’t leave you

alone.

”

Sophia thought back about how

John looked.

He was still aloof and stern

when he talked,

but from what she heard, he

wouldn’t leave

her alone.

“I don’t need him.

”

She sneered.

Zack glanced at her and went

back to his

game, but he lamented,

“Lying

to yourself

isn’t good.

”

Sophia pursed her lips quietly,

then she

covered herself with the

blanket, her mind in

a mess. She didn’t know what

she was

focusing on, or to be exact, she

had too many

things to focus on.

Every important detail flashed

through her

mind, but she could remember

nothing. A

while later, she turned and had

her back

facing Zack.

“Close the door

when you leave,

”

she said.

Zack couldn’t stay here, for it

wasn't
appropriate for them to stay in
a room alone.
Now that Sophia could be
discharged, she
should be healing up and
holding herself
better now. Thus, Zack grunted
and said
nothing more.
Sophia drifted to sleep after a
short while,
and Zack left a while later.
When midnight
came, she woke up with a jolt.
The room was
empty, just like how she spent
her nights
before this. She was alone,
waiting for
someone who should return but
didn't. She
slowly sat up, and the bedside
lamp was still
lit.
She looked at the time, and it
was midnight,
the time where everyone would
get
emotional, especially women. A
moment later,

she snapped the photo of her hand and posted it on her Facebook. The syringe wound was obvious in the photo that was coupled with a sentimental caption: The thing I used to fear most isn't that scary once I got over it. John wouldn't see this post, so she wasn't sure who it was for. Before he even unfriended her, John never did read her posts. After some serious contemplation, she lay back down. She tossed and turned, but Sophia couldn't sleep. It wasn't until the doctor came to make his rounds in the morning to tell her she could be discharged did she freshened up a little. Zack didn't come in the morning, but he ordered breakfast for her. After

her
injections were done, without
waiting for
Zack, she packed her things up
and sat on
the bed. There weren't many
things for her
to pack anyway.

Zack arrived at around one,
looking
flustered. When he saw that
Sophia was
done, he quickly took her stuff.

"Let's go. I
have business to settle, but I
figured I
should pick you up first before
going to
work.

"

Sophia followed him out.

"What
happened?
You look like you're in a hurry.

"

"Yeah.

" Zack grunted.

"There's
a conference
at Infinity Group. Both the boss
and I will be

attending.

”

She furrowed her brows.

“I

thought there’s

a banquet tonight. Is it

consecutive?”

He nodded.

“Yeah. We’re

probably going

there after the conference.

”

She gave it some thought.

“So

you’ll be going

with him tonight.

”

He didn’t even hesitate before

answering,

“Yeah, of course I’m going.

You’re fine now.

During the banquet, there’s

bound to be some

people the boss needs to attend

to. If I’m

there, it will be easier on him.

”

Sophia nodded meaningfully.

“I

see.

” Then

she smiled.

“This is perfect,
then.
”

Zack didn't stop to think what she meant by that. All he did was grunt.

The Returning Ex Chapter 25
After sending her back to the hotel, Zack went back to his work. Sophia took a bath and called for room service so she could have her favorite food. When she was done enjoying herself, she killed time by lying on the bed.

John and Zack should be in the conference by now. Sophia looked outside the window and squinted, remembering the woman beside John that night.

Even though they didn't say a word to each other, it was as if a big fight had broken out between them. Sophia could

feel the woman's
belligerence toward her, and
she knew John
could feel her enmity toward
his companion.

Why else would he scoff at me
and snort
when nobody was looking?
That memory vexed her. When
dusk had
arrived, Zack told her they were
at the
banquet. Sophia sat up and
replied,
'Okay.
,

She felt smug, for having a spy
there made it
convenient for her. Then, she
went to pick a
dress and took her time doing
her makeup.

Doing makeup wasn't an easy
thing, and
Sophia dragged it out.
Thanks to that, it took her one
hour before
she exited the hotel all dolled
up as she
slowly walked on her high
heels.

Zack had sent her the location,
so Sophia
hailed a ride there. The banquet
was held in a
luxurious restaurant, and every
guest needed
to show their invitation card
before
admittance was allowed.
Sophia had nothing like that,
but she wasn't
in a hurry either, so she took a
stroll outside
and sat beside a flowerbed
nearby.
The flowers were blooming
inside, so Sophia
plucked one and put it above
her ear. A
moment later, she started
smiling.
After sitting there for a while,
Zack
messed her, telling her to
wait at the
hotel's front door. She couldn't
enter the
banquet hall, but not the hotel,
so she came
to the front door a while later.
Zack was

waiting for her, but from the looks of it, he drank a lot.

“Why did you drink so much?”

She smiled.

Zack couldn't smile back at her.

“I think we were set up.

”

“Is that so?” She arched her eyebrow.

Zack reeked of alcohol.

“I think they're here for your ex-husband. Come with me. I don't think I can do this myself.

”

Sophia was surprised.

“What do you mean?”

Zack took her into the hotel without any explanation. Since Sophia was all dolled up, and Zack obviously came from the banquet hall, the waiter didn't stop them.

Instead of taking her to the

lobby, he took her to a waiting room. Then, he told her to stay here while he went outside to settle something.

Sophia wasn't going to agree to that.

"You expect me to wait? I'm here to mess things up, so how should I do that if I wait?"

Zack looked serious.

"I don't have time to explain, so just listen to me and stay here."
"

Then, he left the room.

Sophia glared at him, but she listened to his advice and stayed inside. The waiting room was decked out with a sofa and a table that had snacks on it. She went to the windowsill and looked outside, the traffic unfurling before her. A few moments

later, someone
opened the door.
Instead of looking back to see
who it was,
she sighed.
“You’re back,
” she
grumbled.
“I
don’t want to wait, you hear
me? I want that
woman to suffer! She must feel
the pain! I
mean, I’m rich, so I can’t just
take that hit
lying do—” Before she could
finish, someone
leaned against her, and he
reeked of alcohol.
Sophia almost jumped, but
before the
scream could escape her mouth,
she
swallowed it back once the
person talked.
“Is that you, Sophia?” John
asked, and at the
same time, he tried to undress
her. Sophia’s
dress was easy to take off
anyway.

Sophia turned around to push him away.

“Hey, hey, hey, what’s wrong with you? Stop—”

When she saw John though, she stopped, for he looked obviously off.

His eyes were bloodshot, and he was drenched in sweat. He had no time to explain, so John held her shoulder and kissed her.

Sophia was shocked, for John looked so similar to the night they were divorced, but she thought having sex here was a bit inappropriate. It wasn’t that John cared though, for he tore her dress apart easily.

The Returning Ex Chapter 26
Sophia almost screamed as she pushed him away and tried to cover herself up with what little fabric was left.

“What are

you doing?

There are people out there!

**Can't you hold it
in?"**

**John let her go and took a deep
breath in an
attempt to push his lust down.**

**Meanwhile,
Sophia took a few steps back,
but she didn't
look away from him.**

**"What's
wrong, John?
You seem off.
"**

**John panted.
"Lock the door.
"**

**Sophia frowned, but before she
could say
anything, John came to pull the
blinds down,
much to her chagrin.**

**"Just go,
"**

**John told
her.**

**He raised his voice, looking
flustered.**

**Thinking about the situation,
she recalled**

that John never talked that way
to her, so
Sophia went to lock the door,
but she leaned
against the door.

“Tell me what
happened.

”

John closed his eyes, and his
chest heaved.

Snorting, Sophia said,

“Zack told
me someone
set you up. Why? Wh—” Before
she could
finish, John suddenly went up
to her.

He pinned her against the door
and kissed
her again, this time stronger
than earlier.

Noticing that he felt hot to the
touch,

Sophia also realized that his
hair was wet.

His sweat slid down to his chin
and fell to the
ground.

Sophia was shocked by the
sudden kiss, and
she wanted to push him away,

but he knew
she was going to do that, so he
held her hand
and pinned her down. Even
though she was
surprised that he would do that,
Sophia
wasn't afraid of this, since they
were
married for a year, so kissing
was normal, but
John certainly looked off.
John started moving randomly.
After kissing
her for a bit, he bit her neck. A
stab of pain
shot up, and she gasped. Sophia
tried to
struggle free, but she couldn't.
After she failed to push him
away, Sophia
gave up. She was here to mess
things up in
the first place, and with him
here, her plan
was considered a success. So,
she leaned
back against the door and took
a deep
breath.
"Are you drugged,

John?"

John paused for a moment, and he regained some sense.

"Yes.

" He buried his head in her neck.

Sophia snorted.

"It's that woman, isn't it?

You don't like her?"

John started kissing her neck.

"I can't get used to anyone aside from you.

"

Sophia blinked.

"I wonder if I should feel honored,
" she said quietly.

John held her shoulder, then he yanked her from the door and switched places with her.

A moment later, he pushed her to the sofa.

Sophia stopped struggling, so after a moment

of thought, she hugged his neck.
“Do you love
me, John?” John heard that,
and he
understood her, for he paused
for a moment,
but then he continued stripping
her off
quietly.
Being a germaphobe, John even
took his suit
off and put it under Sophia.
When Sophia lay
down, she frowned in disdain
for herself.
John was just going with his
instincts
because of the drug, so it had
nothing to do
with how he felt about her.
She should have pushed him
away, for they
were now unrelated, so she
wasn't obliged to
do this for him. Even though
that was what
she thought, Sophia still held
him tightly.
He was who she loved, but her
love was
torturing her. Feeling disgusted

by how
hypocritical she was, she closed
her eyes
when he kissed her.

The Returning Ex Chapter 27

The aphrodisiac was strong, and
Sophia
wondered what the perpetrator
wanted from
him when that person did this.

Halfway
through, she winced at him.

“That should be
it, John. The aphrodisiac should
be dying
down now.
”

John regained some of his
composure, so he
snorted. Sophia could hear his
breathing, for
he was right beside her.

“Don’t
you love
this?” he said hoarsely. John
wouldn’t say
that, usually, but the
aphrodisiac worked too
well.

Sophia closed her eyes and let
herself go.

“Oh, of course I love it. I want it that way.”

John paused, and Sophia knew her luscious voice lit his flames. Well, he can't be angry, since he doesn't have the right to. Not when he forced himself on me.

A moment later, Sophia heard someone twisting the doorknob.

“What are you doing locking the door, Sophia? Come out right now!

I can't find Boss!” Sophia pursed her lips and patted John's shoulder, then he stopped, responding to the request.

Sophia tried to catch her breath before replying,

“He's with me.

” She tried to sound normal, but Zack kept quiet for a long while.

Closing her eyes, Sophia

thought whether
she should explain.

Then, Zack said,
“Oh, um, carry
on, then.

” He
sounded awkward, and Sophia
covered her
face.

John waited for a moment, then
Zack left.

Panting, Sophia asked,
“Don’t
you feel
embarrassed, Mr. Constance?”

John smiled and kissed her.

“No.
”

He’s shameless! She didn’t
know what to say.

It was merry outside, and since
this room
wasn’t soundproof, she could
hear the sounds
of heels and laughter from
outside.

“Can you
tone it down?” She thumped his
shoulder.

Instead of answering, he asked,
“Why are

you here?" He was trying to find somewhere to cool down alone, or until Zack found him, but after coming into this room, he saw her.

Why am I here? Sophia's mind was muddled with answers, so she paused for a moment.

"Maybe it's because I don't like her.

" The

woman beside John back then looked worse than her, and she must be poorer too. How dare she look down on me and scoff after that disdainful look of hers? Even though she knew that John would marry someone else sooner or later after the divorce, she hated it. She just hated that kind of woman standing beside him.

Even if he wasn't hers, that woman shouldn't be his next partner. She came

here on this
day to trip them up, especially
that woman.
John grunted, and he didn't ask
what she
meant. As Sophia stared at the
ceiling, she
thought that she was being
childish. She
slowly closed her eyes, and
another question
popped up.

"John, were you
drugged that
night too?"

John didn't hide it.

"Yes.
"

God f*cking d*mn it. Sophia
wanted to curse.

Why is it every time he has sex
with me, he's
drugged? Even though Sophia
was f*cked
now, she wasn't going to admit
it.

"Thank me
then. If not because of me, you
would have
been sleeping with a random
woman,

**” she said
after a cold snort.
The Returning Ex Chapter 28
When John was done, it was
still noisy
outside. Sophia sat on the sofa
with John’s
shirt underneath her. She
couldn’t wear her
dress now, so she sat there,
dangling her long
and slender legs.**

**“Tell me how
I’m supposed
to go out now.
”**

**“Zack will come back with some
clothes.
”**

**John smoked before the
window, not looking
back.**

Sophia nodded.

**“At least I still
have him.
”**

**She picked up her dress and
looked at it
closely. Yep. I can’t wear this.
She crumpled
it up and tossed it into the trash**

can before
going back to the sofa to scroll
through her
phone.

The Collum guy back at the
plane texted her,
asking her what she was doing.

Sophia
noticed he had sent it a while
ago, but she
was probably f*cking with John,
so she didn't
hear the beep. So, she texted
him back,
saying she was bathing, so she
didn't hear
her phone.

Not long after she texted him,
Collum called
her. She set her phone on
vibration mode,
but John heard it too. Even so,
he kept
smoking without missing a beat.

He was naked
from the waist up, and he was
barefooted.

After glancing at him, she
turned back to her
phone to take the call.

"Miss Gwendolyn,

” Collum said.

“What is it?”

Collum chuckled.

“I have time

tomorrow, so

where are you now? If you’re

still in Tri Asel,

we can go out on a trip. I know

a few good

places.

”

Sophia looked down at her feet

with a smile.

“A trip, huh? I’m not sure if I

have time

tomorrow, and I haven’t settled

on my

itinerary for it.

”

“I see.

” Collum wasn’t

disappointed.

“Sure. I’ll

call you tomorrow then. See if

you have

time.

”

Sophia said okay happily, but

after hanging

up, she stopped smiling. She

played around

with her phone, and the silent
John finally
said,

“Why didn’t you go out
with him? Aren’t
you here to wind down? You
should go out and
relax.

”

Sophia looked at her phone.

“I
don’t have to
go out with him. I have another
suitor, so I
want to see if he’ll ask me out
tomorrow,

” she
said softly.

John paused.

“Sure. Always
keep your
choices open.

” He smiled.

Sophia smiled back.

“Of course.

We have to
compare when it comes to
this.

” Looking back
at John, she asked,

“Don’t you

think so, Mr.

Constance?”

John looked back at her. Her hair tumbled down to her chest, covering her nipples.

While she was smiling, her breasts appeared fairer than usual, and because she just had sex, there was a luscious gleam in her eyes.

Sophia was looking more alluring than she ever did.

John paused for a moment and looked back outside the window.

“I don’t have to keep my choices open.

” He was arrogant, but he wasn’t wrong. Since every woman would flock to him anyway, so he didn’t need to keep his choices open.

Sophia chuckled.

“Of course. I forgot that

**you don't need to keep your
choices open.
Just say the word, and they'll
come to you.**

”

**John smiled, then he put out his
cigarette.**

**There was nothing more to say
after that, so**

**Sophia texted Zack, asking him
when he**

would send the clothes over.

**Zack didn't reply, so Sophia
wondered if he**

had seen it. Then, Sophia

looked at John. He

**was looking outside with his
phone in one**

**hand and the other in his
pocket, standing**

perfectly upright.

The Returning Ex Chapter 29

**Everyone said an aloof man was
more**

attractive than a passionate one.

Sophia

didn't believe that, but when

she saw John,

she felt that they had a point.

However, one

of the reasons for that was that

**John was
hot.**

**One look from him would deter
everyone
from getting closer, but Sophia
was drawn in.**

**She closed her eyes, thinking
she was a
failure. Being with someone like
him would
get her nothing but despair.**

**A moment later, someone
knocked on the
door.**

**“Boss?” Zack lowered his
voice.**

**John went to take it. Even
though Sophia was
naked, she still sat on the sofa,
unafraid.**

**John opened the door by a few
millimeters
and extended his hand to take
the bag of
clothes.**

**“Um, is Sophia walking
normal?” Zack asked
cheekily.**

**John frowned, and Zack
hurriedly closed the
door. Even though he lowered**

his voice,
Sophia heard what he said. She
pursed her
lips and blushed. Even though
she could flirt
and talk dirty with John, that
was only him.

If it was someone else, she
would blush.

Zack sent them two people's
worth of
clothes. Then, John came over
and handed
Sophia's clothes to her.

"Wear
it.
"

She took it languidly.
John stood beside the table and
put his bag
on it before taking his clothes
out. There
was a pair of pants, a white
shirt, and a pair
of shoes inside. Then, Sophia
looked at her
clothes.

She had a lot in her bag, so
Sophia put it all
out on the sofa. There were her
underwear, a

short-sleeved shirt, a pair of
short pants,
and a pair of white shoes.
John wore his clothes as quickly
as he took it
off. As he buttoned his clothes,
John looked
at what Zack brought for Sophia.
Honestly,
Zack's aesthetics were... ahead
of his time,
for he had chosen some sexy
underwear for
Sophia, which made John
frown.
Sophia picked it up and blushed.
Why did he
pick this for me? I mean, how
could he buy
this from the sales assistant
with a straight
face? She paused for a moment,
but still,
Sophia wore her clothes.
It fitted her perfectly, aside
from her
shoes. They were a bit big, but
it didn't
hinder her. After she was done,
Sophia stood
up to walk around.

**“Alright. We
can go now.
”**

**John looked at her for a
moment and nodded.
It was still merry outside, so
John went
ahead of her and opened the
door by a few
centimeters. Zack was still
outside, so when
he saw the door being opened,
he leaned
closer to look at Sophia.**

**“We
can go now.
”**

**Sophia felt unnerved, but she
nodded in
assent.**

Zack looked at John.

**“We’ll go
through the
side door. Mr. McCaw is looking
for you.
”**

John snorted.

**“Bold of him to
look for me.
”**

Zack looked at Sophia and said,

“Yeah.

”

Sophia pretended she didn't hear that. With Zack here, she couldn't be too flirty.

However, she would have teased John if they were alone. Zack brought them and left through the side gate, while a car waited for them outside.

Zack went to the passenger seat, while John and Sophia sat in the backseat. Exhausted, Sophia leaned against the door, while John took out his phone to text someone.

Zack looked at her through the rear-view mirror and gave her a thumbs up. After rolling her eyes, she looked outside.

Everywhere felt sore for her, and she only wanted to sleep.

Now that she knew he only

f*cked her under
substance influence, all her
mood was killed.
She thought he had fallen for
her charm
back then, but now she knew
she was thinking
too much.

The Returning Ex Chapter 30
The car didn't stop at the hotel
they were
staying in. Instead, Sophia
asked the driver
to stop when they were a
distance away from
it, much to John and Zack's
surprise.

After the car had stopped,
Sophia smiled at
them before going out of the
car.

"I'll be
leaving now. You guys go ahead
without me.
"

John looked back and said
nothing. After
Sophia had closed the door, he
told the
driver to start driving. Zack
looked at John

from the rear-view mirror to see that he was scrolling through his phone.

Then, Zack looked at Sophia from the side mirror.

She looked like a naive lady with her getup, and slowly, she faded from their sights.

“Is Sophia worried someone might bump into us and take it the wrong way if we go back together?”

John said nothing, so Zack continued,

“I mean, she has a suitor staying in this hotel too, so it’s not great if he sees us together. I can understand why.”

John slowly looked up at him.

“What are you trying to say?”

“Nothing.”

” Zack chuckled.

“Just

saying.

”

John sneered at him, but he said nothing.

On the other hand, Sophia slowly went

toward the hotel, since it wasn't too far

anyway. It was lively here; there were

hawker shops and stalls set up everywhere.

Sophia went around, but before she came to

the hotel, she bumped into a familiar person.

Seeing that Trevor was buying souvenirs of

some sort from the local vendor, Sophia went

up to him and patted his back.

“Hi.

”

Trevor was surprised, so he

looked back and

stared at Sophia for a few

moments before

recognizing Sophia.

“Oh, it's

you. I didn't

recognize you.

”

Sophia smiled.

“Are you buying something?”

Trevor quickly paid for his stuff before facing her.

“When I came back to the beach with the gastric medicine that night, you were gone.

”

Sophia was still smiling.

“I was hospitalized. Internal bleeding, so I stayed there for a couple of days.

”

Trevor was shocked.

“That sounds serious.

”

Sophia nodded.

“It’s chronic. I just got discharged today.

” It was late, so she looked in the hotel’s direction.

**“Do you
have
anything else to do? Why don’t
we go back
together then?”**

Trevor quickly said,

“Oh, sure.

Let’s go.

”

**With that, they sauntered back
to the hotel.**

**When they came to the front
door, Sophia
noticed the car stopping not far
from the
front door; it was the car with
John in it.**

**Sophia couldn’t see who was in
there, but she
didn’t care. Then, she asked
where Trevor
had gone over the couple of
days, while he
answered everything excitedly.**

**When they came into the lobby
happily, Zack
and John were inside too. John
was speaking
on the phone beside the bonsai
at the front
door, while Zack stood not far**

away.

Sophia saw both of them when she came in,

but she pretended not to see them. Since

Trevor was talking about some interesting

things he saw, she chuckled.

“Really? That sounds interesting.

”

Trevor was smiling too.

“Are

you free

tomorrow? If you are, we can go out

together. There’s a place here that has great

scenery, so why don’t we go there

tomorrow?”

Sophia pursed her lips.

“Oh,

um...

” She

glanced at John and Zack; the latter noticed

her gaze, so he tugged at John’s arm,

signaling him to look her way.

When she went

past them, Sophia nodded.

“Sure. What time tomorrow?”

Trevor was delighted that she agreed.

“Let’s make it earlier. It’ll be too hot if we go late.

I’ll give you a morning call at around five tomorrow. What do you say?”

“Sure.”

After that, Sophia heard Zack say,

“Did you hear that? They’re going out together, alone!” He didn’t bother to lower his voice.

The Returning Ex Chapter 31
Sophia didn’t look at John and Zack at all.

Instead, she followed Trevor over to the elevator. He pressed the button for his floor first, and Sophia smiled a little before she pressed the button for two floors above his.

As the lift went up, Trevor asked Sophia how long she was planning to stay here. Flustered, she thought for a moment before simply saying, "I think I'll be leaving soon. My friend has asked me to go somewhere else."

He seemed a little regretful when he heard this.

"Ah, that's rather soon."

She nodded before saying, "It's fine. We can keep in touch in the future."

The elevator came to a halt on Trevor's floor, and she waved goodbye to him as he stepped out of it. Once the elevator shut its doors, she pressed the button for one floor above. Leaning against the walls of the

elevator, she
let out a huge sigh. It was
torturous having
to put on a smile in front of
strangers,
especially when she felt like she
couldn't
smile at all.

She headed to her room once
the elevator
doors opened. After throwing
her phone on
the bed, she rushed off to take
a shower—
her entire body was sticky and
sweaty,
causing her great discomfort. As
she
showered, she glanced
downward to see two
bruises at each side of her
waist.

John, that b*stard, really didn't
hold back.

Feeling exhausted, she simply
took a quick
shower before changing into
her clothes and
stepping out.

She had had some fruits earlier,
but their

activities were too energy consuming and had drained her stomach empty.

She therefore called for room service and ordered loads of good food.

However, even after what felt like a really long time, the room service didn't arrive. As such, she rolled off the bed, got up, and went out of the room.

The walkway was empty, and there were no signs of any waiters heading toward her room. She walked over to the elevator to check if her delivery was arriving. The elevator doors indeed opened once she went over, but the people that came out were not delivery workers.

"Why are you guys here?" she asked, stunned. John didn't respond to this; he

simply threw her a glance
before walking to
his room. Zack, on the other
hand, stopped
by the entrance of the elevator
and replied,
“We stay on this floor too.”

Sophia smiled at
this.

That’s right; Zack even booked
connecting
seats for John and I, so having
rooms on the
same floor is really not much of
a surprise.

She nodded.

“Alright,
” she
uttered before
turning around to look at John’s
leaving
figure. He was headed to his
room, which was
relatively far from hers—there
were a
number of rooms between
them.

Zack eyed her motionlessly.

“Do
you have

plans tomorrow? With that
guy?”

She nodded as she answered,
“Yeah. Why?”

“You’re pretty daring for a
young lady. You’
re

going out with him even though
you’ve just
met him?” he exclaimed
indignantly.

This got Sophia to laugh.

“We’ll
always be two
people who have ‘just met’ if I
never go out
with him.
”

He stared at her for a while
then, evidently
frustrated by her words. His
voice was low
and suppressed as he said,

“Tell
me the
truth. Have you really lost all
interest in your
ex-husband? Perhaps if you try
a little
harder—”

She simply chuckled a little

before
interrupting him and saying,
“Hey, don’t
overthink it.
” She turned
around toward her
own room, the smile on her
face wiped clean
and replaced by a cold gaze.
Why do I have to be the one to
try hard?
Haven’t I tried hard enough in
the past? Why
does it have to be me? Do I
deserve to be
bootlicking all the time? What a
joke. She
got back to her room and
leaned against her
door after closing it behind her.
She felt a sense of frustration
and
discomfort in her chest, but her
anger also
reminded her of something
important. It
wasn’t her safe period in her
menstrual cycle,
and John hadn’t used any
protection earlier
during their activities.

Sophia shut her eyes and cursed to herself. I can't believe I have to take pills that will harm my body. What did I do to deserve this? She continued thinking about this issue even as she was eating after the room service delivered her meal. She felt increasingly uneasy at the thought of it. She immediately gave Zack a call. He was quick to pick it up. "What is it?" She asked to check, "You're in your own room, right?" With a pause, he replied, "Yeah. What is it?" She sighed before saying, "Help me get some morning-after pills. I'm not in my safe

period.

”

Gradually, Zack turned his head toward the

man beside him as he exclaimed softly and repeated,

“Morning-after pills,

huh.

”

Unaware of anything that was going on on

their end, she answered,

“Go on.

An

unintended pregnancy would be bad news.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 32

Zack’s gaze remained on the man beside him

as he asked,

“Um, do you need it right now?”

Sophia laughed at this.

“What’s

the use of it

if you’re going to give it to me after 72

hours?”

He pursed his lips before he

replied,

“Well,

um... okay.

” His answer seemed

to be a little

forced. She ended the call right after this.

Zack slowly put his phone down as he said,

“Boss, about the pills, I—”

“Go on and buy it. We can discuss the rest

once you

’re back.

” John had his head

buried

in piles of documents as he sat on the couch

by a side. He didn’t sound too troubled by it.

Zack was surprised to see this as he asked,

“Are you really going to let her take the pills, my kind boss?”

John paused for a moment before he lifted

his head up and answered,

“I

have no other

option this time.

**” The situation
had gotten
out of control, just like the last
time.**

**This time, he felt even a little
more dazed
and unconscious than the last.
However, he
wasn’t sure if anything might go
wrong as
they didn’t use any protection
the last time
either.**

With a long sigh, Zack agreed.

“Alright,

” he

**said as he walked toward the
door. But his
footsteps then came to a halt as
he asked**

**again, with a soft and
inquisitive tone,**

“Why

**didn’t you guys try to have kids
in the past?”**

**John seemed a little stunned as
he pressed**

his brows together. He had

never thought

about this question of having

children with

Sophia. It had never been a part of his plan.

**After a few seconds, he placed his documents down and leaned against the couch as he said,
“Go get the pills.
”**

With that response, Zack knew that he wouldn't be able to get any more answers. He didn't attempt again, and instead, left the place immediately. Once he left, John stood up and walked over to the window. The night sea breeze was strong, and the air tasted a little salty. He took a cigarette out and ran it beneath his nose without lighting it up. Children, he thought. He never used any protection with Sophia in the past, but they never got pregnant either.

She probably wanted children; I sometimes saw her secretly calculating the dates.

She even set an alarm in her phone to remind her when it was her ovulation period. He had always felt rather annoyed by her meticulous ways of calculating dates, so he often found excuses to spend more time at work or fall asleep in the study whenever this happened.

Sophia never actually told him whether this bothered her. For the longest time, he felt like she was merely trying to get a child in order to latch on to him. After all, she was miserably poor before she got married into the Constance Family—she probably wanted to seize this opportunity to get back up on her feet once again.

Now, she no longer wanted this,
probably
because the benefits of their
divorce was
enough to satisfy her needs.
That was why
she no longer insisted on having
a child.

John crumpled the cigarette in
his palm and
threw it out the window.

Zack dropped by and knocked
on Sophia's
front door before she finished
her meal. She
still had food in her mouth as
she opened the
door and said,
"You're pretty
fast."
"

He stood at the entrance and
looked into the
room as he asked,
"You're
eating?"
After taking the pills from him,
she turned
and walked toward the dining
table while
replying,

**“I hadn’t eaten much,
so I felt
hungry.**

**” She took the two pills
out, each to
be consumed at a separate time.
She had
never eaten these pills, so she
paid a lot of
attention as she read the
manual.**

**Zack hesitated for a moment
before he
followed her in and said,
“You
don’t actually
need to eat this. If you really
get pregnant,
then perhaps...**

”

**She scoffed as she turned
around and looked
at him,
“Perhaps what? Perhaps
I’ll get to
mess around with your boss for
a while more?
I think I’ve had enough.**

**” She
dug a pill out
and swallowed it without any**

water.

“We’

ve

gotten a divorce; why is there a

need for us

to still get tangled up in each

other’s

business?

If I really couldn’t bear to leave

him, I

wouldn’t have signed the

divorce papers so

gladly in the first place.

” The pill

might have

caused discomfort in her throat,

so Sophia

then hurriedly took her glass up

to sip on her

juice.

Zack felt oddly uneasy as he

watched her

acting this way. With a soft sigh,

he said,

“It

might have been my fault this

time. I

shouldn’t have made my own

decisions in

arranging for t

the two of you to come

together.

”

“It’s fine. I don’t think it’s a big deal,

” she

spoke with a laugh. Perhaps

John might have

another woman under his

blankets tonight if

it weren’t for the fact that I’m

here.

With the current mental state

that Sophia

was in, she didn’t wish for that

to happen

just yet. However, she then

thought of

something.

“If I do get pregnant,

the

Constance Family probably

would want the

baby, right?”

The Returning Ex Chapter 33

Zack seemed a little stunned by

Sophia’s

words. She then burst into

laughter as she

explained,

“I was just fooling

around; you

don't have to take me so seriously.

" To change the topic, she gestured toward him.

"Come and eat with me. You've had a lot to drink just now, and I'm sure you haven't gotten much to eat.

" She ordered a little too much, and she definitely wouldn't be able to finish her food.

"Your stomach is weak, so you shouldn't eat so much of these spicy foods,
"

he remarked as he glanced at the dishes on the table. He then looked at the time before he continued,
"I'm not going to stay for food as I still have some documents to review. You know your ex-husband; he'd murder me if I ever neglected my work.
"

Sophia only nodded.

**“Alright;
you should head
back to work, then. We can
have a meal when
you have the time; we haven’t
eaten together
in a while.**

”

**“Sure,
” he answered with a
nod.**

**She didn’t see him out and
instead sat down
and continued to consume her
meal slowly.**

**Every now and then, she
glanced at the other
pill placed on the table from the
side of her
eye. Although the pill definitely
eased a lot
of her troubles, she couldn’t
help but feel a
little uneasy since this was her
first time
taking it.**

**Right then, her moving
chopsticks came to a
halt as she felt a sudden need
to simply laugh**

at herself. I've never gotten pregnant although I didn't use any contraceptives in the past.

I don't think it'll happen this time—I'm just being paranoid about it. She placed her chopsticks down once again as she felt her mood being impacted by all her thoughts.

There was a minifridge in the room that had juice and other canned drinks. She went over and got herself a canned drink, which felt cold against her skin, before heading over to the window and looking out. She had actually lost her appetite to eat. Looking out, there were only a few people left at the beach; they looked like they were out for a walk. Sophia let out a slight laugh after watching

them for a while. I don't know why, but I feel like I've been especially hypocritical ever since I came out here. Although there weren't many people who really acknowledged my existence in the Constance Family, at least I had people around me back then. Now, I just feel extremely lonely. She waited for a little longer before she got herself changed and left her room. There was a small bar downstairs that was only accessible for guests. Sophia hadn't planned on entering, but it was the time of the night where the place was buzzing with activity, and it caught her eye as she passed by. Without holding herself back, she headed

over and found an empty spot
before sitting
down in a corner. The waiter
hurried over to
take her order.

“Do you have
sky juice?” she
asked with a smile.

The waiter was a little surprised,
but he
simply nodded and replied,
“Yes,
we do.
”

She couldn't drink alcohol, but
she could still
manage some snacks, so she got
herself some
crisps and fruits. With her legs
crossed, she
glanced around the bar before
her gaze
landed on a singer who was
performing on a
little stage near her.

The person caught her attention
as he was
strumming on a guitar while he
sang. It was a
song with a foreign language,
and she didn't

understand its words, but the
gentle and
soft melody captured her heart.
Once her food and drinks
arrived, she took a
sip out of her glass of water.
Right then, the
singer's eyes scanned the crowd,
and their
gazes met. With her hand
holding onto the
glass of water, she lifted it in a
small gesture
toward the singer, to which the
singer smiled
in return.
She then took a sip before
leaning backward
against her chair. Is this what it
feels like
being single? I can just flirt with
anyone,
anywhere; it feels pretty great.
Most of the guests at the bar
were couples,
but there were a few who came
alone. She
was no longer bothered by it as
she ate two
pieces of fruit before flipping
her phone out.

She didn't have many friends,
and she
couldn't even find a person that
she wanted
to text. Finally, she decided to
text Zack.

'Come over for a bit once you're
done
reviewing your documents.

' She
attached a
video of the singer performing
the foreign
song after she sent the message
over.

Soon enough, Zack responded
with a text.

'You're out again? That's quick.
,

She giggled.

As she was in the mood to fool
around, she
replied,

'I'm out to see if I can
find myself a
young man to spend the night
with me.

' Even
she felt like she was a little too
shameless
after she sent the text.

The Returning Ex Chapter 34

Zack no longer responded to Sophia's text

after that. Perhaps he's occupied. She held onto her phone for a while longer before she eventually left it aside.

She was well-aware that she was only acting this way because she was bored out of her mind. After getting a divorce, she hadn't gotten a chance to adapt to her new life, and she had to find some things to do for herself. But so what if I'm able to find something to do?

Even if I managed to turn the Earth upside down, it's still a fact that we're divorced.

He's now a man that no longer belongs to me, a man who won't pay any more attention to me. With that thought, she then realized

how pointless and boring it was
to act the
way she did.

Sophia downed the rest of the
water in her
glass before standing up. The
singer on the
tiny stage had just finished his
song and
happened to be getting off the
stage at the
same time. As she headed to
the exit, the
singer followed along with a
guitar in one
hand. The two of them came
face to face
with one another.

The singer flashed a smile at
Sophia.

“Hello.
”

She nodded and said,
“I loved
your singing,
although I couldn’t understand
the words.
”

The singer let out a laugh
before he asked,
“Are you alone?”

With a nod, she replied,

“Yeah.

**Do you want
to go for a walk?”**

**This must’ve come as a surprise
to the singer**

**as it was probably his first time
meeting**

**such a pretty yet forward
woman. He beamed**

**at her, his eyes forming a
crescent shape as**

he replied,

“Sure.

”

**The two of them had only taken
a few steps**

**out of the bar when Zack
appeared. He**

**seemed to have ran toward the
bar, as his**

**footsteps seemed a little
urgent.**

**However, he came to a half
when he saw an**

**unknown man standing beside
Sophia. She**

**kept a neutral and calm
expression on her**

**face as she made the first move
to greet**

Zack.

“I thought you weren’t coming.

”

“I was afraid it’d be dangerous for you to be alone,

” he explained in a rather agitated tone.

The singer didn’t seem to find things

awkward as he simply asked Sophia,

“Is he your friend?”

She nodded toward him before she turned

toward Zack and offered,

“Why don’t we all go for a walk together?”

Zack pursed his lips and thought for a while

before he said,

“No, thanks. You guys go

ahead.

” He then sized up the singer in front of him.

**“Do make sure to send
my sister back
later,**

**” he spoke with a rather
friendly tone.**

**The singer responded in a warm
and gentle
voice,**

**“Okay.
”**

**Zack watched as the two of
them left the
hotel, and he even followed
behind them for
a while longer. Once he saw
that they had
headed toward the beach, he
hurriedly
turned around and went to
John’s room.**

**John was surprised to see Zack
when he
opened the door, and he didn’t
seem to be
inviting Zack in.**

**“Is there
anything else?”**

**They were done with their work
earlier, and
it was late; John was about to
head to bed.**

Zack spoke through gritted teeth,
“Your ex-wife... Your ex-wife is going on a date with another man. They’ve headed to the beach; I saw it with my own eyes.”

John nodded.

“And then?”

This surprised Zack.

“And then?”

Aren’t you going to go take a look?”

John simply scoffed and shut the door

without saying anything.

With the door shut in his face,

Zack called

out and rapped the door a few times as he

said,

“Aren’t you worried at all?”

She’s all

alone; what if she gets bullied by him?”

The man inside didn’t seem to hear his words.

Refusing to give up, Zack continued,

“Do you

really not care? Won't you feel sad if she has someone else with her?" No sound came from inside the room.

Zack opened his mouth, as if he was about to continue talking. He had a lot to say, but after contemplating for a bit, he kept quiet.

It's their relationship after all; I might make things worse if I say or get involved too much in it.

He therefore waited for a while longer

before he said,

"That girl,

Sophia, can be a

little rash. I'm just afraid that

she might

make a wrong move just for the sake of

feeling less lonely after her divorce.

" The

man inside the room continued to remain

silent.

**“Alright; it’s late. Rest
well,
” Zack said
quietly.**

**John stood right behind the
door with his
face devoid of any emotion.**

**Once he was sure
that Zack had left, he turned
around and
went into his bathroom. After
stripping off
his clothes, he stood under the
shower and
closed his eyes.**

**He only opened them after a
short period of
silence, and he then turned
around to turn
off the tap. With a swift gesture,
he pulled
his towel over and dried the
water on him
before he headed out to change
his clothes.**

**He then got his phone and
stepped out of the
room.**

**Everything took only about ten
minutes. He
walked out while making a call**

to Sophia. The
phone rang for a long while, but
no one
answered his call. He rarely
cursed, but he
then muttered,
“F*ck.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 35

John hastily headed out, with
water still
dripping from his wet hair. He
might've been
too rushed when he was drying
himself in the
shower earlier, and he didn't
even towel his
hair dry. He wore a cold and
stern expression
on his face, showing how much
of a bad mood
he was in.

It felt like he had only taken a
few steps out
from his room before he arrived
at the
elevator, but the elevator had
already gone
down when he got there.
He annoyedly jabbed the
button for the

elevator before waiting with his
brows
furrowed. Once the elevator
came, he went
down and immediately left the
hotel for the
beach.

There were still small groups of
twos and
threes hanging around at the
beach when he
arrived. The lighting at the area
was dim, and
some individuals who couldn't
control
themselves just hugged and
kissed one
another in public.

John found himself focusing on
these people,
but he stared at a few couples
only to find
that they weren't Sophia. He
ran his tongue
across the back of his teeth.
If I hadn't promised Old Mr.
Constance that
I would take good care of
Sophia for the
rest of her life, I wouldn't even
have come

out to the beach. With that thought, he continued to walk further down the beach.

At the same time, both Sophia and the singer were indeed standing by the sea, feeling the breeze against their faces as they chit?chatted. She found out that the singer was a drifter that traveled all over the country.

He said that he'd stay once he found a good place and leave whenever he got bored. With her arms wrapped around her shoulders, she asked,

“Why haven't you thought of settling down?”

The singer smiled as he explained,

“Perhaps I haven't found the right person to make me want to settle down.

” He then turned toward

her.

“What about you? Was that really your brother?”

She shook her head.

“No, he’s just a friend.

He’s here for work, but I’m here for...

” She paused and lowered her head with a light chuckle.

“I’m here to heal myself, I guess. I got a divorce just recently.

” She was simply too desperate to find herself a listener, someone who’d let her talk.

Her words clearly came as a shock to the singer. He looked at her for a little before he said,

“You look really young; I wouldn’t have expected you to be married.

” He

paused.

“Why did you get a divorce? Did you guys have a fight? Or was it a matter of someone doing something morally incorrect?”

She shook her head again.

“No; no one did anything wrong. It was simply because he didn’t love me anymore. Why should I hold onto a man that doesn’t love me, right?” She turned to the singer and smiled lightly. He was at a loss for words then. With his guitar still in his hand, he contemplated for a moment before he offered, “Why don’t I sing you a song? I’m bad at comforting people.”

Sophia thought of the slow, melodious song that she had heard

at the bar earlier and how much she liked it.

She therefore nodded and said, "Sure.

"

The singer then sat himself down on a huge rock nearby, cleared his voice, and began to sing while he strummed on the guitar.

Sophia stood beside him, her body facing toward the ocean and her hair ruffled by the sea breeze. The singer's voice was muffled by the sound of the wind, and she couldn't hear it too clearly, but she felt an oddly depressing sensation in her chest regardless.

Up to this point in life, she had been through countless experiences—most of them bad ones—but she had never cried over them.

She was never good at expressing her

emotions through her tears, but
right then,
she didn't seem to have control
over her
feelings. With a smile still on
her face, she
rubbed her hands across her
eyes as she
said,
"I don't know what's up
with me; my
eyes are a little
uncomfortable."
"

The singer glanced at her, his
voice pausing
for a moment before he
continued. John
arrived to see this scene
happening. Sophia
was standing by the ocean, with
her face in
her hands and her body
hunched downward a
little.
She was already a skinny and
small-framed
girl to begin with, and she
looked especially
pitiful now that she was curled
up like this.

He didn't even pay any attention to the man beside her as he watched how Sophia's shoulders were trembling. She might be crying, but the sound of the ocean drowned her cries. John simply stood on the spot and watched her without heading over immediately.

Once the singer finished the song, he thought for a while before he stood up and edged toward Sophia while reaching his arm out.

"I don't have anything to dry your tears; why don't I let you use my sleeve?"

It only took a short while for her to dry her tears before she laughed and replied,

"It's fine. The sea breeze dried most of it.

" The

singer watched her as he
heaved a sigh.
Then she tidied her hair up
before she
turned toward him and uttered,
“I feel a lot
better now. Your song...
” She
froze right
then, as she saw John standing
a distance
away from them.

The Returning Ex Chapter 36
Sophia glanced toward John,
who stood
rooted onto his spot. She no
longer continued
with the rest of her sentence.
After a while,
she turned back to the singer.
The singer hadn't noticed John's
presence
initially, and he flashed a smile
toward
Sophia as he said,
“Let's go; it's
time to go
back.
”

However, John walked toward
them then and

tugged onto Sophia's arm as he
said,
"It's
late. Go back with me."
"

She exclaimed in surprise when
he held onto
her,

"What're you doing here?"

But John

wasn't in the mood to explain
himself, and he

therefore held onto her wrist
before tugging

her toward the direction of the
hotel.

She protested and wailed as she
turned

around to look at the singer
behind her.

"My

friend's still here! My friend...

"

John's firm

grip remained on her arm as he
strode

forward and pulled her along,
as if he hadn't

heard her words at all.

The singer no longer followed
them as he

could tell that they knew each other. He simply waved toward Sophia when she turned around to glance at him. With large strides, John led Sophia all the way back to the hotel. He only let go of his grip once they were at the elevator; her wrist had a red mark around it by then. She held onto her wrist as she glared at him. "What are you doing?" John pushed the button for the elevator before he turned around to look at her. Her eyes were red, and her hair rather messy; her cheeks red and flushed as she panted, probably because it was tiring for her to keep up with his pace. This look... her look... He couldn't help but recall how Sophia looked when she was under

him just a while ago. Noticing this, he quickly averted his gaze and stared instead at the button of the elevator.

“It’s so late and you’re still out with a stranger; aren’t you afraid that it might be dangerous?”

She rotated and massaged her wrist while she furrowed her brows and said,

“What? I’d like to think that who I’m with and where I’m at is my own business.”

He scoffed in response to this, “Do you think I’d care for you if it weren’t for the fact that I had promised Grandpa to take good care of you?”

With a mocking expression on her face, she said,

**“Just forget it. You once
promised me
that we’d never get a divorce,
but look at us
now.**

**” As much as John hated to
admit it, her
words were indeed true, and he
couldn’t lose
his temper for it.**

**She glanced at the screen in the
elevator as
she continued,**

**“You’ve
promised me countless
things, but you can’t even fulfil
the first and
most basic ones, let alone all
the ones that
followed later.**

**” She paused for
a while, but
she couldn’t stop herself from
continuing.**

**“You can’t control me for the
rest of my life,
John. You’ll have other women
in the future,
and I’ll have other men. We
shouldn’t
continue with this muddled**

relationship
between us.

” The elevator door
opened, and
she stepped in.

In comparison to her
relatively-bloodshot
eyes, her expression was much
colder. After
some thought, John followed
her into the
elevator, and then Sophia
pressed the button
for their floor.

As the elevator moved upward,
she said,

“I’m
thankful for what you’ve done,
but there’s no
need to do the same thing in
the future.

From now on, whatever
happens is my
business; we no longer have a
relationship
with one another ever since we
signed the
divorce papers.

”

He gradually frowned a little
before relaxing

his facial muscles. He then
nodded and
uttered,
“Fine. I won’t meddle
with your
business in the future.
”

She no longer responded to him
after that.

Once the elevator arrived, John
stepped out
first. She stood still for a
moment before
exiting the elevator and stood
rooted to the
spot as he walked straight to his
own room.

She felt an ache in her chest
and only went
back to her room after waiting
for a while. It
was late, and she felt a little
under the
weather after standing in the
ocean breeze
earlier, so she took another
shower before
she went to bed.

Her phone was right beside her
pillow, and
she used it to send a message to

Zack. It simply instructed him to cancel the following schedules that he had arranged as she didn't feel like seeing John for the upcoming days. She told him that she'd arrange her own schedules in the future. Zack didn't reply to her message, perhaps because he hadn't seen it.

The Returning Ex Chapter 37
Sophia tossed and turned the entire night as she couldn't seem to sleep well. She was exhausted, but it felt like she only managed to fall asleep when it was nearly dawn. Once the skies turned bright, she woke up with her body feeling tired but her mind wide awake. She stood up and walked to the window, where she glanced out to find the place quiet

and empty, with no signs of any workers.

Everyone seemed to be especially active at night, so perhaps they were still in bed now.

After looking out the window for a while, she went to wash up and pack her items.

Her phone rang when she was almost done with packing. She knew who it was before she even looked at her phone, but she went over and checked it anyway. As expected, it was Trevor. She picked his call up.

“Miss Gwendolyn, are you awake?” He sounded bubbly and upbeat, his voice coated with a hint of joy.

“I am,
” she murmured. He then told her that he was already downstairs, to which she responded,
“Hold on; I’ll be

down in a minute.

”

She was already done with most of her packing, so she simply grabbed her bag and left the room. She caught sight of Zack right as she was about to head to the elevator. He looked well-groomed and was heading toward the elevator as well.

However, Sophia wasn't sure if John was in the elevator himself; she didn't feel like seeing him right then. Her sleep had just been disturbed by thoughts of him—both before and after their marriage—and she felt a little displeased whenever she thought of him now. The memories she recalled were all unpleasant ones, after all. She therefore slowed her footsteps down as she strolled bit by bit toward

the elevator,
hoping that she could just wait
for the next
one since she was in no hurry.
Zack had
already gone in, but he then
stepped out of
the elevator again as he grinned
toward her
and gestured for her to come
over.

“Oh, hurry up and come over!
Hurry; I’ll wait
for you!” She pulled a long face
as she
unwillingly walked over. To her
surprise, John
wasn’t in the elevator.

“Why
are you alone?
Where’s your boss?” she asked
as she walked
in.

He raised a brow as he
explained,
“Thanks to
the trick that someone pulled
yesterday,
your ex-husband now has some
of his own
matters to settle and therefore

**gave me a
day off.**

**I have the whole day to myself
today.**

” He

**then turned and looked toward
Sophia as he
asked,**

**“Where are you going all
dressed up
like this?”**

**“I’m heading out for a date with
someone,
”**

**she answered as she stared
straight at the
elevator buttons.**

**He blinked a few times before
he replied,**

**“Bring me along, then. I wanted
to go out, but**

**I was still looking for routes and
couldn’t**

**decide where to go, so I think
it’d be better**

if I just followed you.

With a cold scoff, she said,

“Go

walk around

**yourself. I didn’t offer to bring
you along.**

”

She walked out of the elevator once it arrived downstairs, and Zack tagged along behind her.

Trevor was already waiting at the lobby when she walked over and asked, “Are you all set?

Are we leaving now?”

Zack shamelessly followed behind her and said,

“I’m done with my packing too. Let’s go!”

Trevor had met Zack before as he was the man who was trying to flirt around with

Sophia at the beach previously.

With his

facial muscles tensed up, Trevor spoke,

“Y?You’

re...

”

Zack gave a casual and friendly response by saying,

“Oh, me? I just

happened to be free
today. Sophia and I had an
agreement, so
we
're all going out to have fun
together.
”

Sophia shot him an annoyed
glance. Ignoring
this, Zack grinned cheerily and
patted on
Trevor's shoulder as he said,
“Let's go.
I'll tell you more about myself
on the way
there.

” Trevor looked at Sophia
and saw that
she didn't seem to be against it,
so he had no
choice but to agree with a
frown on his face.
Zack walked next to Sophia and
whispered in
her ear when Trevor wasn't
paying attention
to them,
“I have a feeling that
your ex-husband has planned
all of this out when he
decided to give me a holiday

today.

”

She remained silent. He then continued,

“Your ex-husband was probably trying to give me a chance to follow you around. Don’t you see? That man actually still has feelings for you.

”

To this, she stared at him like he was a

madman and scoffed,

“Are you still living in dreamland?”

He raised his brows as he said,

“Look, why don’t you believe me? I told your ex-husband that I wanted to bring him along with you two yesterday night, but he told me he wasn’t interested before he gave me a day off.

He’d definitely feel too ashamed to follow along, but I’m not

ashamed—that’s why he sent me here as his spy. How could he think that I wouldn’t be able to see through his sneaky little plan?” Sophia simply rolled her eyes in disbelief. After some further contemplation, Zack said, “You don’t believe me, do you? Hold on; I’ll give your ex-husband a call.”

With that, he immediately pulled his phone out and made a call to John. John was already awake, and he was quick to pick the call up. “What is it?” With a cheeky grin, Zack said, “Boss, I’m already with Sophia now. Don’t worry; I have full control of all her schedules and everything else.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 38

**On the other end of the call,
John paused a
moment before he said that he
got the
message and ended the call.
Zack stared at
his phone for a while before he
cocked an
eyebrow at Sophia and said,
“Did you see
that? It was his intention for me
to follow
you along after all.
”**

**Sophia didn't respond to him
while she simply
tried to keep up with Trevor's
footsteps.
Deep down, she felt like John
was simply
brushing Zack off with such a
response.
There was a rental car waiting
for them
outside that Trevor had booked
earlier. Zack
quickly headed for the backseat
once he saw
this, while Sophia went to the
passenger's**

seat instead.

Trevor silently walked toward the back seat, but it was clear that the two men sitting in the back weren't the slightest bit interested in one another as they didn't even exchange glances in the car.

Sophia recalled how Trevor once called her his girlfriend. However, his words didn't seem to be too credible as he didn't act like he was her boyfriend at all. Despite this, he had had their journey all planned out, and the car headed straight for West Bay.

Throughout the ride, Sophia didn't ask where they were going but simply glanced out at the route they were taking. Although they were out early, there were already quite a number of people by the time they were

near to the
first destination.

“Where’re we
going first?”

she asked as she stared out the
window.

Trevor quickly replied,

“The

Edge of the

World is a really famous tourist
spot. I

thought of bringing you here as
you haven’t

visited this area before.

” He

automatically

ignored Zack’s presence as he
spoke.

Zack pulled a long face before
he brought his

phone out and sent a message
to John. John,

on the other hand, had just
gotten out of

bed and was changing his
clothes. His phone

was left at the side of the bed
before he

picked it up to look at the text.

‘That man brought your ex-wife
to see the

Edge of the World,
' the text
from Zack said.
John immediately deleted it
with an agitated
expression on his face.
He stepped out of the room and
headed to
the hotel's restaurant after he
was done
getting ready. Right as he
stepped into the
restaurant, his phone rang yet
again. He
glanced at the caller before
ignoring the call.
I haven't even dealt with the
issue that
happened last night during the
feast; how
dare this person shamelessly
call me now?
He ordered his meal and was
halfway through
his food when a woman
appeared at the
entrance of the restaurant. She
was dressed
for summer, wearing a long
floral dress and a
straw hat. He saw the woman

the minute she entered the restaurant, but he didn't respond to her.

The woman, on the other hand, caught sight of John soon enough as the restaurant was rather empty. She hesitated and paced around her own spot a little before she walked over with a perfect smile on her face.

"President Constance," she called out as she got closer to him. He pretended not to hear her as he ate another spoonful of food.

The woman licked her lips a little before she continued, "I called you earlier, but you didn't pick your phone up, President Constance.

" He stopped eating and cleaned his mouth with a

napkin before he leaned back
and stared at
the woman without speaking.
The girl no longer dared to just
sit herself
down on his table then.

However, she
continued to wear the smile on
her face as
she spoke,
“President
Constance, I didn’t get
to speak much to you at the
dinner last night
before you disappeared.
President McCaw was looking
everywhere for
you; we even got a little
worried when you
didn’t pick up our calls.
”

John flashed a cold smile and
directly asked,
“What were you worried about?
Were you
afraid that I’d committed some
indecent
acts after my body reacted to
the drugs?”
The woman’s expression
flickered, and her

smile seemed to be rather artificial as she said,
“What do you mean by that, President Constance? I don’t understand what you’re saying.”

With his arms crossed in front of him, he replied,
“I’m sure you’re well-aware of what I’m saying. I’ve never enjoyed going around in circles, and I think that we should stop wasting each other’s time since President McCaw doesn’t seem interested in working with me.”

The woman was stunned to hear what he had said. She reached an arm out and nearly grabbed onto his arm before she stopped

herself and returned to her initial stance.

“I think there might be some misunderstanding here, President Constance. President McCaw has clear intentions of working with you, and our company has made a lot of preparations for this partnership, really.

” She was clearly flustered, and it didn’t seem like she was faking it at all.

He glanced up at her curiously as he said,

“I took that glass of alcohol myself, and I don’t think it’s possible for you guys to have staged it so that I would coincidentally pick the spiked glass. How did President McCaw do this?” He wore an amused expression.

“I

recall that you took a glass
yourself, and you
even drank it right then.
”

After a moment of hesitation,
she nodded
with an innocent look on her
face as she said,
“There’s definitely nothing
wrong with our
alcohol; that’s why I don’t
understand what
you mean, President
Constance.
”

With a light laugh, John
gradually stood up as
he had lost his appetite to
continue eating.

“Fine. Whatever you say.

” He

began to make
a move. In a bout of panic, the
woman

grabbed onto his arm as she
called,

“President Constance!

President Constance!”

The Returning Ex Chapter 39

Although there weren’t many
diners in the

restaurant, it would be embarrassing to bicker in a public setting. John had lowered his eyes as his gaze shifted toward the woman's arm and furrowed his brows. His facial features always had a cold aura—it probably had something to do with the usual deadpan expression he wore on a daily basis. His knitted brows did not mean that he was furious, but it merely made him look like he was about to snap at any minute. The woman pursed her lips, but did not loosen her grip. "President Constance, shall we head outside to talk? President McCaw is sincere about this collaboration and it'll be hard for me to face him if our discussions do

not turn out well.

”

He scoffed and maintained his aloof expression.

“How you’ll face him has nothing to do with me.

”

She was taken aback by his words and did not know how to respond. He gave his arm a jerk as he released it from the woman’s grasp before leaving the restaurant and headed toward the elevator.

There wasn’t much that he needed to do and gave Zack an off day—in other words, it was a way of giving himself a break as well.

He had been busy for the past three months.

Between Old Mr. Constance’s passing and managing his funeral...

That, in itself, had been exhausting enough,

but even after taking care of his funeral, he did not have enough time to rest and had to immediately return to work. His employees even had the opportunity to take a long break due to the weekends, but not him. Yet, his collaboration with Infinity Group now seemed to be going down the drain.

He didn't have any regrets, though; he was instead grateful to be able to take the chance to rest well.

The woman chased after him out of the restaurant, but she lacked the courage to follow him inside.

She stopped outside the elevator, bearing a hurt expression—one that begged for pity.

The doors soon closed and John let out a long breath of anticipation.

He had no idea what she thought—the way she dressed was strikingly similar to the outfit that Sophia had worn to the beach the other day.

Like her, the woman's hair was also braided, which fell lazily on her shoulder. Somehow, looking at her reminded him of Sophia, but it was undeniable that the latter was a lot more attractive than that woman.

Sophia was attractive—but not in the traditional or stereotypical beauty standards.

She was alluring yet elegant like a soft breeze.

He had seen many women of different types before, but she was one of a kind.

John quickly pushed his thoughts away, unsure of where it was headed.

When the elevator doors
reopened, he
returned to his room.
As soon as he stepped inside,
his phone had
received a notification—it was a
text
message from Zack.
It was a photo.
The photo was not of Sophia
alone. The man
who chatted her up the other
day had also
been captured.
She was looking at something in
the far
distance with her head tilted
slightly upward
while the man was looking
fixedly at her from
her side.
His gaze was as soft and tender
as a stream.
John did not immediately
delete the message
like he always did, but took his
time and
studied it.
The lighting was great and her
fair skin
shone like a reflective pearl in

the photo.

It seemed like they were at a tourist spot— there was a crowd in the background.

It was after staring at it for a while that John deleted the message. He tossed his phone aside and pulled out a chair to take a seat by the window.

The beach was rather empty. The sun shone brightly and it was a little jarring to the eye.

He leaned back in his seat and closed his eyes. He hadn't planned to take a nap, but he eventually gave in with the gentle, warm sunlight as the backdrop and fell asleep.

He slept lightly and had a dream. In a bustling background, he dreamed about his first meeting with Sophia. It had been less than a year

from the moment they met until their marriage, so she hadn't looked much different compared to when they had just known each other.

She looked more or less the same as she did in the present moment.

The only difference was the way she dressed—it was a lot shabbier.

Old Mr. Constance had someone bring her over back then as he was still hospitalized.

Sophia was brought directly to the hospital to see him.

Whenever one wasn't in deep sleep, their mind was often quite alert.

John knew that he was in a dream; he knew that he would wake up even if he resisted a little, but he chose not to and stared intensely at the door in the hospital room.

He was waiting for the lady to enter.

In the haze of his consciousness, he was sure that he saw her, but the scenery around him suddenly changed.

Now, Sophia was on top of him, interrogating him as if he had betrayed her—she was tenacious and adamant.

While she heard his denial, she leaned in for a kiss.

The dream unexpectedly felt a lot realer all of a sudden; he even had the odd feeling that his lips were being nibbled on without a warning.

The Returning Ex Chapter 40

The dream suddenly stopped as it was about to end, and John awoke hastily. Sophia's face gradually faded into nothingness before his face.

He exhaled and slowly sat up

without knowing
the reason why he had such a
dream. It was
not like they weren't on total
abstinence;
after all, they had already slept
with each
other twice for the past two
days. Thus, he
was really confused as to why
he still had
suggestive dreams like that.
John rose to his full height to
distract
himself from the dream that he
had. After a
while, he picked up his laptop
and moved to
the couch in the living room.
Just as he
placed his phone down on the
table, it rang.
He briefly glanced at it but did
not answer
the call.
The ringing stopped for a few
seconds, and
then, a knock on the door
ensued. Surprised,
he walked over to the door. The
visitor's

figure could not be seen through the peephole, but to be fair, there was nothing to be afraid of in the broad daylight. So, he opened the door. Standing outside was the woman from earlier, but she had somehow already changed into another outfit; she now wore a bikini set that was perfect for lounging on the beach. The woman had great skin and an admirable figure. Her hair was let loose and fell behind her shoulders. She leaned against the door frame with her pose accentuating her body curve. Looking at John, she asked, "President Constance, let's discuss a little more, shall we?" She spoke slowly with a suggestive tone. John immediately understood

her meaning.

However, he only studied her from head to toe. In his mind, he tried to recall her name.

He was always good at recognizing faces, but oddly, he could never remember that particular woman. Standing still, he asked,

“Did President McCaw tell you to come here in an attire like this?”

The woman’s posture slowly straightened with the corner of her lips slightly curved.

“No, President McCaw doesn’t know anything about this.

” Her eyes were playful.

“He also won’t hear about this.”

He scoffed.

“Does he know about the drugging, then?”

The woman was startled; she hadn't expected him to question her about that once again.

Her lips pursed as she visibly struggled to search for the words to answer him.

"I really don't know what you're talking about. We didn't spike it with drugs."
"

John responded half-heartedly and closed the door without a look at her. He never liked people who endlessly pestered him as well as those who never owned up to their mistakes—yet, the woman did both.

Never one who fancied speaking much, he picked up his phone from the living room and quickly made a call to President McCaw.

The collaboration between their companies

was actually a win-win situation for the both of them. Constance Company was naturally happy to participate, but even so, that didn't mean that John was willing to be used in such a way.

President McCaw picked up the call in an instant while his voice carried a tint of delight.

“President Constance! I'm finally hearing from you.

” In fact, he had indeed called John a few times since the night before, but the latter hadn't answered the call—not even a single time. He had a bad temper; everyone in the industry knew that. So, he was straight to the point.

“Remove the woman at my door.

”

President McCaw initially didn't know what he meant.

“What?”

John laughed coldly.

“I think you'

ve

miscalculated when you decided to pull something like this.

”

President McCaw was still confused.

“Huh?”

John did not feel the need to explain and

hung up. He was a man of few words and had

always preferred to use as few words as

possible.

Normally, it would have been enough to

express his dissatisfaction.

Everything that

subsequently ensued were

understood and

settled without any further explanation.

He returned to the table and continued to peruse the documents on his computer. It wasn't long before Zack called again.

John did not answer the first time around and his phone immediately rang for the second time, making him a little frustrated; after all, he was being relentlessly bothered on his well-deserved break. Somewhat annoyed, he answered the call, "Spill."
"

At the other end of the line, there was loud music playing in Zack's background, making it a little noisy. So, he hadn't realized that John was irritated and said that they were still at Edge of the World. Then, he mentioned that Sophia was exceptionally happy and took

many photos by
the two boulders before
commenting that it
was a pity that John couldn't
join them.

John's tone was hostile upon
interrupting
him.

"Did you call me just to tell
me all
these?"

Zack paused, thereupon
changing the topic in
an instant.

"No, no. I called to
inform you
that Old Mrs. Constance had
phoned, asking
about our schedule. She wants
to know when
we
're returning and seems... to
want Miss
Bailey to pick you up.
"

John closed his eyes in response.

"Alright, I
got it. If she calls you again, tell
her that our
schedule has changed and I
didn't inform you

about it. Just put all the blame on me.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 41

After John said his piece, he moved to end the call. As a result, Zack, who was on the other end of the phone, sighed quickly. Then, he stammered,

“Boss, are you really not going to come over? Um, Sophia and Trevor are getting on really well. I think they might be more than just friends—”

On the contrary, John hung up immediately.

He didn't want to hear whatever it was that Zack was about to say. Then, he sat down and continued to look through the documents on his computer. Unfortunately, he only managed to read no more than two sentences before he heard quarreling

noises coming
from outside the door.
Roughly listening, it sounded
like the voice of
that female employee from the
Infinity
Group. After quarreling for a bit,
he heard
President McCaw's voice—it
sounded like he
was berating the other party.
Then, the
female employee began to cry.
John frowned slightly. He never
liked it when
a woman cried. In the first place,
he wasn't
the type to treat a woman
tenderly. So, even
if he was faced with a woman's
tears or
heard a woman crying, he
wasn't the type to
give in or feel compassion for
the woman.
Instead, he simply found it
irritating.
Fortunately, Sophia isn't the
type to cry.
When he found himself thinking
about

Sophia, he quickly forced himself to stop. In the future, that woman won't have anything to do with me anymore. I cannot continue thinking about her. Meanwhile, the woman by the door suddenly rushed over and began knocking on his door for some reason, yelling for him to come out and talk. Perhaps it was due to how agitated she was, but President McCaw and the hotel's security guards did nothing to drag her away. Hence, she continued hammering her fists against his door. John closed his eyes—there was no way he could continue reading his documents. Thus, he got up and opened the door. The woman had cried so hard that her makeup was smeared and her face was a

ghastly mess.

When she saw John opening the door, she pouted.

At the same time, her wailing grew louder.

However, this time she didn't deny drugging him. Instead, she claimed that she was in love with him and had fallen for him at first sight.

On the other hand, President McCaw stood by the side with an awkward expression.

From the way he was trying to pull the woman away, it was clear to see that he wasn't really trying to stop his employee.

He probably had a hidden agenda behind allowing this farce to develop this far. As such, John wasn't moved by the situation before him. Waiting for the pause during which the woman wiped away

her tears, he
said,
“So, you drugged me.
”

The woman took a deep breath,
hesitating
for a few seconds before
nodding.

“Yes. But,
the drug isn’t harmful. I drank it
myself. If
it were harmful, I wouldn’t have
drunk it.
”

He didn’t know what was going
on in this
woman’s head. Raising his
brows, he asked,
“You do know that I’m married,
right?”

The woman froze for a moment;
she opened
and closed her mouth
repeatedly but nothing
came out. Then, he looked at
her in
amusement.

“So, how could
you have the
nerve to do something like
this?”

Following that, the woman began to cry again. Holding her face in her hands, she kept repeating that she loved him and had loved him since a long time ago. Moreover, she also claimed that she couldn't control herself. John had no interest in listening to her drivel. Lifting his gaze, he looked at President McCaw. "The initial training given to the employees of the Infinity Group isn't sufficient. President McCaw, you should strengthen your company's code of conduct for employees upon your return. " After saying that, he moved to close the door behind him. However, that woman refused to give up. She

stuck her hand through the
wedge and
grabbed the door, stopping it
from closing.

With red-rimmed eyes, she said,
“You drank
that drug last night, didn’t
you?”

He stared at the other party
coldly, saying
nothing. Then, the woman’s
tears flowed
down freely.

“So, w-who did
you sleep—”

President McCaw probably
realized what she
was about to say. Thus, he
rushed to pull her
away.

“Shut up! Look at what you’ve
done!

The cooperation between our
companies has
been affected by your actions!

I’m telling
you: the losses incurred
because of this isn’t
something you can bear!”

On the other hand, John
ignored what

President McCaw said as he
replied in a
deadpan voice,
“Yesterday, I
was with my
wife.
”

The woman was taken aback
and so was
President McCaw. They were
both aware that
John was married. After all, his
wedding had
been lavish and
extravagant—who wouldn’t
have known about it? However,
they had not
realized that John had brought
his wife with
him on his trip here.

The Returning Ex Chapter 42
In front of President McCaw
and that female
employee, John took out his
phone and called
Zack.

Zack answered the phone
almost
immediately. Without knowing
anything yet,
he answered joyfully,

**“Boss,
how can I help
you?”**

John’s voice was deep and low.

**“When will you
and Sophia be coming back??**

**For a moment, Zack said
nothing. The way
John addressed Sophia left him
confused—**

**he had never heard John
address her in such
an endearing way before.
Still, he was considerably
quick-witted. He
paused for several seconds,
then smacked his
lips.**

**“Madam Sophia is still at
the Edge of
the World. She did not mention
when she will
be returning. What’s wrong?
Did something
happen at the hotel?”**

John smiled.

**“It’s nothing. I was
just asking.
Go ahead and have fun.
”**

After that, he hung up.

The expressions on President McCaw and the female employee's faces were rather interesting.

Then, he raised his brows at them.

"Well?

Did you hear that?"

He didn't want to continue talking, so he immediately shut the door in their faces.

After that, his expression fell.

That President McCaw... He looked like he was waiting for some sort of drama to happen. He probably wanted to turn this incident into a weakness of mine and hold it over my head. Seeing as my divorce from Sophia has not been publicly announced yet, I remain a married man in the eyes of the public. Even if I were drugged, my reputation would be affected one way or

another if it
got out that I spent the night
with a woman
of unknown origins.

For that reason, I'm certain
President McCaw
allowed that female employee
to raise a
ruckus in front of my door to
shine a light on
this matter and bring my
morality into
question.

Then, John breathed out a sigh
of relief.

I'm so glad Sophia came over
that night.

However, if this issue were to
be resolved,
another issue will arise.

Therefore, news of
my divorce from Sophia cannot
be leaked out.

No matter what our reasons
may be, it
cannot be announced to the
public at this
point.

Frowning, he returned to the
sofa and sat
down.

Just then, Zack called again.
John glanced at his phone and
answered it.

“What’s wrong?”

Zack’s voice sounded rather
serious.

“Right;

Madam Sophia and I are
heading back now—”

“It’s fine to talk now,

” John

bluntly replied.

Upon hearing that, Zack paused,
then he let
out a long sigh of relief.

“Boss,

what was that

just now? Did something
happen?”

John leaned back against the
sofa.

“The

incident where I was drugged
was brought
out into the open.

”

Although Zack might not be the
sharpest
tool in the shed, he caught on
quickly during
critical times. Thus, he spewed

out a string
of expletives without holding
back before
continuing,
“So, they wanted to
use this
incident to blackmail us?”

John breathed out.

“It’s fine
now.
”

Still, Zack was angry.

“That was
dangerous.
If Sophia didn’t go over that day,
we might
be in serious trouble by now.
”

No matter what it was, if John
had slept
with another woman and word
had gotten out
about it, the Constance
Company would be
affected by the ensuing
backlash. After all,
most people did not care about
the means or
the cause, they only cared
about the results.
Since the Constance Company

ran a large business, it naturally had many competitors in the market. If a scandal occurred, there was no knowing how many people would try to bring the company down. It was a consequence that he didn't even dare to imagine.

Meanwhile, John leaned against the sofa with his eyes closed.

"So, you don't need to come back yet. You can continue sightseeing; it's alright now."
"

Zack was no longer in the mood for fun. He said,

"Forget it; forget it. We're already on our way back anyway. We might as well head back. Sophia has an upset stomach, so she needs to take some stomach

medicine when
she gets back.
”

Then, John grunted in reply
without saying
more.

“Okay. If there’s anything
else, you can
report it to me once you get
back.
”

After hanging up the phone, he
placed his
phone aside. At that moment,
his mind was a
mess.

Many incidents occurred during
this trip that
seemed to be beyond his
control. Hence, it
left a bad taste in his mouth.
John waited for a while, then
remembered
something. Thus, he hurriedly
called up the
Constance Residence, and Old
Mrs. Constance
answered the call.

“John, aren’t
you
working?”

The Returning Ex Chapter 43

After Old Mr. Constance passed away, Old

Mrs. Constance's health rapidly declined.

Therefore, she had been practicing vegetarianism, meditation, and Buddhism at the Constance Residence during this period.

First, John asked after Old Mrs. Constance.

Then, he went into the main topic.

"Grandma, I have something I would like to discuss with you."

Old Mrs. Constance replied,

"Go on. What is it that's making you so serious?"

The last time he had been so formal and serious, he had informed the family that he was going to divorce Sophia. Even now, she

could clearly recall the determination in his expression and his gaze at the time.

To be honest, she disapproved of John and Sophia's divorce. Just like how she had not approved of John's marriage to Sophia. In her opinion, marriage was not a game.

Moreover, she did not believe in the concept of using an auspicious event to flush away the 'bad luck' of a critically-ill patient and curing them in the process.

In the beginning, when Old Mr. Constance first brought up the idea of breaking off the marriage agreement with the Baileys and marrying Sophia instead, she had been the first to oppose the idea.

However, John later gave in to his grandfather's wishes after

**much
consideration.**

**In the end, Old Mr. Constance
passed away
anyway.**

**After that, John announced that
he was
going to divorce Sophia. As
usual, she was the
first to oppose it.**

**As part of the older generation,
her attitude
toward marriage was much
more sincere. She
believed that one should
harden their resolve
to be partners for life after
having decided
on marriage in the first place.**

**Later, everybody in the
Constance Family
agreed to the divorce, except
her. Coupled
with John's determined attitude,
she said
nothing more. At the end of the
day, it was
her grandson's personal affairs.
It wasn't
good for her to interfere too
much in them.**

John was silent on the phone
for a moment
before saying,
“I encountered
some issues
here, and my marriage with
Sophia might
affect the outcome. So, I’m
hoping that the
family will not spread the news
of my divorce
with Sophia.
”

Old Mrs. Constance was taken
aback.

“What’s
wrong? What happened?”
Unfortunately, this matter
wasn’t something
that could be explained in brief.
Thus, John breathed out heavily.

“Once I
return, I will explain it to you in
full. Right
now, can you help me suppress
this
information?”

She understood what he meant
by
suppressing the news.
On the second day after John’s

divorce, Mrs.
Constance wanted to announce
it to the world
and immediately arrange for his
marriage
with the young lady of the
Bailey Family.

Hence, if he wanted to suppress
the
information about his divorce
with Sophia,
the first person they had to deal
with was
Mrs. Constance.

Old Mrs. Constance sighed.

“I
might not know
what problems you ran into,
but I will talk to
your mother and make her see
reason. Don't
worry about that.

” Then, she
added,
“To be
honest, there is no need for you
and Sophia
to go this far.
”

He said nothing in reply.
She had already said whatever

she could say
to persuade him. Thus, she left
it at that
after saying that one sentence.
“Alright;
don’t worry about the matters
at home. I will
help you settle them. Your
mother might give
little regard to the opinions of
others, but
she will still listen to what I
have to say.
”

After that, he thanked her and
ended the
call.

John sat in the study for a long
time in a
daze before Zack finally
returned. However,
Sophia did not come along.
According to Zack, she was
feeling unwell.

So, she returned to take some
medicine.

Zack was still extremely
disgruntled.

“Isn’t
the Infinity Group acting far too
shamelessly? I knew the

incident this time
around would be related to
President McCaw.
No matter how little his
employees cared for
authority, they wouldn't go so
far as to drug
you.
”

During the party that night, he
had the
feeling that something was
amiss. President
McCaw had continuously clung
to him and
tried to get him drunk. In the
end, he only
managed to escape by excusing
himself to
the restroom.

Sitting opposite John, Zack said,
“If their
plan the other day had
succeeded, I'm
certain the terms of our
cooperation would
be vastly different by now.
”

If John had slept with that
female employee
the other day, there was no

saying whether they could get rid of her in the future.

Furthermore, they would have been led by the nose throughout the entire process of the cooperation this time.

John had not expected it either.

The other party was such a large company; it was unbelievable that they would stoop to such underhanded methods at a time like time.

Although he had experienced all sorts of dirty tricks while in the business, it was the first time the other party began playing dirty from the beginning and without any warning whatsoever. Therefore, he had been caught off guard.

The Returning Ex Chapter 44
This time around, Sophia was truly feeling unwell—her gastric problems

were acting up again. She had not taken her medication before going out this morning, nor did she bring her medication with her.

In the beginning, she thought that nothing would go wrong.

As a result, her gastric problems began not long after they started sightseeing and her stomach began hurting very badly.

At that moment, Zack mentioned that John ran into some issues. So, she decided to return with him after considering it briefly.

To be honest, she wasn't having a lot of fun anyway. The Edge of the World was a place where many couples went. Hence, only couples went there to take pictures. Looking at the two rocks the Edge of the

World was famous for, she felt extremely uncomfortable.

However, she could tell that Trevor was slightly displeased when she suggested they go back. Frankly speaking, his displeasure began when Zack decided to tag along with them. Still, she didn't give much thought to the feelings of a person she would not have much to do with in the future. After that, Sophia separated from Zack and Trevor and returned to her room to take her medicine.

The doctor mentioned that she was suffering from a bacterial infection in her stomach.

Therefore, she had to take antibiotics on top of the medicine for her gastric problems.

The doctor had prescribed her a ton of

medicine—some were to be eaten before meals while others were to be eaten after meals.

Sophia endured the pain as she laid out all her medicine. Then, she took all the medicine that was to be taken before meals. It was a large handful of them, and it felt as if she would be full just from the water she needed to drink to swallow all of them. After taking her medication, she lay down on the bed and curled into a ball. This morning, she had woken up too early. So, she began to drift off drowsily after lying there for a while. Just as she was about to fall asleep, she heard a knock on the door. She didn't feel like moving. It didn't matter who it was knocking on her door—she had no

intention of answering the door.

Luckily, the knock on the door disappeared after a while.

Thinking that it was room service, she didn't give it much thought and drowsily fell asleep.

She didn't know how long she slept when she suddenly felt somebody approaching her.

Her awareness was quite sharp.

Thus, she immediately jerked awake and sat up without warning.

Standing beside her bed were John and Zack as well as the hotel manager.

When Zack saw Sophia sitting up in bed, he released a long sigh of relief.

"That scared me; I'm so glad you're fine."
"

Sophia squinted and looked at him.

"Of course, I'm fine. I was just sleepy."

”

Then, he turned to look at John.

“See what I
told you? I said she was fine,
but you
wouldn’t believe me.

”

She turned to look at John too.

“Did you
think I fainted again?”

John didn’t answer. Instead, he
turned to
the hotel manager and said,
“My apologies; it
was my mistake.

”

At first, the hotel manager was
terribly
frightened. However, when he
saw that
Sophia was fine, he waved his
hand.

“It’s fine.
I’m glad nothing happened.

”

After that, the hotel manager
left. On the
other hand, John and Zack
stayed behind.

Zack went to the living room
outside to sit

while John remained in the bedroom.

As Sophia tidied her hair, she looked at John.

“What’s wrong? Do you need something from me?”

John nodded.

“Yes, I do.”

Previously, she saw Zack on the phone with John. After the call, Zack’s demeanor had completely changed.

At the time, her stomach had been very uncomfortable. So, she didn’t ask any questions. Now, she stared at John and said,

“What is it? Looking at your posture, you probably need my help, right?”

John studied her briefly and grunted in reply.

“Yes, I do need your help.”

So, she sat cross-legged on the bed.

“Speak.

What do you need my help with?”

For a moment, he couldn't speak. Not long ago, they agreed that they would no longer have anything to do with each other in the future. After all, they were divorced. In the future, they were bound to find a new partner. For that reason, they should not be clinging to each other.

However, what he had to say was the complete opposite of what they previously agreed on. Thus, he found it hard to bring up.

She stared at him for a while.

When he kept quiet for a long while, she found it rather amusing.

“What's wrong? Is it difficult to

talk about?”

He pondered over it for a moment.

“Not really. The main issue is that the incident where I was drugged during the party last night was brought to light.”

Sophia nodded.

“And?”

John pursed his lips.

“I had no choice but to claim that I was with you at the time and the person I slept with was you.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 45

To be honest, this matter was not difficult

to comprehend. Although

Sophia was not in

the business, she had vast second-hand

experience.

When she was still part of the

Constance

Family, Mrs. Constance liked to tell stories

related to the business during dinner, detailing all sorts of underhanded methods and conspiracies. Hence, she heard a lot about these incidences and naturally understood what John was saying immediately.

Thus, she lifted her brows at John.

“Are they trying to blackmail you with last night’s incident? They don’t know that we are divorced yet, so you want to claim that last night’s incident was legal and moral?”

John nodded.

“Yes, that’s right.

They probably checked the surveillance footage...

”

It was such a large dinner party, and John was considered to be one of the

main

characters. Seeing as he disappeared midway through the party, they would definitely check the surveillance footage to check on his whereabouts.

More importantly, they would naturally detect Sophia's presence from the surveillance footage. Therefore, there were no loopholes in his alibi.

Well, as long as nobody finds out that we are divorced.

Sophia mulled over it.

"So what do you want?"

Zack came closer and stood by the door. He had been listening in on their conversation.

When he heard her question, he answered,

"At the moment, your divorce cannot be made known to the public. At this critical juncture, it doesn't matter what

**the reason
for your divorce was.
It will become fuel for our
enemies. So, you
have to maintain the image of a
young couple
in love for the time being.
”**

**Besides, if news of them
sleeping together
despite being divorced were to
spread, it
wouldn't do them any good
either.**

**Then, she glanced at John upon
hearing those
words.**

**John paused for around two
seconds before
nodding.**

**“That's what I meant.
”**

**Without
waiting for her to respond, he
continued,
“Rest assured. Once the timing
is more
appropriate, I will find an
opportunity to
announce it to the public.
You can decide the reason**

behind our
divorce. Moreover, I will not
treat you badly
during the time you are
cooperating with me.
You can name your conditions.
”

When she heard that, the
corners of her
mouth curled.
“So, I have to
stay with you
throughout our cooperation?”
On the other hand, he frowned
out of habit.
“That’s more or less the gist of
it.
”

To be honest, he wasn’t sure
what he was
supposed to do next. Besides,
he had no idea
what other tricks President
McCaw would pull
in the future. If President
McCaw did
nothing, then there was nothing
he needed
her to help with, much less
require her to
stay by his side.

As long as nobody realized that the actual nature of their relationship had changed, everything else was easy to deal with.

After considering it, she chuckled and her eyes sparkled.

“Well, what benefits can you give me? Even if you say I can name my conditions, there must be a limit, right?”

Without batting an eye, he replied,

“As long as it’s not over the top, I’ll accept them.

”

As long as it’s not over the top? What do you mean by that? Still, she blew out her breath and shifted her gaze.

“Let me think about it.

”

Zack, who was leaning against the doorframe

nearby, widened his eyes suddenly.

“Why do you still need to consider? What else do you need to consider—”

“Sure, I’ll give you some time.

Can you give me an answer by tomorrow morning?” John

cut across Zack’s words, staring directly at

Sophia as he asked.

There were times when Sophia liked his

decisiveness. However, there were times

when she really hated how decisive he was—

he could calmly cut off one’s retreat with

nothing more than a simple sentence.

Licking her lips, she replied.

“Fine. I’ll give you an answer tomorrow morning.

”

John nodded. Then, he turned around and gestured for Zack to leave

without saying
more.

Zack looked like he refused to
accept things
as they were. Thus, he said,
“Um... Why don’t
you leave first? I want to have a
chat with
Sophia.
”

John frowned, and Zack
immediately
explained,
“She was having
gastric problems,
so I want to stay behind to
check on her. I’ll
leave in a bit.
”

This time, John left without
saying another
word.

After John left, Zack walked into
the room
quickly.

“That’s not it, Madam
Sophia. What
do you need to consider?
You...

” Meeting
Sophia’s gaze, he considered it

briefly, then
changed the way he addressed
her.

“Ex?Madam Sophia. It’s
Ex-Madam Sophia...
”

Walking over to her, he sat
down by her bed.

“I’m telling you; your
ex-husband is quite a
popular man. During our short
excursion

today, that woman came
knocking on his door.

Do you know? She practically
threw herself
onto his bed! You need to have
a sense of
crisis!”

The Returning Ex Chapter 46
Sophia was taken aback. Then,
she looked up
at Zack.

“She came knocking on
his door?”

Zack nodded solemnly.

“Do you
remember the
time I answered the call from
your ex?husband? At the time,
that woman was

standing outside his door and dressed very lightly. That clearly indicates that she was offering herself to him! However, your ex-husband was rather calm in that situation—he didn't lose his cool. Then, guess what happened...
”

He kept her in suspense, staring at her with a mysterious expression.

After mulling over it briefly, she decided to give in and play along.

“What happened?”

Widening his eyes, he answered,

“That woman confessed to your ex-husband!

She claimed

that she had loved him for a long time. Still,

your ex-husband wasn't moved at all. He told

the other party that he was in a loving

relationship with his wife.

”

Naturally, that statement was something he made up.

Then, he continued,

“When that woman heard that, she flew into a rage and claimed that your ex-husband had been drugged.

Moreover, she accused him of having relations with another woman.

If this matter were to spread, your ex-husband’s reputation would be ruined.

”

He continued spinning his nonsensical story with a serious expression.

“However, your ex-husband laughed in her face. He admitted to being drugged but claimed that he had been with his wife. His wife! Would you believe that? That sounds so...

”

That sounds so... what? She was

tempted to
ask. Still, she swallowed the
words on the tip
of her tongue when she saw the
exaggerated
expression on his face.

He continued to stare at her as
he said,

“Let
me be honest with you... Under
the influence
of those drugs, a man would
lose his mind to
lust. Under those circumstances,
he wouldn't
be picky.

Any woman would do; it didn't
matter who it
was. However, take a look at
your ex-husband! He withstood
the entire ordeal by
force of will alone! That's not
easy to
accomplish!”

She paused for a moment. Then,
she got off
the bed, walked over to the
window, and
looked at the weather outside.
It was very
sunny outside and the sun was

blisteringly

hot.

However, she felt cold for some reason.

Moreover, she had no idea

where this chilling

wind in her heart came from.

I'm certain most of what Zack

said was

exaggerated. Still, the part

about that

woman offering herself to John

is probably

true.

After that, Sophia did not

continue the

conversation. A long while

passed before she

said,

"I'm feeling a little hungry.

I'm going to

get a bite downstairs.

"

Following her lead, Zack stood

up and

changed the topic.

"Is your

stomach feeling

unwell? Did you skip

breakfast?"

For her to change the topic, that

probably
meant that she had taken what
he said to
heart. It was enough as long as
she listened
and considered what he said
seriously. To
him, it was already half the
battle won.

In response, she closed her eyes.

It was true
that she had skipped breakfast
because she
didn't have an appetite.

Thus, he hurriedly said,
"Let's
quickly go and
eat then. I'll go with you.

"

"Why are you going with me?"

She was a
little sick of him.

On the other hand, he replied
earnestly,

"If
I don't go with you, who knows
what kinds of
food you'd order? I'm telling
you; you have a
weak stomach. So, you should
be eating

something lighter. You can't
take things like
these lightly!"
She chuckled. After staring at
him for a long
while, she relented.
"Fine. Let's
go.
"

Zack may be rather unreliable,
but he does
treat me very well.
Following that, they walked out
of her room.
As they were heading to the
elevator, Zack
quickly ran over to John's room
and swiftly
knocked on the door.
Without waiting for John to
open his door,
he yelled,
"Boss, Sophia and I
are going
downstairs for lunch! Why
don't you join us?
You haven't had lunch yet,
right?"
Sophia stood there; her
expression sank as
she glared at Zack.

I shouldn't have been so quick to feel touched. This person was only pretending to care about me. Truthfully, he just wants to bring John and me back together!

Still, there was something she couldn't quite understand—Zack seemed to have some sort of obsession with the relationship between John and her.

John opened the door and looked at Zack.

Then, he immediately glanced at Sophia, who was about to walk into the elevator. To her surprise, he didn't reject the invitation. On the contrary, he, in an unprecedented occurrence, agreed to join them.

As the corridor was relatively empty, she heard his reply as clear as day. She froze in

her tracks but did not turn around.

However, she couldn't help recalling what Zack said just now. That woman came knocking on John's door.

If John had agreed to it at the time, I

wonder what situation we would be in right now. As that thought crossed her mind, her strides became longer.

Offering herself to him? What a joke.

Sophia waited by the elevator.

Subsequently, John and Zack came over together.

John was expressionless. As usual, he had strict control over his facial expressions.

On the other hand, Zack was grinning widely.

"Since none of us have eaten yet, we might as well eat lunch together.

"

Everybody else ignored him.

After smiling to himself for a while, he began to feel a little awkward too. So, the smile on his face gradually disappeared.

The restaurant was on the first floor. When John and Sophia entered, there were quite a lot of people inside. However, they could still find seats.

Zack nudged Sophia and pointed to a corner.

“Why don’t you two go over and take a seat?

I’m going to check out the self-service buffet over there.

”

Without looking at one another, Sophia and John walked toward the spot Zack pointed at.

The table was located in a relatively quiet corner.

At first, Sophia and John sat opposite each

other. Picking up the menu, he suddenly got up and sat by her side.

She was shocked and turned her head to stare at him.

However, John was expressionless as he lowered his head to read the menu. In a soft voice, he said, "Don't move. Let's order."
"

The gears in Sophia's head turned. Then, she more or less understood what was going on.

Post navigation

The Returning Ex Chapter 47

While Sophia was ordering, she lifted her head several times to ask John for his opinion. Thus, she naturally noticed the person sitting not too far away from them—it was a man. Everybody else in their surroundings was eating

normally, except for
this man—he was
surreptitiously watching
the two of them.

Still, she wasn't sure whether
that man was
in cahoots with the woman that
was offering
herself to John. After ordering
what she
wanted, she handed the menu
to John.

“Do
you have anything else you
want to add to the
order?”

John grunted in reply.
Then, she asked softly,

“That
man at 10

o
'clock; is there a problem with
him?”

He continued to study the menu.

“When we
came over and sat down, he
snapped a photo
of us with his phone.

”

I see; that means he's definitely
a suspicious

person.

Thus, she murmured something
in reply and
didn't say anything more.

Once they placed their orders,
they called
the waiter over to take the
menu away.

After that, Sophia and John
were left alone.

I wonder where Zack has gone
off to; why
isn't he back yet?

Feeling a little awkward, Sophia
tried to find
something to talk about.

"If I
help you, what
am I supposed to do next?"

What's next...

John mulled over it for a bit. I
guess we'll
need to stay in the same room.

No matter
how you put it, sleeping in two
different
rooms when I'm with my wife
just doesn't
sound right.

However, he did not mention
that.

**“I’m not
certain either. I’ll need to see if
the Infinity
Group takes any other actions.
If they don’t,
then I don’t think you need to
do anything
else as long as news of our
divorce doesn’t
spread.
”**

**Upon hearing that, she nodded
in
acknowledgment of his words.
Then, silence fell over them
again.
To be honest, she wasn’t sure
why it was so
awkward between them now.
After all, things
were never stiff between them
in the past—
they had gotten along normally.
Even after
our divorce, I managed to
seduce him while I
was drunk the other day. So,
why are we so
stiff with each other today? It’s
inexplicably
uncomfortable.**

After disappearing off
somewhere for a long
while, Zack finally returned with
two plates
of fruits. However, the way he
walked was
strange—he was shuffling and
stooping
forward slightly. Placing the
plates of fruit
down on the table, he leaned
on the table,
groaning,
“Oh, my stomach. I
don’t know
what’s wrong, but it feels so
painful. I’m
suspecting that there was
something wrong
with the water Trevor handed
to me before.
”

Sophia frowned.

“I gave that
water to
Trevor. He only passed it over
to you.
”

He looked surprised.

“Anyway,
my stomach

hurts like crazy.

”

John didn't look worried.

**Rather, his attitude
was a little cold and distant.**

**“Are you saying
you want to go back to the
room?”**

**In response, Zack hurriedly
nodded.**

**“Yes. It
hurts a lot and I need to go back
to the room
for a bit.**

”

**With that, Sophia understood
what Zack was
playing at. Leaning back against
the chair,
she said,**

**“That's enough. Stop
acting; you'
re
terrible at it anyway.**

”

**Zack was still resting with his
head on the
table, Despite being seen
through by Sophia,
he wasn't embarrassed and
continued with his**

pretense.

“I can’t; I can’t. I need to hurry back. You guys can eat without me.

”

After saying that, he got up.

Holding his stomach, he slowly walked out of the restaurant while groaning.

Sophia smiled a little coldly.

Then, she turned her head and glanced at John.

“Does he have some sort of misunderstanding about us? Why is he so persistent?” Naturally, John had sensed that.

Even so, he got up and moved over to the seat opposite her without saying anything.

Lifting her gaze to stare at him, she asked,

“The woman who drugged you; was it that young lady we met by the beach the other day?”

He was stunned. For her to bring up this topic was beyond his expectations. Thus, he fell silent for a while before saying,
“Yeah.”

Upon hearing that, she smiled and muttered to herself,
“I guessed right.”

I could tell that that woman had something for John. A woman’s judgment about another woman is still the most accurate after all.

When he said nothing, she continued,
“That woman was rather attractive. To be honest, you could have...”

The rest of her sentence trailed off. Instead, she wiggled her brows at him, indicating her meaning.

A frown began to form between his brows as he stared at her in response. On the other hand, she smiled. "Besides, you're single anyway. Even if you did something, it's normal."
"

John frowned so deeply that the creases between his brows were as deep as a canyon. "I don't feel anything for her."
"

How can I touch a woman I feel nothing for? Just thinking about touching a woman I don't have feelings for makes me uncomfortable. The dimples at the corners of Sophia's mouth appeared almost immediately as she said with a wicked smile, "Then, do you have a thing for me?"

The Returning Ex Chapter 48

John was clearly taken aback.
Staring at
Sophia, he didn't reply
immediately.

On the other hand, Sophia
chuckled and said
in a low voice,
"You won't
touch a woman you
have no feelings for. Then,
when you did it
with me before...
"

Wiggling her brows, she smiled.
He studied her for a bit, then
laughed
mockingly. Leaning back against
his seat, he
crossed his legs, ankle over
knee.

"You'
re
different.
"

"Oh?" Her tone was light.

"How
am I
different?"

He placed one hand on his thigh;
he was
tapping his finger

subconsciously.

“I’

ve

gotten used to your body, so I

don’t find it

disgusting.

”

In other words, he’s saying it

doesn’t matter

whether or not he feels

anything for me.

Thus, she chuckled audibly and

leaned

forward, placing one elbow

against the table

and propping her chin on it.

Then, she said

with a sly look in her eyes,

“Then, what are

you going to do in the future?

You can’t just...

continue being comfortable

with my body, can

you?”

Some words, when spoken,

coupled with an

ambiguous tone, really gave off

the vibe of a

pretentious flirt. Even she felt

so. Still, it

was a nice feeling to have.

Right now, everything she said and did was something she would never have dared to do previously. There were many rules in the Constance Family, especially when it came to her—there were even more rules specifically for her.

Back then, she lived on tiptoes every single day for fear of making a mistake and embarrassing them. Now, there was no need for fear anymore—there was nobody who could shackle her down anymore.

The look in his eyes became colder.

“You don’t need to worry about that. There will always be somebody else in the future.”

She stared him in the eyes for a long while

before nodding in agreement.

“That’s right;

you

’ll always have somebody else.

”

Mulling

over something, she added,

“That’s good;

that’s good.

”

Just then, the waiter brought

their food and

laid it out on the table, one by

one.

To be honest, Sophia wasn’t

hungry nor did

she have much of an appetite.

However, John had added a

nutritious soup

to their order just now, and he

pushed the

soup toward her.

She lowered her gaze.

“Thanks.

”

In response, he made a

non-committal grunt.

“It’s nothing.

”

Frankly speaking, his attitude

toward her

right now was way better than how he used to treat her when they were still married.

Back then, he completely neglected and ignored her. At least he was more courteous now.

Looking at the man who was sneakily snapping pictures of them, she noticed that the person secretly put his phone down while he was eating. Moreover, the camera was pointing directly in their direction. Thus, she wasn't sure whether he was taking pictures, or if he was recording them. She pondered it briefly, then scooped up a spoonful of soup. After blowing on it, she fed it to him. Caught off guard, he froze for a moment and looked at her. Thus, she smiled at him, and her expression

was rather mischievous.

“People are watching.

Drink it.

”

They had never been this intimate before.

Putting John aside, even Sophia felt that it

was quite unnatural.

After a moment, he lowered his head to look

at the spoonful of soup. Then, he drank it.

His actions gave her a small sense of

accomplishment.

Lowering her head, she continued eating.

However, she suddenly said,

“Honestly, it’s

been a long time since we last sat down and

had a meal together, not counting the day we

divorced.

”

John said nothing. Before the divorce, he had

been extremely busy. With the passing of his

grandpa, he had been so

overwhelmed that he had no time for her. Afterward, when matters involving his grandpa were resolved, he became busy with the company affairs again.

Therefore, he knew that it had been a long time since he sat down with her for a proper meal. By the time everything was resolved and he had enough time to sit down with her, it was to discuss their divorce. Still, Sophia seemed like she didn't mind the past anymore.

"When I was younger, I used to dream about the person I would spend the rest of my life with. At the time, I wanted to marry somebody who could always keep me company and stay with me. In the end, I married you. But, you're not

that kind of person...

” Taking a sip of the soup, she continued, “Afterward, you suggested divorce. Then, I thought... I thought...

” She seemed to be thinking about something.

After a moment, her tone became more cheerful as she said, “I thought... springtime is finally coming for me! At last, I can live my own life and do what I want to do! I thought to myself: how awesome is that?!”

Then, she giggled to herself.

The Returning Ex Chapter 49

John placed his chopsticks down and looked at Sophia. His expression remained the same, almost as if whatever she just said didn't affect him emotionally at all.

After she finished laughing to herself, she asked, “What’s wrong? Are you upset after hearing the truth?”

“Nope, ” he answered, without batting an eye. “I’m quite pleased that you think that way. Otherwise, I’d feel sorry for having done you a disservice. ”

The smile on her face gradually disappeared, and she glanced about her surroundings as if she didn’t know how to react to his words nor how to continue the conversation.

Studying the food in front of her—she barely ate anything—he asked, “You’re done? Are you full?” In response, she placed her spoon down. “Yeah.

”

Thus, he called for the check.
Out of the corner of her eye,
she noticed
that the man, who had secretly
been taking
pictures of them, had put his
phone away.

To be honest, I don't
understand what's the
point of taking these photos. In
the first
place, drugging their opponents
was a low
blow. Seeing as we didn't fall
for their dirty
trick, shouldn't they keep to
more honest
means? Why do they have to go
so far and
bring it out to the open? Don't
they have any
integrity?

After John paid the bill, Sophia
stood up
first. Then, she walked over to
him and
hugged his arm.
Lowering his gaze, he looked
down at the
hand on his arm. Two seconds

later, he
squeezed her hand, then he
moved her arm
away and entwined his fingers
with hers.

She nearly broke out into
laughter.

Sometimes, John can be pretty
shrewd.

Holding hands, they walked out
of the
restaurant. As they passed by
the man who
was secretly snapping photos of
them, Sophia
used her other hand and lightly
hit John on
his shoulder.

Her voice was slightly pouty and
she
pretended to be angry.

“Why
did you have to
anger me on the plane? The
next time you do
that, I’m going to go out and
seduce a young,
handsome guy.
”

John seemed to smile. Then, he
said in a

neutral voice,
“You can try if
you dare.
”

The warning in his voice wasn't heavy; his tone leaned more toward pampering. After that, they left the restaurant smilingly.

Even after leaving the restaurant, she didn't let go of his hand. Rather, she held on even tighter, leaning her entire body against his arm.

They didn't talk, but the smile on her face grew wider—she wanted to irritate and provoke him. Since he wants my help, he better not expect me to be obedient. In the past, I might have been easy-going and docile, but now, I have the divorce papers in my hand. Therefore, I'm not afraid of

anything, nor do I care.

When the two of them entered
the elevator,

John finally spoke up,

“Can you
let go yet?”

Sophia lifted her head and
looked at him.

“Huh? Let go? Why? Aren’t we
still outside?”

As long as we’re outside, we’re
a couple. And,
isn’t it normal for couples to do
this?”

He pursed his lips. It looked like
he wanted
to say something, but he said
nothing in the
end.

Then, they got out of the
elevator. Their
rooms were located in different
directions.

Standing outside the elevator,
she finally let
go of him and turned to head
toward her
room without hesitation. She
even waved her
hand at him while her back was
facing him.

“President Constance, I’m going back. Call me if you need me.”

That arrogant look of hers made everything just now look like nothing more than an act.

John studied Sophia’s back for a long while before turning and returning to his room. His computer was still sitting on the desk, containing various documents that he had yet to read. However, he wasn’t in the mood to look through them.

Afterward, he went into the bathroom and took a shower. Then, he stood by the window, looking outside. It was very hot outside.

Therefore, it was very quiet—there was nobody at the beach during this time.

Later, Zack knocked on the door and came

inside, then he said shiftily,
“Boss, have you
finished discussing it with
Sophia?”

John thought about it. Judging
by Sophia’s
attitude, she probably agreed
to do it. Thus,
he nodded slowly.

“I guess so.
”

Upon hearing that, Zack let out
a long sigh of
relief.

“That’s great then. I like
Sophia.
Whenever I think of a different
woman
standing beside you, I-I...
”

When he met John’s gaze, he
couldn’t finish
his sentence.
On the other hand, John asked
expressionlessly.

“Why do you
like Sophia so
much? Which part of her is so
great?”
Zack pursed his lips and stared
at John.

Judging from John's expression,
it didn't look
like he was mocking him.
Therefore, it was
probably just simple curiosity.
So, Zack answered,
"Sophia is
easy to
approach and has a good
personality. More
importantly, she's pretty."
"

John snorted, then turned to
look at his
phone.
"How shallow."
"

The Returning Ex Chapter 50
When Zack heard John's
evaluation of him,
he hurriedly followed up, saying,
"How am I
being shallow? Most girls are
very likable as
long as they have these
characteristics!
If you don't look for these
characteristics in
a girl, then what do you look
for?" Then, he
added,

“To be honest, Sophia is a pretty nice person. Don’t you find her very approachable?”

John took out his phone and looked up a number. Then, he sent out a message. At the same time, he answered Zack, “I don’t. Is she?”

Zack mulled over it for a moment, then he sat down beside John.

“Look; when Sophia walks by, how many guys attempt to strike up a conversation with her or flirt with her? You can’t even tell from that?”

John’s hand paused for a moment and he nodded. That could be regarded as acquiescence to what Zack said. Wherever Sophia went, she was constantly hit on by guys. From when she was on the

plane till she got to the
hotel—even the
singer at that bar hit on her.
How they could
be so attracted to somebody
they just met
was something he could never
understand.

Zack observed John's attitude.
Then, he
immediately continued talking,
striking the
iron while it was still hot.

“Well,
it just means
that you are the only one that
finds her
unappealing despite having her
to yourself. If
a person like Sophia was out
there, people
would fight over themselves to
get her.
”

John chuckled audibly.

“How
much did she
give you for you to praise her so
highly?”

“I'm being honest! Look; why
won't you

believe me?” Zack looked extremely serious.

Then, John lifted his head and looked at

Zack, smiling and shaking his head without saying a word.

When Zack saw that John didn't want to

continue the conversation anymore, he

pursed his lips and found it difficult to

continue the conversation too.

After John sent out his message, he put his

phone down. Right now, he couldn't even bear

to look at those documents anymore. Even so,

it seemed like he had nothing else to do.

Glancing about, he said,

“We

won't be able to

work with the Infinity Group

anymore. Check

the flight tickets; let's go back.

”

Zack paused, staring at John.

“Are we just

going to let Infinity Group off
the hook?

They played us! If it wasn't for
Sophia, you'd
have lost your reputation!"

Turning around to look at Zack,
John's
expression became stern. Zack
probably
touched on a topic he didn't
want to talk
about.

Thus, Zack hurriedly drew back
and
explained himself in a small
voice,

"I was just
being truthful! That woman was
so ugly too!

How can you not care?!"

John replied somewhat
ambiguously,

"We'll
see.

"

Upon hearing what John said,
Zack more or
less understood what was going
on. After all,
he had worked with John for so
many years

now. Whenever John spoke in that manner, it meant he had already made up his mind.

Thus, Zack breathed out in relief and smiled.

“Alright, I got it.

” After saying that, he seemed to realize something and looked toward John again.

“Still, we’re already here!

Are we going to go back without even doing some sight-seeing?”

When they went out on business trips previously, they would occasionally take the opportunity to go sight-seeing for a day or two. Now that they had arrived at such a nice place, it would be a pity if they didn’t stay to play for a bit.

John frowned and seemed to consider what Zack said. Following that, he

replied,

“Why

don't we stay on for another
two days before
heading back?”

“Awesome!” Zack seemed
jubilant. Standing

up, he said,

“So, why don't we
start relaxing
today?” After that, he
continued without

waiting for a response from
John,

“There's a
swimming pool on the third
floor.

Do you want to go and check it
out? Since it's
inconvenient to go outside right
now, this
place shouldn't be a bad choice
either.

”

Initially, John had no intention
of going out.

However, he turned around and
looked

around his room—it didn't
seem like there
was anything for him to do in

the room
either. Thus, he nodded after
considering it
briefly.

“Okay.
”

Everything that was prepared in
the room
was complete. Moreover, the
swimsuits were
brand-new too.

Afterward, Zack went back to
his room to
take his swimsuit and brought
John’s
swimsuit along with him while
he was at it.

Then, they went to the
swimming pool.

As it was too hot outside, there
were more
people at the swimming pool
than usual. After
John and Zack got changed,
they went inside.

At a glance, there were a lot of
people there.

Although the swimming pool
was large and
split into several smaller
swimming pools,

most of the swimming pools
were filled with
people.

John wasn't a fan of crowded
areas; he
preferred quiet places. Upon
entering the
place, he stood by the door,
glancing at each
swimming pool.

He only managed to look at a
few before
Zack leaned over and whispered,
"Boss, is
there a problem with my eyes?"
John looked at him.

Then, Zack pointed in a
direction.

"Look; that
person standing over there.
Isn't that
Sophia?"

The Returning Ex Chapter 51

John looked in the direction
Zack was
pointing. Sure enough, there
stood a woman
amongst the crowd. She had
her hair tied up
in a bun and wore a slightly
suggestive

swimsuit. Moreover, several
guys were
crowding around her.

Although she had her back to
John, he
immediately recognized her.

That's Sophia
alright. I've shared the same
bed with her
for such a long time, it'd be
weird if I
couldn't recognize her by her
figure.

Thus, John studied Sophia
intently. Despite
being surrounded by men, she
was cheerfully
chatting away with a glass of
juice in her
hands. It was clear to see that
she was
feeling at ease among those
men.

Then, he nearly laughed. What
Sophia said to
me at the restaurant... She
meant everything
she said. Right now, springtime
has come for
her, and she's going to live life
the way she

wants to.

After observing her for a while,
he nodded.

“I thought she was resting in
her room.

”

Zack grinned.

“That Sophia sure
is restless!

How is she always relying on
her good looks
to flirt around?”

John wasn't sure whether those
words were

meant as a rebuke or a
backhanded

compliment for Sophia. Mulling
over it, he

decided to walk over to her.

At present, we remain a
married couple to

the public. Therefore, we need
to make sure

it looks convincing. After all,
someone

secretly took photos of us back
at the

restaurant. What's to say we
aren't being

watched now?

Meanwhile, Sophia was

laughing heartily.
These guys were rather
humorous, smooth,
and witty. At first, she had been
extremely
bored back in her room. Thus,
she came out
to look for some fun and
excitement. Looks
like it was the right choice.
Taking a sip of
her juice, she smiled innocently.
“Is that so?
I’ve never been there before. To
be honest,
it’s my first time here.
”

One of the guys beside her
immediately said,
“Of course. I come here for
vacation every
year. That spot is a must-go! If
you’
re
curious, I could bring you
there.
”

“Curious about what? Hmm?”
Suddenly, a
voice rang out from behind
them.

Immediately after that, Sophia felt somebody hugging her waist from behind.

She didn't even need to turn around to see who it was; she could tell just from his voice alone. On the other hand, the men crowding around her were taken aback; they were frowning as they studied John. Thus, Sophia looked back at John, seemingly a little surprised.

"Weren't you asleep? Why are you here too?"

John smiled.

"I didn't see you anywhere after I woke up, so I asked Zack. He told me you were here, so I came looking for you."

Making a soft sound of acknowledgment, she slung one hand around his arm.

"I was feeling

a little bored, so I came out to
get some
fresh air.
”

Even a fool would be able to tell
what sort of
relationship they had from their
conversation as well as their
actions. Thus,
the guys surrounding her
looked a little
forlorn. Thinking that they had
met a single,
young lady, they were
attempting to hook up
with her. Unfortunately, it
seemed like she
was taken.

John let his gaze sweep across
the guys
surrounding Sophia, then he
pulled her away
in another direction with his
arms still
around her waist.

“The next
time you want to
come to a place like this, bring
me along.
”

Sophia chuckled. Lifting the

glass of juice in
her hands to his lips, she asked,
“Do you want
a sip?”

Then, he lowered his gaze and
played along,
taking a sip.

“It’s too sweet.

”

Subsequently, she took a sip.

“I

think it

tastes great.

” Then, she hugged

him,

practically leaning her entire
body against

him.

I have to admit; she switches
into character

rather quickly. There were
some tables and

chairs in a corner not too far off.

Thus, he

took her there and sat down.

As not many people were
around that area,

his expression returned to its
usual impassive

face. Looking her up and down,
he said,

“We will probably hang around here for another two days before heading back. Do you have anywhere you want to visit?”
She was surprised. Initially, she thought he would tell her off or warn her to let him know the next time she wanted to come to a place like this. After all, they were in a partnership. I guess I was worried for nothing. Perhaps he really doesn't care about what I want to do. Thus, Sophia smiled.
“Hmm... what to do...”

Reaching her hand across the table, she touched John's hand. The tone of her voice was both ambiguous and seductive as she said,
“I'm actually really good at playing.”

”

John looked in the direction Zack was pointing. Sure enough, there stood a woman amongst the crowd. She had her hair tied up in a bun and wore a slightly suggestive swimsuit. Moreover, several guys were crowding around her. Although she had her back to John, he immediately recognized her. That's Sophia alright. I've shared the same bed with her for such a long time, it'd be weird if I couldn't recognize her by her figure. Thus, John studied Sophia intently. Despite being surrounded by men, she was cheerfully chatting away with a glass of juice in her hands. It was clear to see that she was feeling at ease among those

men.

Then, he nearly laughed. What Sophia said to me at the restaurant... She meant everything she said. Right now, springtime has come for her, and she's going to live life the way she wants to.

After observing her for a while, he nodded.

"I thought she was resting in her room."
"

Zack grinned.

"That Sophia sure is restless!

How is she always relying on her good looks to flirt around?"

John wasn't sure whether those words were meant as a rebuke or a backhanded compliment for Sophia. Mulling over it, he decided to walk over to her.

At present, we remain a married couple to the public. Therefore, we need

to make sure
it looks convincing. After all,
someone
secretly took photos of us back
at the
restaurant. What's to say we
aren't being
watched now?

Meanwhile, Sophia was
laughing heartily.

These guys were rather
humorous, smooth,
and witty. At first, she had been
extremely
bored back in her room. Thus,
she came out
to look for some fun and
excitement. Looks
like it was the right choice.

Taking a sip of
her juice, she smiled innocently.

"Is that so?

I've never been there before. To
be honest,
it's my first time here.

"

One of the guys beside her
immediately said,

"Of course. I come here for
vacation every
year. That spot is a must-go! If

**you'
re
curious, I could bring you
there.**

”

“Curious about what? Hmm?”

**Suddenly, a
voice rang out from behind
them.**

**Immediately after that, Sophia
felt**

**somebody hugging her waist
from behind.**

**She didn't even need to turn
around to see**

**who it was; she could tell just
from his voice**

**alone. On the other hand, the
men crowding**

**around her were taken aback;
they were**

frowning as they studied John.

**Thus, Sophia looked back at
John, seemingly
a little surprised.**

**“Weren't you
asleep? Why
are you here too?”**

John smiled.

**“I didn't see you
anywhere after**

I woke up, so I asked Zack. He told me you were here, so I came looking for you.
”

Making a soft sound of acknowledgment, she slung one hand around his arm. “I was feeling a little bored, so I came out to get some fresh air.
”

Even a fool would be able to tell what sort of relationship they had from their conversation as well as their actions. Thus, the guys surrounding her looked a little forlorn. Thinking that they had met a single, young lady, they were attempting to hook up with her. Unfortunately, it seemed like she was taken. John let his gaze sweep across the guys surrounding Sophia, then he pulled her away

in another direction with his
arms still
around her waist.
“The next
time you want to
come to a place like this, bring
me along.
”

Sophia chuckled. Lifting the
glass of juice in
her hands to his lips, she asked,
“Do you want
a sip?”
Then, he lowered his gaze and
played along,
taking a sip.
“It’s too sweet.
”

Subsequently, she took a sip.
“I
think it
tastes great.
” Then, she hugged
him,
practically leaning her entire
body against
him.
I have to admit; she switches
into character
rather quickly. There were
some tables and

chairs in a corner not too far off.

Thus, he

took her there and sat down.

As not many people were

around that area,

his expression returned to its

usual impassive

face. Looking her up and down,

he said,

“We

will probably hang around here

for another

two days before heading back.

Do you have

anywhere you want to visit?”

She was surprised. Initially, she

thought he

would tell her off or warn her to

let him

know the next time she wanted

to come to a

place like this. After all, they

were in a

partnership.

I guess I was worried for

nothing. Perhaps

he really doesn't care about

what I want to

do. Thus, Sophia smiled.

“Hmm... what to do...

”

Reaching her hand across the table, she touched John's hand. The tone of her voice was both ambiguous and seductive as she said,
"I'm actually really good at playing."
"

The Returning Ex Chapter 52
Frankly speaking, Sophia didn't know what was fun around here either. Moreover, she wasn't the adventurous nor playful type. The only reason she came on this trip was that she wanted a change of pace and an escape from her problems. Alas, things had gradually progressed to this point before she knew it. Propping her chin on her hand, she leaned forward.
"I don't know what fun places there are around here either. Why

don't I search
online on where to go
sight-seeing later?"
She spoke carelessly and
casually as if she
wasn't aware of how
inappropriate it was for
her to be sitting in that position.
The
swimsuit she had on was the
more revealing
type. Coupled with the fact that
she was
leaning forward, her chest area
was not quite
concealed.
John cleared his throat slightly
and shifted
his gaze away. Although they
had performed
all sorts of intimate acts
together in the
past, he still wasn't used to
looking at her.
After all, they had always done
those acts in
the dark. Therefore, he had
never seen her
figure in detail before.
When she saw him averting his
gaze, she felt

like laughing. However, she didn't change her posture.

"Aren't you going to swim?"

There might be a lot of people here, but most were congregated around the shallow areas. So, the areas where the water was deeper were relatively quiet. He turned his head to look at the deeper area. Originally, he came here to swim a few laps to relax. However, after meeting Sophia here, he gave up on that idea. This woman makes me uneasy. I can't help but feel that if I don't watch over her, she will do something outrageous. To be honest, I'm not afraid of what she might do. But, I'm in a precarious situation right now. I don't want her to bring any trouble to me. Still... the posture that she's in

right now...
it's revealing her figure...
Suddenly, he stood up.
"I'm
going for a swim.
Pay more attention to
yourself."
"

He might not have said what
she should pay
attention to, but they both
understood what
he meant.

Thus, she made a
non-committal sound. Then,
she watched as he headed to
the swimming
pool. Afterward, she slowly
straightened her
posture and leaned back
against the chair.

The chair was hard and it was
uncomfortable
to sit on.

John entered the pool and
slowly started
doing laps around it. From
where Sophia was
sitting, she could see a shadow
of him in the
swimming pool. After a while,

she withdrew

her gaze.

She didn't know how to swim.

The only reason

she came here was to relieve

herself of

boredom. Now that John was

here, she

inexplicably felt even more

bored than

before.

It feels like no matter how hard

I try to

seduce someone like John, it

just doesn't

work.

Thus, she remained where she

was and

sighed. Just then, Zack came

over. He had

been watching Sophia and John

from

elsewhere.

Sitting in the seat John had

vacated, Zack

frowned.

"What were you

talking about? Why

did he abandon you here after

only saying a

few words?"

Sophia leaned against the chair
and adjusted
her swimsuit, trying her best to
cover
herself up.

“Nothing much.

Since he was
already here, he decided to go
for a swim.

”

Zack tutted several times.

“Seriously, I can’t
believe that man...

”

She laughed, recalling what
happened just
now.

“Your boss mentioned
that we’d be here
for another two days. And, he
asked me if

there was anywhere I wanted
to go. I’

ve

never been here before. Do you
know where
to go sight-seeing here?”

He studied her for a moment,
then he smiled
all of a sudden.

“I do. Didn’t we

already go
somewhere before?
Unfortunately, it wasn't
very fun. This time around, it'll
be different!
You can bring your ex-husband
with you to
the Edge of the World! That
place is only
meaningful when a couple goes
there.
”

She looked him in the eye and
didn't say
anything for the time being.
Thus, he became excited.

“I'll
help the two of
you take some photos at the
Edge of the
World. I heard that if a couple
takes photos
together there, your
relationship will last for
a long time.
”

Finally, she couldn't resist
asking,
“To be
honest, I've been meaning to
ask you. Why

are you so persistent when it comes to John and me? To me, it's almost like you're a pimp!"

He looked hurt.

"How could you word it that way? I just hope that the two of you will end up together! Mainly, it's because I think you both suit each other. Another reason is that I get along with you!"

Then, Sophia understood.

"If somebody else appears next to John, are you afraid you won't be able to get along with her?"

"It's not like I'm afraid I won't be able to get along with her.

" Zack scratched his head.

"I just feel like... compared to somebody else, I'd prefer it if you were the

**boss' wife. It's
that simple. Besides, I do
believe your ex-husband cares
about you...**

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 53

**Upon hearing Zacks' words,
Sophia laughed
out loud.**

**“When it comes to
stuff like this,
it's not something you can
control, nor is it
something that will go the way
you want it to.**

**Therefore, your efforts are all in
vain. So, I
suggest you stop it.**

”

Zack smacked his lips.

**“Are you
saying I'm
annoying?”**

**It's not annoying per se. Still,
it's
uncomfortable when there's
always somebody
trying to stick their nose into
my business.**

Thus, she waved her hand.

“Nope. Let me tell

**you this; the more you try to
push us
together, the more likely your
plans will
backfire on you.**

”

**In the first place, John doesn't
like me. So,
if Zack keeps trying to put in a
good word
for me, it might just end up
working by way
of reverse psychology, and John
will hate me
even more.**

**Still, Zack didn't quite
understand that logic.
However, when he saw Sophia
speaking so
knowledgeably about it, he
couldn't refute
her words.**

**On the other side, John had
finished
swimming several laps around
the swimming
pool. Just as he was about to
climb out of the
pool, a young lady approached
him. Moreover,
the swimsuit she wore was**

even more
revealing than the one Sophia
had on. She
walked over and sat by the
edge of the pool,
dipping her legs into the water
and paddling
her legs back and forth. Thus,
the ripples
and splashes caused by her
kicks traveled
over to John.

Then, John looked at her
expressionlessly.

On the other hand, the young
lady smiled.

Tilting her head to the side, she
asked,

“Are
you here alone?”

The young lady was dry, and
her face was
fully made up. A single glance
was enough to
tell that she wasn't here to
swim.

Hence, he said nothing. Instead,
he put some
strength into his arms and
climbed out of the
water.

Seeing that, the young lady
followed after
him.

As he was shaking the water off
him, the

young lady said in a soft and
gentle voice,
right next to him,

“Why have I
never seen
you around here before?”

Although his actions continued,
he turned his
head to look at her.

The young lady had a slender
jaw, large eyes,
and a nice figure. Moreover,
she was rather
petite—she looked like she was
shorter than
Sophia.

All of a sudden, he asked
expressionlessly,
“Do I look like I came alone?”

The young lady was taken aback;
she didn't
seem to understand what he
meant.

Then, he added,
“Did you not
see the ring on

my finger?”

**At that moment, the young lady
lowered her**

**gaze and looked toward his
hands. Sure**

**enough, he was wearing a
wedding ring on his
finger,**

**Thus, she blushed, opening and
closing her**

mouth but no words came out.

**John sneered, then he turned
around and**

**headed toward Sophia. Despite
being**

**divorced, he had never taken
off his wedding**

**ring. It wasn't as if he
deliberately left it on**

**either. It was more like he had
forgotten**

**about it. Or, perhaps he was
just used to it.**

**Rather, it could also be that the
thought of**

**taking off his wedding ring
before his**

**divorce was announced to the
public had**

never entered his mind.

Naturally, Sophia saw the entire

spectacle
going on around John. Ever
since the young
lady approached him and sat
down by the
edge of the pool, she began to
take notice.

She smiled and looked at him
with a teasing
expression.

The drink John ordered
previously had been
served. When he walked over,
Zack hurriedly
gave up his seat. Thus, John sat
down and
downed the juice in one gulp.
Chuckling, Sophia said,
“That
young lady’s
expression changed rather
drastically.

”

John lifted his gaze and glanced
at Sophia
without saying anything.
On the other hand, Zack was
glaring at
Sophia from the side, indicating
to her that
the subject was taboo.

Still, Sophia wasn't the type to be obedient.

The only reason she held back and endured everything during her time with the

Constance Family was that she was afraid of causing trouble for John.

However, she didn't care anymore. Thus, she continued,

"She was such a pretty young lady too. Seriously; how could you be so cruel to her?"

Zack hissed,

"What are you saying? Boss is a man of principles! He's not somebody that anybody can just approach without reason!"

She frowned and made a non-committal sound in response. Then, she smiled and shook her head.

"Forget it; pretend I didn't say anything.

”

To be honest, Sophia wanted to ask, Did he never allow other women to approach him while he was entertaining clients in the past?

In the past, John constantly had to entertain many clients. When men get together to socialize, it was the norm to take part in some form of sexual entertainment. Besides, getting young ladies to accompany them while they were drinking was no big deal anyway.

I don't believe John rejected all those women flocking to his side. That is simply impossible. Still... it would have been fine to ask if it were back then. But now... I think I've lost the right to ask.

The Returning Ex Chapter 54
Originally, Sophia wanted to come to the

swimming pool to relax.
However, now that
John had come over, there was
no way for
her to relax anymore.
Whenever she was
faced with him, she just
couldn't relax no
matter what she did. Moreover,
no matter
how natural she pretended to
be, she was
constantly tense around him.
Thus, she leaned back against
the chair,
feeling disappointed.

“Are you
guys going to
continue playing? If not, I want
to go back.
”

Zack glanced over at John.
Then, John said expressionlessly,
“Sure.
”

He didn't like being flirted with.
Therefore,
when that woman approached
him just now, it
ruined his mood completely.
So, the three of them left

despite staying
only for a short while.
Afterward, Sophia changed her
clothes and
waited by the entrance of the
swimming pool
for a while before John and
Zack came out.

Zack eyed Sophia out of the
corner of his
eye, but his words were
directed toward
John.

“Boss, let’s go out to play
tomorrow.

I’ve already thought of a place
to visit.

”

John didn’t care, nor did he ask
about where
they were going.

“Okay.

”

Zack looked rather pleased and
wiggled his
brows at Sophia.

However, Sophia ignored him.

After that, they got into the
elevator and
went down, then waited to get
out.

Just then, Zack realized something.

“That’s right. Sophia, please gather up your stuff later and move into the boss’ room. I’ll cancel that room of yours.

” Sophia frowned.

However, he continued before she could say anything,

“There are no married couples that sleep in separate rooms. That’s just treating other people like fools! The Infinity Group might just be digging up any loopholes we have on our side.

”

In order to stop Sophia and John from saying anything, he continued,

“Even if they saw the surveillance footage and know that the two of you were together that night... if

the two of you continue quarreling at this point, the Infinity Group will have a chance to create a rumor about our boss and that female employee having an ambiguous relationship. That person... If she wanted to be shameless, they could do anything!”

Sophia wasn't willing to listen to his bullsh*t.

Thus, she waved her hand and said,

“That's enough; I'll move into his room later. Stop talking; it's not like I understand what you're saying anyway.”

Then, she headed toward her own room.

John frowned. However, he said nothing in objection. Instead, he turned around and walked toward his room.

Zack stood on the spot, pursing his lips as he glanced about. Then, he laughed soundlessly.

When Sophia returned to the room, she sat by the bed and blanked out. She didn't have many items—she couldn't even fill her tiny luggage bag. Thus, she didn't even know how to pack up.

Sitting around like this for a bit, Zack knocked on her door, claiming that he wanted to help her move her items. Opening the door, she pointed toward the luggage by the door.

“It's just that one.”

“Okay.

” Zack smiled and dragged the luggage outside.

John was sitting in his chair, staring at the computer. When Sophia

entered the room, he didn't even turn to look at her. Sophia glanced at him and went straight into the bedroom.

This room was similar to her room—it only had a bed. She stared at it for a long while before walking out again.

“Where am I going to sleep tonight?”

John and Zack were taken aback at the same time. That was certainly a problem. Now, they weren't a married couple anymore.

Despite whatever passionate affairs that occurred between them before, when it came down to it, it wasn't proper for them to share a bed anymore.

Zack laughed awkwardly and was unable to answer her.

John mulled over it, then replied,

“You'll take

the bed; I'll sleep on the sofa.

”

**Sophia seemed to be satisfied
with his**

decision. Thus, she nodded.

**“Alright, I'll have
to trouble you then, President
Constance.**

”

**After saying that, she turned,
walked into
the bedroom, and changed into
her pajamas.**

**Sitting cross-legged on the bed,
she lowered
her head to stare at the
bedsheet.**

**John had a mild case of
mysophobia.**

**Therefore, the bedsheet was
definitely
newly-bought by Zack. After all,
John would
never sleep on any bedsheets
provided by the
hotel.**

This man is full of flaws.

**She sat around for a while, then
she lay down
on the bed. For some reason,
she felt**

uncomfortable even though she didn't know which part of her body felt uncomfortable.

Even so, she couldn't tell exactly what was wrong—it was just an inexplicable sense of unease.

Moreover, she wanted to go out to see what John was doing. At the same time, she felt that she shouldn't. Thus, these two ideas fought for precedence in her head, leaving her feeling very conflicted. Sophia didn't dare to close her eyes.

Whenever she closed her eyes, the passionate affair between her and John from the other day flashed across her eyes.

The Returning Ex Chapter 55
When evening rolled around, Zack helped them order dinner, and the room service

staff delivered it to the room.

He had
ordered a lot of food and
included his portion
in the order too.

Sophia was leaning against the
bed, playing a
game. Despite hearing the
commotion
outside, she didn't move,
pretending to be
unaware.

After a while, John pushed open
the door
and came inside. Standing at
the door, he
said,
"It's dinnertime."
"

Thus, she shifted her gaze from
her phone
to him.

How do I explain this feeling?
It's like I'm in
a different time and place and
the roles have
been reversed. In the past, John
always used
to shut himself in his study after
returning
home.

Most of the time, I was the one that invited him to dinner. However, I didn't dare to enter his study. I could only knock on the door and stand by the door to tell him that it's dinnertime.

Withdrawing her gaze, she replied,
"Okay. I'll go over once I finish this game."
"

John said nothing, turning around to leave instead. In the past, he used to reply in just the same way: 'Okay, I'll go over once I finish looking through this document.'

However, most of the time, he only came down after I finished eating.

At the time, I had very low-esteem. Thus, I couldn't help wondering whether this man was

**deliberately trying to avoid
me—so much so
that he even had to stagger his
mealtimes.**

**Just thinking about the past
made her
extremely uncomfortable.**

**Unfortunately, Sophia failed to
get past that
stage. However, it had not even
been two
minutes since John had left.**

**Thus, she put
her phone down, took a deep
breath, and got
off the bed.**

**Zack and John were already
seated, but they
had yet to touch their
chopsticks. It looked
like they were waiting for her.
Walking over, she pulled out a
chair and sat
down emotionlessly.**

**Then, John said,
“Let’s eat.
”**

**Zack glanced over at Sophia.
“He refused to
let me touch my chopsticks
before you**

came.

”

She grunted.

“Are you blaming me?”

He was taken aback. He didn't expect her to react in that way. After being stunned for a moment, he explained in a small voice,

“I wasn't blaming you.

”

She said nothing. Instead, she lowered her head to eat.

He had ordered a nutritious soup for her.

The taste wasn't special, so she took a few mouthfuls before putting her spoon down.

John had been eating his food with his head

lowered. However, when he saw Sophia

putting down her spoon, he said in a low voice,

“Finish the soup.

”

His tone wasn't nice, but it wasn't harsh enough to make a person uncomfortable.

Sophia frowned slightly and turned her head to look at him.

Still, he didn't even look at her as he continued eating.

She pondered over it, then picked up her spoon again and took a few more mouthfuls.

Zack looked at the two of them cautiously.

He couldn't help but feel that the atmosphere between them was strange. At

first, he could have straightened out the atmosphere between them.

Unfortunately, he didn't even dare to say another word now.

Thus, the three of them ate in silence. After dinner, Zack created a reason to leave.

Later, Sophia returned to the

bedroom and
stood by the window, looking
outside. By now,
many people were gathered by
the beach—
the nightlife was beginning
again.

Even so, she waited for a while
more until the
beach was bustling with life
before she
turned to go out.

John was still staring solemnly
at his
computer while wearing a pair
of anti-radiation glasses.

She didn't say anything to him
as she headed
straight to the door.

Surprisingly, when she
reached the door and placed
her hand on the
handle, she heard him say from
behind her,

“Where are you going?”

Without stopping or even
turning around, she
replied,

“I'm going out to have
fun.

”

He pushed his computer aside and turned his head to look at her. From the beginning, she had been on the slimmer side. Moreover, she was sick and hospitalized previously. Thus, her back looked even smaller and frailer now.

At first, he was about to say something rather unpleasant. However, when he saw how she looked, he paused and swallowed those words. In the end, he only said, "We are currently in a partnership, so I hope you can restrain yourself."
"

Sophia smiled and opened the door.

"I got it."
"

After saying that, she walked out, closing the door behind her. On the other hand, John was expressionless.

Even the usual frown on his face did not appear. After sitting in his seat for a short moment, he pulled his computer back to him and resumed looking through his documents.

He wasn't affected by her behavior at all. As long as she behaved herself and did not cause any trouble for him, he honestly did not care where she went.

The Returning Ex Chapter 56
After Sophia left the room, she went to the bar.

Not many people were at the bar at this time, and that singer wasn't there either.

Smacking her lips, she couldn't help finding her actions meaningless.

Therefore, she turned around and headed outside the hotel; she thought of taking a walk by the beach.

The doors of the hotel were wide open and many people were standing there talking.

At first, Sophia was about to go out. She took two steps before stopping and turning back to look. There was a large plant by the side of the hotel entrance and beside the plant stood a woman.

That woman was wearing a short skirt, and her legs were very fair. She was also wearing a spaghetti-strap top, and her breasts were practically out on display.

That woman was on the phone and failed to notice Sophia. Then, Sophia smiled.

Wondering for a moment, she decided to walk over.

“Hi.
”

The woman was surprised and glanced up at

Sophia. However, she couldn't recognize

Sophia immediately. Frowning, she said,

"Who—"

Before she continued her sentence, her expression changed.

Sophia smiled. It looks like she recognizes me.

The woman quickly told the other party on the other side of the phone, "Something just came up; I'll talk to you later."

After that, she ended the call.

Sophia put on a harmless expression.

"We'

ve met.

"

The woman made a sound of agreement.

"We've met; on the beach last time.

"

Sophia raised her brows.

**“Why
are you here
alone? John isn’t coming out, so
you won’t be
able to meet him even if you
waited here.
”**

**The woman stood motionless as
she stared at
Sophia. Perhaps she wasn’t very
good at
pretending, and that was why
the wariness on
her face was clear as day. Or
perhaps, she
knew Sophia’s identity. Thus,
there were
some things she truly did not
know how to
place into words.
When Sophia saw that the
woman wasn’t
answering, she laughed out
loud.**

**“What’s
wrong? Did President McCaw
not allow you to
leave until you met your target?
That’s so
inhumane of him!”
The woman’s expression**

changed.

“W-What
are you saying? I don’t
understand; I’m just
waiting here for a friend.
”

Sophia snorted and said in a
light voice,
“That’s enough. Stop
pretending. I feel tired
just by looking at you. I’ve seen
my fair share
of women like you. Despite
knowing that the
other party is a married man,
you still try to
seduce him.
There were many before you,
and I’m sure
there’ll be even more after you.
Let me put it
this way; your looks are below
average among
these women. It’s only to be
expected that
John wouldn’t be attracted to
you at all.
”

Then, the woman blushed
furiously. People
were standing nearby, and

**Sophia's volume
wasn't suppressed. Therefore,
everybody
around them could hear what
she said clearly.**

**Sophia couldn't care less as she
continued,**

**"Tell me; the two companies
had agreed to a
cooperation. Wouldn't it have
been great if**

**everybody had placed their
focus on their**

**work? However, your company
had to send an
employee like you to offer up
your nightly
services.**

**Just what is wrong with your
boss? Well,
your brain isn't working all that
great either.**

**How could you agree to offer up
your body**

**just because your boss asked
you to?! Why**

**don't you ask your parents
about what you**

**did? If your parents knew you
tried to**

seduce a married man and was

rejected
during your attempt... You
would be such an
embarrassment to them!”
She laughed, but her expression
was furious.

“I must say, miss, you don’t
need to continue
waiting here any longer. Even if
you wait
here, nothing will come to
fruition. Last time,
you practically stripped right in
front of his
door. Even so, he didn’t even
open the door
for you.

Well, let me warn you; you
better go back
and become an honest person.
Don’t keep
thinking about taking these
crooked
measures—it won’t last for long.
Oh, that’s
right...

” She continued,
“Go
back and tell this
to your boss: stop wasting your
time.

The cooperation between the two companies will not be completed. John isn't as merciful or easy-going as you seem to think.

Whenever I make him mad, I can't even get out of bed for three days. If it's you guys, he will be even more ruthless.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 57
After saying that, Sophia giggled, feeling completely unashamed.
On the other hand, that woman was left completely speechless by her words.
Then, Sophia gave the woman a once over—
the same way that woman sized her up disgustingly when they were by the beach.
She even made sure to click her tongue several times and curl her lips in a sneer before turning around to leave.

When her
back was facing that woman,
she snickered
lightly.

The people surrounding them
had heard what
she said just now and were
fervently
discussing it among themselves
as they
enjoyed the show, and Sophia
heard it all.

I finally got my revenge. This
feeling is truly
the best!

Humming to herself, she slowly
headed
toward the beach. She walked
along the
beach on her own for a while
before finding a
rock to sit on.

Many people were on the
beach, but they
were all in pairs. Although she
felt a little
lonely, she was in high spirits,
especially when
she thought about that woman
who became
speechless after listening to her.

**Thus, she
couldn't help laughing out loud
at the memory.**

**This way of living where I don't
need to hold
back against whoever upsets
me is so
comfortable. Compared to the
life I lived
before this... I can't even call
that living.**

**In the past, she was constantly
picked on
while living with the Constance
Family.**

**Anytime they felt displeased or
upset over
something, they would take it
out on her. To
be honest, most of what they
berated her
for wasn't even reasonable.**

**However, they lorded over her
due to their
seniority over her, as well as
the fact that
she didn't come from a good
family, and
tormented her with all their
might.**

Recalling those memories, the

expression on
her face gradually worsened. To
put it
bluntly, it was that a*shole's
fault. If only
John had stood up for me, I
wouldn't have
had to suffer so pitifully.
Thus, she cursed at him quietly
under her
breath. She sat there for a while
longer,
then she returned to the hotel
and headed
over to the bar. However, that
singer was
still nowhere to be found.
After that, she drank a cup of
water, nibbled
on some fruits, and returned to
the room
after noticing that it was almost
time for her
to return.
When Sophia walked into the
room, she did
not see John anywhere. Initially,
she thought
that he had gone out too.
However, as soon
as she walked into the bedroom,

she was shocked. The room had an attached bathroom, and the bathroom was made of frosted glass.

More importantly, somebody was clearly inside the bathroom. Besides, she could hear the sound of running water coming from the shower.

Thus, she pursed her lips and was about to leave the bedroom. Even so, she had only taken a step before she paused in her tracks.

Swaggering over to the bed, she sat down, took out her phone, and began to play games on it.

On the other hand, John had not heard any of the noises coming from outside. After finishing his shower, he walked out of the bathroom while drying his hair.

However, he stopped dead in his tracks after taking no more than two steps out of the bathroom.

Sophia was sitting cross-legged on the bed, happily playing games on her phone.

Moreover, she wasn't wearing a bra—all she had on was a spaghetti-strap nightgown.

With her head slightly lowered, her chest area was almost entirely exposed.

Two seconds passed before she seemed to notice his presence. Thus, she quickly adjusted her nightgown. Even so, the look in her eyes was calm as she gazed at him.

“Are you done? If you're done, please get out of here.”

Reflexively, John lowered his

head and
looked down at himself.
Fortunately, he had
wrapped a towel around his
waist, so he
wasn't buck naked in front of
her.

Still, she turned away. With her
back facing
him, she said,
"Aren't you going
out? I'm
about to go to bed."
"

She was clearly being defensive.
He stared at her back, studying
her. Then,
he turned around and went
back into the
bathroom to retrieve the
clothes he wore
earlier. After that, he made a
beeline toward
the door. When he went out, he
slammed the
door behind him a little
forcefully as if he
was slightly upset over
something.
Sophia pressed her lips tightly
together,

grinning as she leisurely continued her game. After several seconds, she heard John's voice on the phone. From what she heard, it seemed like he was asking Zack to change their room to a larger room. Thus, she nearly burst out laughing. Even if it's a larger room, it will still be a double room. And, most double rooms are meant for couples, which also means that they come with a single bathroom and restroom. If so, what's the point of changing rooms? John is being silly. She didn't know what Zack said on the other side of the phone, but John hung up suddenly. Then, she whistled happily. Today is turning out to be a perfect day. It was still lively outside. She

continued
playing two more rounds of her
game, then
listened to the sounds in the
living room—it
was quiet. Thus, she closed the
window and
lay down to sleep.
Unfortunately, she couldn't
fall asleep.
Staring at the dark ceiling above
her, the
corners of her lips slowly lifted.
She didn't
know why she was feeling
happy, but she
certainly felt over the moon.
Then, Sophia felt about in the
dark for her
phone. Once she found it, she
opened up her
Facebook. She didn't have
many friends, and
there weren't many contacts on
her Facebook
either. After that, she posted a
short
sentence: 'The game is just
beginning—I can't
wait.

,

The Returning Ex Chapter 58

The next day, Sophia was woken up by a knock on the door. It wasn't coming from the door outside, but from the door to the bedroom.

Thus, she drowsily opened her eyes. Before her mind cleared, she asked, "Who is it?"

Then, John replied rather speechlessly,

"Who else could it be?"

She grunted in reply.

"What do you want?"

In response, he said,

"Can you come out for a bit? I need to use the restroom.

"

However, she simply rolled over and hugged the blankets to her.

"Come in then.

"

After waiting by the door for a

while, he
finally pushed the door open
and entered the
bedroom. Neatly dressed in his
pajamas, he
stood by the door and studied
her. Then, he
said in a flat voice,
“Please
come out for a
moment. I need to use the
restroom. I’ll be
quick.”

She replied without opening her
eyes,
“As
long as you’re not using the bed,
you can do
as you please. I’m going back to
sleep.”

Still, he didn’t move and just
stood there
motionlessly. To be honest, she
knew what he
wanted, but she kept her eyes
closed, and
her heart leaped with joy.
He waited and waited. In the
end, he walked

in.

**She thought he was going to
rush directly
into the restroom. On the
contrary, he came
over to the bed. First, he pulled
the blankets
and wrapped her up in them.
Then, he picked
her up.**

**Shrieking in surprise, she
opened her eyes to
glare at him.**

**He carried her out of the
bedroom in a few
strides. Reaching the sofa, he
unceremoniously dumped her
on it. After
that, he expressionlessly
returned to the
bedroom and locked the door
behind him.**

**Sophia struggled a little and sat
up on the
sofa. Her hair was completely
disheveled. As
she stared at the bedroom door,
she
suddenly smiled.**

**Looks like John desperately
needs to use the**

toilet.

She mulled over it for a bit, then hugged the blankets to her and lay back down on the sofa. Closing her eyes, she continued sleeping.

It took a long time before John came back out. He had taken the chance to wash up and brush his teeth while he was in the restroom.

When he came out, he saw that Sophia had fallen asleep on the sofa. He pondered for a moment, then returned to the room.

He saw her gastric medicine sitting on the bedside table—it was a whole bagful of them.

Moreover, it looked like it had barely been touched.

Shifting his gaze away, he stood next to the window. The early morning breeze was very

cool, and it blew away all the frustrations building up inside him. For some reason, a ball of impatience and restlessness had been stuck in his chest since last night.

After standing there for a while, a knock sounded from the outside. He didn't even need to ask to know who it was.

Thus, John walked out, intending to open the door for Zack. However, when he reached the door, he turned back.

Sophia had always had a bad sleeping posture. Right now, she was hugging the blanket to her, and her nightgown had slid up over her thighs. Therefore, he walked over, pulled the blanket out of her grip, and covered her with it. After that, he checked

her over and determined that it was appropriate before he opened the door for Zack.

As soon as Zack came in, he anxiously said, "Hurry up! I've already rented a car. Today, we

're going out sightseeing—" When he saw Sophia, who was lying on the sofa, he paused abruptly, and his gaze wandered.

John frowned.

"Wait a little longer.

" Then, he went over and stood by the sofa and nudged at Sophia.

"Wake up."
"

Sophia was sleeping deeply. At his nudging, she groaned slightly and rolled over.

He blocked her from rolling over.

**“Do you
want to go out sightseeing
today?”**

**After a few seconds, she
squinted up at him.**

His face was impassive.

**“Go
inside, wash up,
and get changed. Hurry up.
”**

**Sophia sat up, then noticed
Zack standing
there. Thus, she held the
blankets up around
her, trying to cover herself up
as best as she
could. Even so, it was obvious
that she had
woken up on the wrong side of
the bed. While
walking toward the bedroom,
she muttered,
“You carried me out here and
had your way
with me so early in the morning.
So, why
didn’t you have the courtesy to
carry me
back inside after you finished?”
On the other hand, Zack stood
to the side,**

trembling and not daring to
meet anybody in
the eye. What were those
dangerous? sounding words?
Can I pretend I didn't hear
anything?

After that, she walked into the
room. Taking
her own sweet time, she went
into the
bathroom to freshen up and
take a shower.

By the time she came back out,
she was
awake. On the contrary, Zack
nearly fell
asleep waiting.

John was staring at his phone.
When he saw
her come out, he stood up and
said,
"Don't
forget to bring your medicine."
"

Sophia blinked.

"Oh. If you
didn't remind me,
I'd have forgotten them."
"

Then, she turned back, went
into the room,

and took her gastric medicine with her.

At the same time, Zack stood up and pressed his lips together.

“This woman...

How will she survive alone? It's so worrying.

”

John stared after Sophia's back and narrowed his eyes.

The Returning Ex Chapter 59

Zack had rented a car. Bringing John and Sophia with him, he headed to the Edge of the World.

It was a road Sophia was familiar with.

Throughout the entire journey, neither she

nor John said a word. She was simply not

fully awake yet while he was innately a man

of little words. Although Zack tried to

mediate the tension between them, he found

his efforts to be in vain. So, he

gave up.

As they had left the hotel relatively late, a lot of people were already at the scenic location by the time they arrived. Upon arriving, Zack went to buy their entry tickets. He was rather well-prepared, handing John and Sophia each a cap.

It was getting hot as the sun slowly began to blaze brightly above their heads.

While Sophia and John stood where they were and waited for Zack, they remained quiet. Frankly speaking, most of the time they spent together in the past had been spent in silence too. Therefore, the silence didn't feel awkward.

Most of the visitors visiting this tourist spot were couples. Hence,

**everybody seemed to
be walking about with their arm
around their
partner, chatting and laughing
away.**

**As Sophia watched the couples
passing by,**

**her expression unknowingly
became envious.**

**Perhaps, it was because the
contrast**

**between those couples and her
situation was**

like night and day.

**On the other hand, John didn't
seem to be**

**the least bit affected. He was
looking in**

**Zack's direction with a
somewhat impatient**

expression.

**She continued watching the
couples around**

**her as they either went to buy
their entry**

tickets or enter the tourist spot.

At the

**same time, she pressed her lips
together.**

**After a while, Zack returned
with the**

tickets, and they entered the tourist area.

However, they didn't head directly toward the two rocks the Edge of the World was famous for.

Instead, they walked about inside and looked around the mall.

Pointing at the Star of the Edge of the World located in the middle of the mall, Zack said,

"Oh, hey! why don't the two of you take a picture with that! It'll look so good!"

However, John and Sophia simultaneously looked at him with an unhappy expression.

He had already taken his camera out. Taking one look at their faces, he sadly put the camera away again.

Sophia had been here previously. Therefore, she had already seen the sights.

Moreover,
Trevor had given her a great
tour of the
place at the time. Back then,
Trevor kept
trying to take pictures with her,
and Zack
had helped her reject his
advances.

Sophia had no interest in taking
pictures with
a stranger; it made her feel
rather strange.

Still, being with John this time
around didn't
make her feel like taking
pictures either.

Mainly, it was because she
could tell that

John was unwilling to do so.

After the three of them walked
about inside

for a while, John couldn't stand
it anymore.

"Didn't you say we were

supposed to go to

the Edge of the World? Let's

hurry up and go

then. Once noon rolls around,

the sunlight will

be too brutal. It will be

unbearable.

”

Zack glanced at Sophia and
stammered
slightly,

“Okay, sure. Why don’t
we head over
there?”

Sophia didn’t care; she wasn’t
enthusiastic
about the trip anyway.

To be honest, she was a little
astonished. In
the past, she used to dream
about going on a
vacation with John and having
fun together.

Now, that dream was fulfilled.
Unfortunately, she no longer
felt any joy in
it.

Perhaps I’ve been waiting for so
long that I
no longer have any
expectations.

Afterward, the three of them
headed to the
Edge of the World. There were
other rocks
located around the area too,
and many people

were taking photos with them.

The last time

Sophia came, she had taken
pictures there

too, but compared to the mood
she had then,

her current mood was worse.

John scowled as he stared at
the two rocks.

It was surrounded by a lot of
people. Then,

he stood with his arms crossed
before his

chest, refusing to go over.

Thus, Zack waited for their turn.

When he

saw the people taking photos
finishing up and

walking away, he hurriedly
pushed Sophia

forward.

“Hurry, hurry! I’ll take

your picture

for you.

”

Sophia didn’t shy away. Instead,
she walked

over without hesitation.

Zack held the camera up and

made several

poses before clicking his tongue,

saying,
“It’s
too empty. The sides are too
empty! Hey,
boss! Will you stand over to this
side? I’ll
take a look.
”

How could John not know what
Zack was up
to? Considering it briefly, he
decided to go
over to stand with Sophia on
both sides of
the rocks.

Then, Zack brightened up
happily and took
several photos of them in that
pose. After
that, he said to both of them,
“Give me a
smile! Why are you making such
gloomy
expressions?”

Thus, Sophia gave a
half-hearted smile.
John wasn’t the type to smile.
So, he simply
looked at Zack.
“Hurry up and
get it on with.

A lot of people are waiting.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 60

Zack hurriedly took several

more pictures of

them. He knew that it was very

rare for both

John and Sophia to play along

so amicably.

Therefore, he nervously took

several shots

as quickly as he could.

After that, the three of them

moved over to

the rocks by the side.

They had already taken photos

with the ‘End

of the Earth’ and the

‘Cape’—the two famous

rocks at the Edge of the World.

Although

there were other relatively

famous scenic

rocks nearby, Zack didn’t dare

to make any

more requests.

Zack knew John’s temper all too

well—John

was barely tolerating him. In

fact, John had

probably been holding in his

temper ever
since he came out on this trip
and saw that
he was seated next to Sophia
on the plane.

Therefore, Zack was terribly
afraid of
saying the wrong thing and
provoking his
boss' temper.

After strolling on the beach for
a while,
Sophia mentioned that she was
hungry. To be
honest, she wasn't even sure
whether she
was actually hungry.

Due to her gastric problems,
she tended to
get sudden hunger pangs.

According to the
doctor, it was normal. Once she
finished her
medicine and cured her gastric
problems,
that feeling would go away on
its own.

Zack had brought along some
snacks with him
when they left in the morning.
However,

Sophia had barely eaten while they were in the car. So, it was natural that she was hungry now. Besides, John clearly didn't want to continue wasting time here. Thus, he said, "Let's go out to find someplace to eat."

Zack grinned. "We've only been here for less than an hour. How can the two of you not consider how precious money is?"

In response, Sophia sneered, "I have a lot of money. Back then, your boss was very generous to me. So, this small amount of pocket change won't faze me."

On the other hand, John headed directly to the exit without saying anything.

**Then, Zack hissed,
“Fine; you
guys are the
bosses anyway. Whatever you
say.
”**

**Therefore, the three of them
went inside
and came back out again, all
within an hour.**

**Outside the tourist area, many
seafood
restaurants were located
nearby—one could
find seafood almost anywhere
in this area.**

**Sophia glanced about her, then
stopped at
the entrance of a shop that
looked more like
a food stall.**

**“This place has the
most
delicious scent.
”**

**The owner of the place was
pretty good at
attracting customers. When he
saw Sophia
coming over, he quickly
welcomed them.**

**“What a beautiful young lady.
Come, come;
come inside and place your
orders.
”**

Sophia smiled.

**“Boss, you have
such a silver
tongue. Your business must be
booming!”**

**However, the owner replied
seriously,**

**“The
main reason is that you are
gorgeous. That’s
why I praised you. If you
weren’t, I wouldn’t
have been able to do it with a
clean
conscience. It’s important for
people like us,
who do business, to act with a
conscience. So,
I praised you because you’re
worth praising.
”**

**The owner of this restaurant
sure is
eloquent. Thus, she nodded.
“Alright. I’ll eat
here just because of that**

attitude of yours.

”

After that, she went over to the seafood

area and began picking out what she wanted.

Some were made into sashimi, some were steamed, and some were grilled.

Sophia ordered many items, acting like a nouveau riche.

Zack went over to order too.

However, he immediately returned to his seat after seeing how many things she ordered.

John was sitting with his head lowered, staring at his phone. Just then, he received a message.

Meanwhile, Zack leaned over.

He didn't try to see the contents on John's phone. Instead, he whispered to John, "I guess you did give

her a lot of money back then.

”

That woman is practically ordering every single living thing at the seafood area of this restaurant.

Then, John turned to look at Sophia.

“There’s nothing wrong with a woman treating herself to something nice.

”

Zack frowned.

“You’re talking as if you...

”

Luckily, his brain caught up with his words quickly, and he hurriedly stopped himself from finishing his sentence. Instead, he turned to look at Sophia and changed the topic.

“Sophia, don’t order too much! It’ll be a waste if you can’t finish everything!”

However, Sophia ignored him.
On the other hand, John
continued studying
the contents on his phone.
At the same time, Zack secretly
breathed
out a sigh of relief. He nearly
had a slip of
the tongue just now—what he
was about to
say was: ‘
you
’re talking as if you have a
conscience.
’ After all, John was
the one that
suggested the divorce. Despite
knowing that
Sophia had no family of her
own, he still did
something like that to her. No
matter how
much money he gave her, it
couldn’t cover the
fact that he had no conscience
whatsoever.
After Sophia added some raw
oysters to her
order, she finally returned to
the table.
John was sending out messages.

Unexpectedly, he had a rare smile on this face.

Glancing at him, Sophia made a face.

This man has never been so happy when he was with me.

The Returning Ex Chapter 61
Zack was considerably quick to catch on. As

soon as he saw the expression Sophia was making, he immediately understood what was going through her mind.

Thus, he glanced at John and said in a serious tone,

“What’s wrong, Boss? Is there something going on with work? We are on vacation, yet you’re still working. You sure have it hard.

”

John turned his head to look at Zack. After that, he put away his phone. However, he

didn't answer the question.

Therefore,

**Sophia couldn't help feeling
that the person**

**who sent the message was a
woman.**

**Still, the fact that John was
messaging
somebody was a surprise to her.**

**He generally
advocated efficiency. So, he
considered**

**sending messages to be a
time-consuming and
laborious method of
communication.**

**However, she later realized that
perhaps**

**some people had different
habits when**

**facing different people. When
faced with**

**certain people, he might
consider messaging
to be a waste of time.**

**On the other hand, he might
not consider it**

**to be a waste of time when
dealing with**

**other people. Leaning against
her chair, she**

smiled to herself.

As for Zack, he licked his back teeth and said nothing more. They waited for a long time for their food to come but none of them said a word. The current atmosphere was similar to when they were in the car. Drinking some water, John lifted his gaze to look at Sophia. Then, he seemed to recall something and said,
"Take your medicine."
"

Some of Sophia's medicine were to be taken before meals. Thus, she was momentarily taken aback before making a non-committal sound in reply. She rarely remembered stuff like these. Slowly opening up her bag, she took out several types of medicine, then several pills

of each type. Zack drew in a quick breath.

“You have to take these many just before meals?”

She nodded.

“Yup, I’ll be full by the time I’m done with these.”

However, John simply studied her medicine quietly. On the other hand, she swallowed her pills easily. She placed them all in her mouth and swallowed them in one go with some water.

After finishing her medicine, she took a deep breath and glanced over at the kitchen.

Surprisingly, John spoke up right then.

“How long have you been having gastric problems?”

Sophia was stunned and glanced over at him.

“At least ten years now.

” When she first suffered from gastric problems, she wasn’t even an adult yet.

The man nodded but didn’t say anything else.

After all, he knew all about Sophia’s family background. When his grandpa first asked

him to marry Sophia, his grandpa had made everything clear. To be honest, even if his

grandpa had not said anything, the Constance Family would have investigated Sophia’s entire background.

Finally, the owner served up the sashimi.

Then, Sophia swallowed her drool. Seeing this, John frowned. Still, he could tell that she was salivating over the food.

Thus, he simply said, “Don’t eat too much.

”

Sophia swept her gaze over him and did not respond. However, Zack smiled and said,
“Boss is just worried about you. He’s afraid...”

”

When John calmly turned his gaze on Zack, the latter immediately fell silent, leaving his sentence trailing.

Once they started eating, there was no need to bother about whether or not the atmosphere was awkward.

Thus, Sophia focused on eating. On the contrary, Zack would occasionally discuss some company affairs with John. He mainly asked about how the matter involving the Infinity Group would be handled. He had already bought their return tickets for the day after tomorrow.

Hence, he couldn't just leave without knowing anything. No matter how he thought about it, he found it very hard to stomach the underhanded methods the Infinity Group had used this time around. However, John replied without looking at Zack, "You'll know when the time comes.

" In terms of giving an answer, the words he uttered were no better than if he had remained silent. As such, Zack became slightly upset and used a little more force than necessary when wielding his chopsticks. Suddenly, Sophia remembered something. "By the way, I saw the woman who drugged you last night. She came to meet

you.

”

Upon hearing that, both John and Zack were taken aback. Thus, Zack turned to look at John.

“She came to visit you again?”

John frowned in response.

“Nope.

”

Then, Sophia said,

“I chased her away. Since

I happened to notice her last night, I gave

her a piece of my mind. She was so badly

chastised that her face was flushed and pale at the same time.

” Taking the time to glance

at John, she continued,

“It

seems like she

was sent over by President

McCaw. I wonder

what he meant by doing that.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 62

When John heard what Sophia said, he smiled slightly.

“He’s probably getting nervous.

”

Zack didn’t know what was going on.

“That McCaw guy is getting nervous? Boss, what did you do? Why is he getting nervous?”

However, he leisurely answered, “I’ve told you. You’ll find out when the time comes.

”

Thus, Zack secretly curled his lips derisively.

On the other hand, Sophia did not say anything else.

The dishes were served up quickly. It was clear to see that she had over-ordered.

Moreover, the owner was afraid that they

would cancel their orders, so he quickly served all the dishes they ordered.

The three of them looked like they were eating with all their might. Even so, there were still a lot of leftovers in the end.

Sophia hailed the owner, "Here; please wrap these up."
"

The hotel had a refrigerator. Therefore, they could keep it in the fridge once they returned.

Afterward, the owner came over to hand them their packed-up food with a smile.

Moreover, he gave them a small discount while they were paying, claiming that it was because Sophia was so good-looking.

Sophia was happy too as she

made some
polite small talk with him. Alas,
everything
was settled. Wiping her mouth,
she prepared
to leave.

However, John looked at her
and said,

“Take
your medicine.
”

She reflexively stopped and
looked at him.

On the other hand, he didn't
look at her. He
simply stood by the door and
looked
elsewhere.

Then, she laughed softly and
took out her
medicine.

The medicine she had to take
after her

meals were even more than
those she had to
take before her meals.

Moreover, they were
numerous and tiny. Just looking
at it filled
her mouth with a bitter
aftertaste. Even so,

she didn't hesitate to down
them all in
several gulps. Then, she packed
up her items.

"Now, we can leave, right?"

He didn't even bother to spare
her a glance
as he walked out.

Later, they took a taxi back to
the hotel. It
was only noon when they
returned.

Sophia was covered in sweat
and she couldn't
stand the feeling. Thus, she
hurried into the
bathroom to take a shower.

However, she
heard the sound of the door
opening while
she was taking her shower.
It must be John.

Truthfully, nothing could be
seen through
the frosted glass. Still, she
smiled wickedly.

Sure enough, the sound of the
door closing
immediately followed the
sound of it opening
before. John had entered, then

immediately
went out again.
After that, she leisurely took
her time
finishing her shower and went
out with a
towel wrapped around her. She
didn't even
bother to dry her hair. Instead,
she stood by
the window and looked outside.
With the sea
breeze blowing in through the
window, it
wouldn't take long for her hair
to dry even
without blow-drying it.
She stood by the window. A
while later, the
door opened again and John
came in. He first
glanced toward the bathroom
before glancing
in another direction.
Then, Sophia turned to look at
John.
"You'
re
here to use the bathroom
again."
"

In return, John scowled.

“Can
you dress more
decently?”

She laughed.

“What do you
mean by
‘decently’? Despite how I look,
I’m covering
what needs to be covered up!”

He had never been willing to
argue with her.

If he was reluctant before, he
was even

more so after their divorce.

Thus, he said,

“I
need to use the room. Please
get out.

”

Chuckling, she turned around
and walked out.

Before she could take more
than two steps,

he said again,

“Dress
appropriately.

”

Then, she became a little
speechless.

“What

now? Just use the room; why do you need to care about what I do?"

Turning his head to look at her, he replied,

"Zack is coming over later.

"

Hence, she became irritated.

Even so, she

went back and grabbed her clothes before

turning to leave. As usual, John locked the

door behind him, acting as if he was afraid

she might peek on him.

Sophia changed into her clothes in the living

room. After mulling over it for a while, she

opened the door and left the room.

It was mid-afternoon, so there weren't many

people roaming outside. She headed to the

beach aimlessly; she simply wanted to take a

stroll.

After strolling about for a while, she

unexpectedly saw somebody familiar. Thus, she hurriedly ran over.

“Hey!
You’re here!”

It was the singer who was singing at the bar the other day. That singer was sitting on the reef, holding his guitar as he tested his vocals.

When he saw Sophia, he smiled too.

“Why are you here at this hour? Isn’t it too hot?”

She went over and sat down beside him.

“Then, why are you here at this hour?”

Laughing, he replied,

“I wanted to listen to the sea. I might get some inspiration from it.”

She couldn’t understand these artistic types.

After all, she was a common

person who only
loved money. Besides, she only
came out at a
time like this so that she didn't
need to
spend more time with John.
Hugging her legs, she said,
"Well then, go
ahead and look for your
inspiration. I'll just
sit here without getting in your
way."
"

Therefore, the singer smiled
and continued
strumming on his guitar.
It was mid-afternoon. Despite
the sea
breeze, it was still rather hot to
be sitting
there.
Soon, Sophia couldn't stand the
heat
anymore. It was making her
light-headed.
Therefore, she stood up.
"Mr.
Artist, I think
I need to go. If I sit here any
longer, I'm
going to get a heatstroke.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 63

**The singer lifted his head and
looked up at
the sky.**

**“I’m sorry; I forgot
about the
weather.**

**” Putting his guitar
away, he
continued,**

**“Let’s go. Why don’t
we return
together? I’ll treat you to a
drink.**

”

Sophia raised her brows at him.

“Sure.

”

**Then, the two of them walked
and chatted
about some of the places the
singer had been
to before.**

**Sophia knew very little about
the outside
world. Therefore, she was
extremely curious
about that.**

**While they were talking, they
arrived at the**

entrance of the hotel's little bar.

At this hour, the bar wasn't open yet.

However, the singer was a familiar face there. Thus, he naturally had special privileges.

Then, he brought her inside with him. The bartender was cleaning out his bartending equipment at the time. When he saw the singer coming inside with Sophia, his mind wandered into the gutter. Thus, he greeted the singer, "Come on over! What do you want to drink? It's my treat."

Sophia had only seen bartending in TV dramas, so she was rather interested in it.

Leaning across the bar, she smiled widely.

"Give me something you're

**good at; something
with some difficulty.
”**

**The bartender smiled and
began preparing a
drink on the spot.**

**When John came out of the
room, he didn't
see Sophia anywhere. Thus, he
was slightly
astonished. However, he also
knew that with
her current temperament, there
was no way
she would stay in the room
obediently.**

**Sometimes, he couldn't
understand. Sophia
has changed so much. Was that
woman in the
past a fake version of her? Or, is
the current
her the fake one?**

**Picking up his computer, he
went into the
room to look through his
documents.**

**However, he began feeling
irritated not long
after he started and was unable
to continue**

reading them.

Looking at the time, he realized that it had not even been 20 minutes. He suppressed his irritation then looked at the clock again. In the end, he couldn't stand staring at his documents anymore. So, he closed his computer.

Just then, a knock sounded from the outside—it was Zack. He claimed that the seafood they brought back was not suitable to be kept in the refrigerator.

Things like seafood should be eaten fresh.

If it were kept in the refrigerator for too long, it would give them food poisoning.

John had not even thought about these things; he even needed Zack to notify him about it. Then, John lost it at that moment.

“If it’s spoiled, throw it away! Is that so hard to decide?”

Zack pressed his lips together.

He could tell that John was in a terrible mood right now.

So, his voice lowered,

“What I

meant is... we

couldn’t let loose outside. But,

we’re at the

hotel now. Why don’t we drink

a little and

finish off the food? Sophia

ordered these. I

don’t know if throwing it away

will upset her.

”

John glared at Zack for a long

while—so

much so that Zack thought John

was about

to say something harsh again.

To his surprise,

he nodded.

“Okay.

”

After saying that, John blew out his breath.

They had stayed for an extra

two days.

However, he couldn't get his emotions under control. Thus, he couldn't help feeling that this trip had gone wrong since the beginning.

Every part of the trip felt off to him—it was a strange entrapping feeling that made him extremely uncomfortable.

When Zack saw John loosening up slightly, he hurriedly said, "There's a small bar at the hotel. Why don't we go and check it out?"

At first, John was only going to ask room service to deliver alcohol to their room.

However, he considered it briefly and nodded.

"It'll be good to have a change of pace.

"

Thus, they brought their phones

**with them
and left the room. When they
arrived at the
entrance to the bar, John saw
Sophia
standing by the bar before he
even entered
the place.
Sophia was laughing away
happily. Leaning
against the bar, she was
watching the
bartender mixing some drinks
with an
expression of amazement.
That's why they say people who
have never
seen much of the world were
easy to deceive.
All it takes is some bartender
mixing drinks
for her to reveal an expression
like that.
John crossed his arms and
stared at Sophia's
profile with some interest.
On the other hand, Zack clicked
his tongue
several times before saying in a
low voice,
"Look at that ex-wife of yours!**

She's so popular! Those two men are obviously trying to please her!"

John didn't reply. Instead, he watched

Sophia smile so widely that her eyes were no more than slits—she looked very happy.

Perhaps, the her in the past had been part of her. Similarly, the current her was also part of her. Both versions of her were the real her—it was just that her identity had changed.

A long while passed before he went inside.

When the bartender saw people coming in, he hurriedly spoke up.

"I'm sorry, gentlemen.

We're not open for business yet.

"

Sophia turned around to look too. When she

saw that it was John and Zack,
she was very
surprised.

“Why are you here?”

Zack pursed his lips and said
nothing.

Meanwhile, John walked
straight up to the
bar and said,

“You made her a
drink. Why
don’t you prepare two for me?”

There was indeed a cocktail
sitting in front
of Sophia—it was pink and
looked very
feminine. Sophia took a sip. The
taste was
rather mild but it wasn’t bad.

Then, she
turned to look at John.

“Are you
drinking?”

You rarely drink during the
day.

”

Following that, John turned and
studied
Sophia for a moment before
saying in a
neutral voice,

**“In the past, I
didn’t know you
were such a flirt either!”**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 64
John’s tone was neither light
nor heavy.**

**However, it gave Sophia a
vague feeling that
he wasn’t happy.**

**Thus, Sophia raised her brows
and said
nothing.**

**Meanwhile, the bartender
glanced at the
singer, then glanced at John. He
seemed
rather confused. At first, he
thought Sophia
was the singer’s girlfriend. But,
looking at it
now, it seemed like the woman
also had a
pretty close relationship with
the man beside
her.**

The singer looked calm.

**“Why
don’t you make
them a drink? It’s not like you
have anything
going on right now anyway.**

”

The singer knew John. The last time he met Sophia by the beach, John had dragged her away on the spot. Still, Sophia mentioned that she was divorced. So, the singer observed John with a smile. Seeing as the singer had already said that, the bartender naturally nodded in agreement.

“Okay.

”

Afterward, John ordered two drinks. The two names he mentioned were not something Sophia had ever heard of before. Ghost in the Graveyard? What’s that? The bartender was rather professional. He prepared his ingredients and began mixing the drinks. Sophia was still leaning across the bar, watching as the bartender did various

tricks while making the drinks.
Then, Zack leaned over and
whispered to her,
“I thought you were sleeping in
the room.

When did you come out?”
She swept a glance at him.

“A
long time ago.
”

After a few moments, Zack
suddenly roared
with laughter and spoke in a
louder voice,
“I
say; you don’t have to do this
just because
the two of you were in a fight,
right? How
can you visit a bar? Sophia, just
you wait.
You’ll face the music from your
husband when
you get back.
”

Sophia said nothing; her actions
and
expression didn’t change either.
On the other hand, the
bartender jumped in
shock. First, he stared at Sophia.

Then, he
stared at the singer with a look
of shock.

What? She's married?

The singer leaned against the
bar and

smilingly said,

"Stop staring.

Hurry up and
finish the drinks.

"

The bartender was still very
confused. Even

so, he swiftly finished preparing
the two

drinks and handed them over.

John picked up his glass and
took a small sip.

Imitating him, Zack did the
same.

After that, Sophia looked at
Zack.

"Well?

How does it taste?"

Zack was not experienced in
these kinds of

things. So, he could only nod
when he met her

curious gaze.

"It's okay.

"

Sophia laughed and replied shamelessly,
“I
can tell you don’t know any more than I do about those drinks! You can’t even evaluate it even if you wanted to!”

After saying that, she chuckled to herself.

On the other hand, John ignored them. After taking a sip, he found the taste to be acceptable. Thus, he finished the drink in several gulps.

“It’s professional.

” That was his evaluation of the drink. Then, he took out his wallet, paid for the drinks, and said to Zack, “Let’s go.
”

Zack wasn’t done with his drink. Upon hearing those words, he quickly downed it in one shot. Putting his glass down, he gave Sophia a

warning look before quickly
chasing after
John.

After John left, the singer asked,
“Your ex?husband?”

In response, Sophia made a
non-committal
sound.

“Because of some stuff,
I’m entangled
in his affairs.

” However, she
immediately
smiled again.

“Well, I benefit a
lot from it.

So, it’s nothing.
”

Afterward, she slowly finished
her cocktail.

Reaching out, she patted the
singer on the
shoulder.

“Thanks! But, I’m
afraid I’m not
good with alcohol. I need to go
back and
sleep this off. Otherwise, I’m
going to
embarrass myself.
”

The bartender had been a little mischievous just now and made the cocktail a little stronger than normal. He thought that she was the singer's new target, so he wanted to help create an opportunity. Getting off the chair, Sophia waved and walked out. When she neared the door, she could hear the bartender asking in disbelief, "She's married? She sure doesn't look it!" Thus, she laughed soundlessly and walked over to the elevator. John and Zack had returned to the room much earlier. Then, Zack ordered several bottles of beer through room service. When Sophia opened the door and entered the room, she saw the two men sitting on the sofa. Room service had not

arrived yet, but
Zack had already brought over
all the food
they brought back just now.
She laughed.

“You didn’t have
enough just
now?”

John said nothing. So, Zack
answered,

“You
get hungry again soon after
eating these. It’s
not very filling.
”

She nodded.

“That’s true.

” Then,
she walked
over and sat down beside John.

“Let’s eat
together. I want to eat too.
”

In response, John moved over
to the side a
little, acting as if he found her
disgusting.

Smiling, she thought little of his
actions.

Besides, she was used to being
hated by the

Constance Family—it wasn't something new.

Zack replied,

“We ordered some beer. It'll be delivered soon.

”

Sophia smiled.

“Sure! You guys sure know how to live!”

The Returning Ex Chapter 65

After room service had delivered the beer,

Zack opened the lid of the seafood meal and

properly arranged it on the table.

Then, Sophia edged in.

“Let's dig in.

”

Her proactiveness caught John's attention.

At this point, she even brought a chair over and sat in it.

First of all, she reached for a crab claw.

“The crab claws from this restaurant are fat

and juicy.

”

After finishing her sentence, she took a bite of it.

John gave her another glance.

For reasons unbeknownst to him, the sight of

this reminded him of how

Sophia used to eat

at the Constance Residence.

He recalled that at that time,

Sophia would

eat properly—small bites and a soft voice.

Her demeanor was truly lady-like.

Zack could no longer take it.

“Could you please wash your hands first?”

Sophia scowled at him.

“I’m not

eating the

shells anyway, so why should I wash my

hands? Look at my

hands—they’re only

touching the shells.

”

As she explained, she showed Zack where

her hands were touching, but
her hands were
so greasy that it made it hard
for Zack to
stare at them.

At this point, John smiled.

“It
would’ve been
great if you were also like this
when you were
at my place.
”

Sophia’s eyes widened.

“If that
was the case,
I would’ve been kicked out of
the Constance
Residence after just two days.
”

Mrs. Constance was a person
who emphasized
keeping the rules, and the
thought of her
face at this point annoyed
Sophia.

John grinned.

“Then things
would’ve been
much simpler, wouldn’t they?”

“Who says that?” Sophia asked
while

nibbling.

“Look at how much I received after divorcing you. If I were to get kicked out by your mother, I wouldn’t have received as much.

”

Her lips were full of grease. Zack passed a napkin to her. She took it and casually wiped her mouth with it.

After taking out a portion of the crabs, Zack placed them in a box and gave it to John, who had just opened a bottle of beer and poured some into a glass.

Sophia looked at another glass.

“Could you pour me some too?”

Zack’s eyes widened.

“What about your stomach?”

“Forget that.

” Sophia smiled.

“I

don't usually
enjoy eating this much. Can you
please not
ruin it?"

Zack pulled a long face and
reluctantly
poured a glass for her.
Since Sophia's hands were still
greasy, she
casually wiped them before
grabbing the
glass and giving John a toast.
John's glass clinked with hers.
"If you were
like this before...
"

He hesitated and did not
complete the
sentence.
If Sophia were like this before,
there was
not a chance she would have
been married to
him as Mrs. Constance would
be the first to
object to it.
Furthermore, based on Mrs.
Constance's
character, Sophia would
definitely get into
fights with her on a daily basis.

John's mother paid the utmost attention to manners and upbringing. Though not knowing what point John was trying to make, Sophia could not be bothered to ask.

This was a rare opportunity for the three of them to have such a pleasant time together.

They held their glasses in their hands and gave each other a toast.

Sophia was never a good drinker, so after just a few glasses of beer, she became tipsy.

She waved her hand.

"I think I'm done. I can't even see clearly now."
"

She grabbed a napkin and wiped her hands before standing up.

"You guys go ahead. I need to lie down for a bit."

Otherwise, I may
not be able to walk later.
”

Leaning against the couch, John
stared at

Sophia, who was staggering
along but still
managed to make her way to
the bedroom.

She then jumped onto her bed
and fell asleep
with her bedroom door opened.
Sleep was the next best thing to
alcohol.

She slowly passed out just after
seconds of
lying on her bed.

Not long after, due to
dehydration, she woke
up but was too lazy to get up.

So, she
decided to start humming in
bed.

A while later, she could not take
the thirst
anymore and tried to slowly get
out of bed.

The house was quiet. All that
she could hear
was the sound of water.

She peered around and saw a

**figure in the
bathroom.**

**She did not stand up until she
stared at it
for a good few seconds. Then,
she shuffled
her way toward it.**

**At this moment, John was
taking a shower.**

**He felt that his body was
burning because of
the alcohol, so he decided to
take a cold
shower.**

**Just as he was almost done,
someone cracked
open the bathroom door.
Meanwhile, Sophia's hair was
unkempt and
her eyes were barely opened.
However, her mouth was
moving as she
mumbled,
"I'm so sticky. I need
a shower."
"**

**She began taking her clothes off
as she
muttered.**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 66
Abstention from alcohol being**

**the first of
the five precepts in Buddhism
was not
without basis; drinking could
really get people
into trouble.**

**Actually, Sophia kind of knew
what was**

happening

**She seemingly knew what she
was doing, but**

**she just could not take charge
of her body.**

**She swiftly took off all her
clothes and**

**moved to stand below the
showerhead.**

The cold made her shiver.

**“What’s wrong
with you, John? The water is
freezing.**

”

Her words were soft and gentle.

**After that, she turned around,
walked a few**

**steps, and hugged John as if she
was trying**

to get some heat from his body.

**John gnashed his teeth. Even
though he also**

had a good amount of alcohol

in him, he did
not get it as bad as her.
At this point, perhaps because
John's body
was not as warm as she
expected, she
snorted,
"Why is your body so
cold as well?"
If it was not because Sophia's
eyes were
closed the whole time, John
would have
thought that she did all this on
purpose.
Right at this point, she was
carelessly
rubbing his chest.
In the end, she could not find a
spot that
could warm her up.
So, she wiggled her hips.
"Could
you please
make the water warmer?"
John stood there for a while,
staring at the
bathroom door.
Eventually, he got an idea. He
slowly exhaled
before placing his hands on

Sophia's
shoulder.
"Sophia.
"

She did not respond.
Using one hand, John lifted her
chin. The
water that was hitting her face
irritated
her.

As such, she turned away.
"Stop
bullying me.
"

Her voice sounded pitiful.
John grunted.
"That's because
I'm giving you
a chance.
"

Holding her chin, he wondered
how much
beer he had earlier which made
him feel hot.
And now, not even cold water
could cool him
down.
He tilted her head backward
and kissed her.
Startled for a moment, Sophia
proceeded to

put her hands around his neck.

**At this point, John still
remembered to turn
off the water.**

**He then wrapped his arms
around her and
walked a few steps before
grabbing the
towel next to him.**

**He then swaddled her in it.
The two eventually made their
way out of the
bathroom and onto the bed
while tangled up.**

**There was a moment where
John knew that
he should not be doing this, and
he could not
help but mock himself.**

**He knew for a fact that this
might have
happened the moment Zack
invited Sophia
over to his room; there was no
way he could
suppress his lust.**

**While they were in bed, there
was a moment
where Sophia almost regained
her
consciousness.**

**She opened her eyes and said,
“John.
”**

**John grunted and continued to
finger her.**

**At this moment, Sophia began
to gasp while
looking at the ceiling.**

She then commented,

**“I can’t
even get rid of
you in my dreams.
”**

**It was obvious that she was not
fully awake
yet.**

**Eventually, when John landed
his last kiss on
her, he added,**

**“Have a good
sleep.
”**

**To his surprise, Sophia gradually
closed her
eyes and fell asleep.**

**Thanks to the alcohol, John was
feeling**

**excited and aroused today—it
was a feeling**

he had never had before.

Somewhere in the middle of

their
lovemaking, he recalled the
scene when
Sophia lay with her face down
in the bar.
She was weak and fragile,
looking like a little
girl that had never seen the real
world.
He also recalled that moment
when she sat
cross-legged on the chair with
her greasy
hands while nibbling at a crab
claw, which
contrasted her ladylike manner
when she was
still at the Constance Residence.
Furthermore, he recalled the
last time he
saw her, which was also what
he hated to see
the most. It made him think
that she was
merely putting up a show; it
was tedious.
At this point, he felt sorry for
her; he was
unsure if he was still under the
influence of
alcohol.

The pitiful Sophia, who was all by herself in somebody else's family.

At this juncture, John began to pound her even harder.

**Sophia looked like she was not feeling too comfortable. She grabbed John by his back and moaned before saying, "A*shole, I hate you."
"**

The Returning Ex Chapter 69

Zack went to call Sophia when room service had delivered their meals. However, the morning-after pill made her feel unwell.

It could have been a psychological thing, but she was feeling physically weak. As such, she lay on her bed and weakly told him that she did not really want to eat.

Zack then walked over and opened the door.

He panicked when he saw her

lying there.

“Are you feeling unwell?”

Sophia disagreed and said that she was

merely feeling somewhat sleepy, which

indeed she was as she was feeling quite

exhausted.

Zack contemplated for a few seconds before

coming over to the side of the bed.

“You’ll

still have to eat something. You can’t not eat

anything.

”

She then closed her eyes, not saying a word.

Feeling helpless, Zack was left with no

options and said,

“Take a nap

then. Let me

know later when you are hungry, and I’ll

order some food for you.

”

He then left and closed the door.

Meanwhile, John was sitting in a chair and did not look at Zack when he came out.

“What’s wrong? Isn’t she coming out?” Zack grunted.

“She doesn’t look too well, but she said that she was just feeling tired.”

John grunted.

“Perhaps that might be it.”

Without giving it any further thought, Zack then sat down and ate with John.

After dinner, they still had not heard from nor seen Sophia.

Feeling slightly uneasy, Zack looked toward her room and asked John, “Should we go and check on her? I feel like something’s not right with her.”

John gave it some thought
before getting up
from his seat and walking
toward her room.

At this moment, Sophia was still
lying in bed
in the same posture; she was all
curled up.

John stood at the door and
called out to her
but did not get a response.

As such, he walked in and stood
next to the
bed, and that was when he saw
that Sophia's
face was somewhat red.

At this moment, her arms were
around her
shoulder. It was as if she was
cold.

John produced an agonized
frown, crouched
down, and placed his hand on
her forehead.

It was hot.

Was it fever?

This immediately reminded
John of the cold
shower that they both had.

He was a man and had a lot of
internal heat,

so the cold shower probably did not affect him as much as it affected Sophia.

In addition, Sophia was also tormented by him in bed after that.

Feeling slightly annoyed, John bent over and carried her up in his arms.

He left the room while calling after Zack;

Zack was frightened when he saw John come out of the room with Sophia in his arms.

“What’s going on? Is it her gastric problem again?”

“No, it’s fever.

” John continued,

“Find us a ride to the hospital.

”

Zack grunted and quickly ran outside.

In actuality, Sophia did have some consciousness right now as she opened her eyes and looked at John for a

few seconds
before closing them again.
When they were in the rental
car, Sophia was
in John's arms.
Throughout the entire ride,
Sophia was
feeling drowsy. She felt that her
head was
hurting and her stomach was
also feeling
unwell.

After they arrived at the
hospital, John ran
all the way to register for
emergency
treatment with Sophia still in
his arms—
emergency treatment was the
only option at
night.

Actually, it was only a fever,
and she could
very well just take some
medication, but
John did not feel good about it.
In the meantime, the doctor at
the hospital
only gave her a prescription for
an
antipyretic.

When John took her to get the injection, she was somewhat reluctant. She kept on groaning like a kitten, “Can I just take medication? I don’t want to get the injection.”

John let out a sigh. It was a rare occasion for him to negotiate with her. “Your fever will subside quicker if you get an injection, and you’ll also feel better. Medication is not quick enough.”

Sophia pursed her lips and did not respond as she was feeling extremely unwell. She felt weak and her muscles ached. After getting the medication, Zack headed to the transfusion room where the doctor

smoothly transferred the medication into the syringe.

At this point, Sophia immediately closed her eyes even though this kind of injection would only take a few seconds.

She clenched her teeth and her hands were quivering, but the nurse attending to her was experienced and the whole process did not cause her much pain.

After the injection was completed, John came over and carried her out from the room.

John carried her through this entire process.

A somewhat good-looking man carrying an equally good-looking woman—it was quite a pleasant sight.

There were a good number of people in the transfusion room and most of them were

here because of seafood allergies.

Each of them looked extremely frail

compared to Sophia, even though she also looked sickly.

For reasons unbeknownst to him, Zack somehow felt proud.

The Returning Ex Chapter 70

Apart from the antipyretic, the doctor also

gave her some medication.

There was no need for hospitalization, so she could go home right away.

As such, John took her back to the hotel

while Zack brought over some fresh linens

and laid them on the bed

before John lay her on the bed.

Naturally, Sophia curled up again.

After tucking her into bed, John stood next

to her and watched her.

There was a pill on top of the

bedside table,
and even though John did not
recognize what
it was, he recognized the
medication box
next to it.

He then stared at that pill for a
long time.

In the meantime, Zack was
boiling some
water before bringing over the
antipyretic.

“Let her have some of this and
some good
night’s rest. She’ll be fine
tomorrow.
”

John grunted and took the
medication and
water from him.

As the water was still slightly
hot, he left it
on the bedside table.

“Let’s
wait for it to
cool off. Anyway, it’s getting
late. You better
get some rest. I’ll take over
from here.
”

Zack nodded and left the room.

After that, John pulled out a chair and sat down next to Sophia.

This was something he had never done before, so it felt oddly refreshing.

At this juncture, his phone vibrated.

He took it out and saw that it was a message from Mrs. Constance, even though it was really late now.

It was a message on WhatsApp, and he found a picture after opening the message.

Mrs. Constance rarely took pictures, probably because of her age, as she felt unnatural when posing for pictures.

John took a look at the picture and saw two people in it—Mrs. Constance and Isabelle.

It seemed like the two were still out and about at this hour, and it looked

like they
were having a meal.
It was also a rare occasion to
see Mrs.
Constance flashing the peace
sign.
John reckoned that she must
really like
Isabelle.
Then, he turned to Isabelle in
the picture
and thought to himself that
because of the
background of the Bailey Family,
he had felt
in the past that he and Isabelle
would be a
better match.
Even though he did not know
her well, he
could tell that she was a
cultured and well-educated
lady.
It would have been good to
marry someone
like this as she would be
capable of taking
care of everything in the house
without
involving him.
However, Sophia came out of

nowhere later

on.

At this point, John turned over and looked at

Sophia, who was still all curled up and sleeping.

He put on his thinking face and reached for the glass, realizing that it was now the right temperature.

He then took the antipyretic and sat on the edge of the bed.

“Sophia, it’s time to take some medication.

”

Seeing that she was unresponsive, he helped her to sit up.

At this moment, Sophia was almost passing out and her nose was somewhat congested.

The sight of this calmed him down. He then commented gently,

“Take some medication

before you get some more
sleep.
”

Pursing her lips, Sophia took the
medication
despite how reluctant she felt.
After that, she lay down in bed
again.

John exhaled as he had never
taken such
good care of anyone in his life
before.

All of a sudden, he did not quite
know what
to do.

After skipping dinner, her
gastric problems
were causing her pain again.
Right now, her hands were
around her
stomach and she was tossing
about in bed.

Hearing the noise, John quickly
came in and
went up to her.

“Sophia, are
you okay?”

Sophia’s eyes were still closed.

“Gastric pain.
”

This reminded John that Sophia

had skipped
dinner.

As such, he quickly called room
service but it
was to no avail as nothing was
available at
this hour.

Slightly nervous, John went on
to inquire if
there was anything they could
do.

After giving it some thought,
the hotel staff
responded that they could
make some
porridge as the quickest and
most convenient
alternative, which might seem
like a good
option as Sophia would
probably not be able
to eat anything that had a
stronger taste.

They added that they would
prepare it right
away and asked John to give
them some time.

After that, as John went to boil
some water,
he smiled mockingly while
standing next to

the kettle.

**There was really a price to pay
when asking
for favors.**

**If he did not need Sophia's help,
there would
be no need for him to be here
serving her.**

**On the flip side, he realized that
if they
were not with her at this point,
no one would
take care of her even if she was
sick or
injured.**

**John then poured some water
into a glass.**

**When he brought it to her, her
arms were
still wrapped around her
stomach and her
forehead was covered in sweat.**

**This was a rare side of Sophia
for John—she
was frail and helpless. Even
after an intense
love-making session, he had
never seen her
like this.**

The Returning Ex Chapter 71

After a while, room service had

finally
delivered a bowl of porridge,
which John had
specially instructed to be
prepared as soft
and smooth as possible. He first
left it on
the table for it to cool off
before letting
Sophia drink some warm water.
Her being
sick had made her rather weak
and
defenseless. At this point, she
was even
somewhat obedient.
After taking some water, he
asked her if her
gastric pain had gotten any
better. Sophia
grunted slowly with her eyes
closed. No one
knew if that was a genuine
answer or a casual
remark.
As John brought the bowl of
porridge over,
he helped Sophia up before
feeding her while
blowing on it. Sophia was
indeed starving. No

matter how sleepy she was, she still managed to swallow some of the porridge. After that, John got a napkin and gently helped her wipe her mouth.

Sophia peered at him and smiled.

“I’d never imagine there’d be a day you’d treat me this nicely.

” All of a sudden, John stopped wiping her mouth. Then, Sophia slid back down the bed and covered herself up with the blanket.

She wriggled until she found the perfect position and fell asleep.

Meanwhile, John continued to watch her from the side for a while before putting things away and leaving the room. Everything that had transpired had tired him out, but he was not sleepy enough to fall

asleep as he lay
on the couch. He then put his
hands under his
head and stared at the black
ceiling,
reckoning that he would not be
able to visit
any place tomorrow.
He was not even sure if Sophia
would recover
by then. However, he was not
too bothered
by that, as there were not too
many places
that he wanted to visit. After all,
this whole
trip did not feel right to him,
and it did not
help that right now he had
totally lost his
mood to do anything.
The man wandered in his
thoughts for a good
while before closing his eyes
and forcing
himself to fall asleep.
Sophia had been stable
throughout the night
and was able to sleep the next
morning. As
for John, his biological clock

would wake him
up at the same time the next
morning no
matter how late he stayed up
the night
before. After getting up, he
quickly went up
to her only to find that she was
still asleep—
and in the same position as last
night.

John felt somewhat distressed.
Why is she
still in the same position? Is she
dead? He
went up to her and placed his
finger under
her nose to see if she was still
breathing.

After confirming that she was
still
breathing, he chuckled to
himself and
proceeded to touch her
forehead. He
realized that her fever had gone
away quite
substantially, and it was no
longer as bad as
it was yesterday.
At this point, he patted Sophia's

shoulder.

“Sophia, are you awake?”

**Finally, Sophia opened her eyes,
looking**

**drowsy; he then heard a rather
hoarse voice
coming from her.**

“Huh?”

**All of a sudden, John felt
himself getting an
erection. He despised himself
for having
such a reaction at a time like
this. It was**

**ridiculous since he had never
been too keen
on being physically involved
with any women.**

**Now that he was like this, it
seemed
abnormal.**

**He then took a deep breath and
retreated
from her bed.**

**“Let’s get you
moving since
you**

**’re awake. Your fever is almost
gone. We’ll
grab something to eat
downstairs.**

”

It took her a while to respond before she slowly got up and staggered her way to the bathroom. She was extremely slow when she was freshening herself up.

Every single action of hers was slower than usual.

Since John had not freshened up, he thought he should do that too. As such, he moved over and stood next to her as the mirror in front of the sink was huge enough for both of them to use.

Now, John regretted not having done this before they got divorced, and now that they were doing it, it felt awkward for him.

Meanwhile, Sophia did not seem to feel this way. Instead, she kept on staring at him in the mirror. She brushed her

teeth really
slowly and her eyes looked dull.
Even after
John was done, she was still
taking her time
to wash her face.

John then left the bathroom
and decided to
take out all her antipyretics and
gastric
medicine. As there were a lot of
different
gastric medicines and John
thought that she
could not take these different
kinds of
medications at the same time,
he decided to
put the gastric medicine away
before helping
her make her bed. At this point,
Sophia
finally came out, looking clean
and refreshed.

John then stood up.

“Let’s go
and find Zack.

Then, we’ll go and get some
food.

”

Sophia kept quiet and walked

behind him. For reasons unbeknownst to him, he was not used to her being so quiet.

The Returning Ex Chapter 72
Zack came out after John rang the doorbell, and he looked like he had just gotten ready.

Then, Zack looked at Sophia, who was standing behind John.

“Sophia Gwendolyn, are you feeling better?”
Sophia grunted after staring at Zack for a good two seconds. She was indeed a lot slower than usual.
Zack sighed.

“You’ve suffered so much throughout this trip.”

At this point, John recalled what he did to Sophia yesterday, and he felt that he was to be blamed for what happened to her.

But in his defense, Sophia was under the influence of alcohol when she went into the bathroom and stood below the showerhead, so he should not be blamed for causing her to take the cold shower. He should only be blamed for what happened after that, and he reckoned that under those circumstances, the average person would not be able to prevent that from happening. After the three had entered the elevator, Sophia stood furthest away from the door and was silent the whole time. Her head was leaning on one side, and the marks on her neck were clearly visible. John saw them but dared not look at them again; he thought he might have lost control yesterday.

Zack was not as attentive. He glanced at Sophia then looked at John before commenting in a deep voice, "Sophia, you look a little upset."
"

John glanced at Sophia from the corner of his eyes.

Perhaps she was not feeling upset. It was just that she was still feeling unwell.

John jumped in, "Perhaps she just needs food."
"

After the three had arrived at the restaurant, Sophia was still silent the entire time, even while they were ordering food.

However, the last time when they were here, Sophia was really aggressive and greedy.

In between placing the orders,

Zack turned

to Sophia.

**“Sophia, what would
you like?”**

Sophia blinked.

“Anything.

”

John subtly let out a frown

when he saw

that.

Sophia’s demeanor right now

reminded him of

what she was like before the

divorce—quiet,

obedient, easy-going, and with

no sense of

existence.

All of a sudden, a sense of

annoyance welled

up within John that came out of

nowhere,

and that confused and irritated

him, but

Zack was totally nonchalant.

After ordering

for John and Sophia, he passed

the menu

back to the server before

turning to Sophia.

“We won’t visit any place today.

We’ll just

get some rest before catching
our early
flight home tomorrow
morning.

”

Sophia grunted and perhaps
because she felt
that her first reaction was
somewhat
perfunctory, she nodded.
At the same time, John was
trying to avoid
looking at her as seeing her
kept reminding
him of what happened in the
past. It was like
something that he could not
break through,
and those memories were what
he wanted to
forget the most.

While they were eating, Sophia
was still not
talking, and John was just being
habitually
quiet. They were completely
silent during the
entire meal.

Being in this situation, Zack
sighed.

“Miss

Gwendolyn, now that you are sick, no one talks to me anymore.
”

**John responded blandly,
“If you can transfer all the effort you put into chit-chatting to work, you wouldn’t be in this position today.**
”

**Zack puckered up his lips.
“I do put in a lot of effort into work.**
”

**John did not respond to that. Finally, as they finished the meal, John took out the antipyretic for Sophia.
“Take some of these.**
”

Sophia was extremely obedient and received it from him. She swallowed it without drinking any water. Seeing this, Zack’s eyes widened and John

was stunned.

**Feeling helpless, John passed
the glass of
water next to his hand to her.**

**“You should
take some water with it.
”**

**Sophia gulped the entire glass
of water
without even giving John a look.
She was unusually obedient,
and this worried
Zack.**

**“Did the fever damage her
brain?**

**In the past, Sophia would
definitely rebuke,
but today she did not even have
any
response.**

**As such, John sighed and
suggested in a
rather impatient tone,**

**“Let’s go
back.
”**

**After the three got back to the
room,
Sophia proceeded to sit on the
bed and look
outside the window.**

Eventually, she was carried away.

At this point, Zack came up to John.

“Did you tell her off yesterday? Look at how terrified she is of you.

”

John sneered and squinted at him.

Finally, her medication worked and she began to feel drowsy.

She then went to her bed, lay down, and closed her eyes.

Zack looked at her from behind.

“Was she also like this in the past?”

However, she did not react this way when she was having gastric problems.

Was it because of the fever yesterday? Did it damage her brain?

John remained silent. Of course, he would not know what she was like in the past.

**During that one year when the
two were
married, she rarely fell ill.**

At least not that he knew of.

**The Returning Ex Chapter 73
Sophia slept through the day,
and she only
got up in the afternoon.**

**When she walked out of her
room, neither
John nor Zack was around.**

**She scratched her head and
headed out, not
knowing where she wanted to
go. Ever since**

**last night, she had been feeling
somewhat
conflicted.**

**For reasons unbeknownst to
her, she had a
dream last night, and it was
about things
that happened a long time ago;
things that
she thought she had long
forgotten.**

**But they appeared to be so
vivid in that
dream: fights, curses,
accusations, blame?passing.
They were all horrible things.**

She could even feel somewhat suffocated as she thought about them now. So, she sat back on the couch in the hotel lobby and stared at the hotel entrance.

It was as if there were many voices in her head, but she could not tell for sure what they were about.

She felt that she had nowhere to go, and if it were not for John and Zack, she would not know what was next for her. The thought of this made her feel useless.

After a short while, she heard Zack's somewhat anxious voice.

"Why did you leave the room? We thought that you were abducted when we didn't see you in the room after we got back."

Before she realized it, Zack had

walked up to
her and was standing opposite
her.

Sophia grinned. How old do you
think I am?

Am I that dumb to be
abducted?"

Zack liked this tone.

He was all smiles and walked up
to her,
patting her on her shoulder.

"Now that's what
I like to hear. Your demeanor
this morning
was making me feel extremely
uneasy.

"

She shook him off and stood up.

"I wasn't
fully awake that time.

"

Zack sized her up.

"You aren't
fully
recovered yet. You should be
getting more
rest now instead of wandering
around.

"

She nodded as she walked
toward the

elevator.

“Yes, Mr. Busybody.

”

Meanwhile, John was still in the hotel room.

It appeared that Zack was the only person

that was worried about her.

After Sophia went in, she went straight into

her room before John followed suit after a

couple of minutes.

“Zack and I

have eaten.

What would you like to eat? We can call room

service.

”

Sophia grunted, and that was all.

At this point, John reckoned that there was

nothing else he could say to her, so he turned

around and left.

One was in the bedroom while the other was

in the living room; nobody was talking.

This was exactly how it was in

**the past when
this was their default way of
living. They
always had nothing to say to
each other.**

**After that, John had never
followed up with
her even though she had not
eaten anything.**

**As she was sitting in a chair by
the window,
she heard John's phone ring,
and quickly
answered it; he sounded
somewhat polite.**

**"Hello.
"**

**Based on his tone, Sophia could
tell that he
was not talking to anyone from
the Constance**

Family or the Infinity Group.

**She turned to the clock, figuring
that it**

**would not be a business call at
this hour. If it
was a private call, she could not
think of a
person with whom John would
be so polite.**

She leaned on the window,

trying to
eavesdrop on his conversation
outside her
room.

At this point, John grunted and
continued,
“I’ll be back tomorrow.”

Not knowing how the other side
responded,
John then replied,
“Yes, with
Sophia.”

Sophia was startled. It must be
someone she
knew since that person knew
her.

Very quickly, she had a guess,
and she then
giggled.

Being too smart was not always
a good thing
as it made one suffer.

After that, the other side said
something
else and she heard John laugh.
“Forget it. I
was just a little busy that day.”

Sophia exhaled and pursed her

lips.

This phone call did not last too long and he hung up after saying a few more sentences.

After that, there was pin-drop silence in the living room again.

Just like that, they two had no conversations even until it was dark outside.

In the end, Zack came over. He suggested

dining out and reminded them that they were

flying out tomorrow to see if they needed

any help with packing.

Sophia did not have much with her, so it was easy to pack.

Zack came over and looked at her belongings and nodded.

“Sophia, this is an easy task.

”

Then, he turned around and looked at her.

“I

guess your fever is completely

gone. Are you
still feeling unwell?"

Sophia shook her head.

"No. I'm
feeling
great."
"

Zack suggested,

"Let's go and
grab some
food. We'll eat something nice
today as we
probably won't have time for
meals after this
because of our early flight out
tomorrow
morning."
"

Getting up, Sophia saw that
John had already
changed when she came out of
her room.

For some reason, the two of
them were still
not talking to each other,
making the
atmosphere somewhat
awkward.

When they arrived at the
restaurant
downstairs, another person

appeared and sat
down the moment the three of
them were
seated.

It was President McCaw of the
Infinity
Group.

He was by himself, and the
moment he sat
down, he immediately said to
John,

“President Constance, I’ve been
waiting for
you.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 74
John did not look at President
McCaw when
he passed the menu to Sophia
and asked in a
gentle voice,
“Have a look at
what you’d like
to eat.
”

Knowing that he was merely
putting up a
show, as this was the only time
John would
be so gentle to her, she grunted
before

taking the menu from him.
Zack chose not to expose them
but quietly
sat there.

Even though Sophia skipped
lunch, she was
still not feeling hungry, and
none of the food
on the menu seemed
appetizing.

She pointed at a picture on the
menu and
edged in on John.

“What about
this one?”

They were in close proximity,
and John could
smell her scent.

Sophia seemingly had a
fondness for anything
related to roses, so she owned
many rose-scented things.

John grunted.

“Let’s order it
then.

”

Sophia proceeded to order
three dishes
before passing the menu to
Zack, who duly
added one more dish to the

menu.

As for John, he did not order anything.

Sitting next to them, President McCaw felt slightly awkward. He then added,

“President Constance, this time around I came to offer my sincere apologies to you. I had no idea about everything that happened before. Our staff, Elizabeth Cox, has never done anything like that before. It was truly beyond our imagination.”

John did not respond when Sophia turned to President McCaw. This caused President McCaw to look at her rather embarrassingly.

“Mrs. Constance, I’m truly sorry for causing trouble. It’s the fault of our employee who decided

to employ some
inappropriate measures on her
own. We'
ve
already fired her. I promise you
that there
won
't be anything of this sort in our
future
collaboration.
”

Sophia stared at President
McCaw, not
saying a word, and this made
him feel
embarrassed.
President McCaw licked his lips
and added,
“Mrs. Constance, we didn't
know that you
were coming with President
Constance that
day. Otherwise, we would've
definitely invited
you. T-This is truly a
misunderstanding.
Luckily there weren't any
serious
consequences.
Sophia sneered rather blandly
as opposed to

expressing sarcasm.

**“Then,
what would you
consider to be serious
consequences?”**

**President McCaw’s face began
to flush.**

**Sophia then leaned on John’s
arms.**

**“If I
didn’t show up that day,
something might
have happened. President
McCaw, the reason
that nothing serious happened
was because
of me, not you.**

”

**President McCaw quickly
nodded.**

**“Yes. You’
re
right. It’s definitely our
oversight. We
thought that in order to express
our sincere
apology, we could take a step
back in some of
the details in relation to our
collaboration—”**

“No. No,

**” Sophia interrupted
him.**

**“What
happened then can never be
remedied by any
contractual terms.**

”

**She gently lifted her head and
turned to
John, sounding slightly
flirtatious.**

**“I wouldn’t
dare to think about what
might’ve happened
had I not decided to show up at
the very last
minute that day. Would my
marriage have
come to an end then?”**

**John looked Sophia in the eye,
and the two**

**were extremely close. John
would be able to
kiss her on her lips had he
lowered his head.**

**John paused for a moment
before saying,**

**“Good that you showed up. It
would be
beyond me to think about what
would’**

**ve
happened had you not been
around.**

”

**These words were not words of
courtesy nor
were they a show. John meant
it when he
said that.**

**John was a germaphobe—a
serious one. Not
only when it came to normal
details in his
daily living but also when it
came to sexual
affairs.**

**Whoever could think about
drugging him had
to be someone dirty, and the
thought of that
made him nauseous.**

**Meanwhile, Sophia pouted and
almost kissed
him on his chin.**

Her voice was rather flirtatious.

**“Let me tell
you; if you really did something
behind my
back, I wouldn’t go easy on
you.**

”

Being in such proximity, her
round eyes now
looked rather watery.
All of a sudden, John chuckled
and kissed
Sophia on the edge of her lips.
“Don’t worry.
That would never happen.
”

Since the two were only putting
up a show in
front of President McCaw,
Sophia did not
expect John to do this.
She was stunned, but President
McCaw was
even more surprised than her.
It was obvious that these words
were spoken
to him, so there was no way he
could not be
embarrassed by those words.
In the meantime, Zack looked
well-mannered
as he sat there, pretending to
not see or
hear anything.
He did not even say anything to
ease up the
tense atmosphere.
President McCaw chuckled and

loosened his
necktie.

“Of course not. That
would never
happen.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 75
President McCaw did not order
any food, and
John could not be bothered by
that.

After all the dishes were served,
the three
of them began to dig in.

At this moment, President
McCaw stood up
rather awkwardly.

“President
Constance,
enjoy your meal. It’s getting
pretty late.

Would it be alright if I come to
see you again
tomorrow?”

John finally responded,
“Sure.”

President McCaw was slightly
delighted. It
was as if he had just got John’s
promise.

He then nodded at Sophia and Zack before leaving.

After he left, Sophia immediately straightened her body and distanced herself from John.

Tsk-tsk. Zack disapproved.

“I don’t know what this guy’s reaction is going to be when he finds out that we’re gone when he comes again tomorrow.”

John grinned silently. Now that President McCaw was gone, Sophia and John had stopped talking. Zack felt somewhat annoyed by that as he could not possibly initiate any conversations by himself. In the end, he just had to push himself to quickly finish his meal. Since it was still bright outside, after the

meal, Zack thought about visiting a beach nearby since they were leaving tomorrow, but both Sophia and John gave no response to this idea.

Zack then stared at the both of them.

“I take the silence as a yes from the both of you.”

Later, Zack stood up.

“I’m going to pay. Why don’t the both of you wait for me at the entrance?”

Sophia stood up first and began walking toward the entrance of the restaurant.

After a few seconds, John followed suit.

Zack was taking longer than usual, and Sophia crossed her arms as she looked impatient.

Then, she headed out of the

hotel.

Not saying anything, John followed her.

It was rather chilly tonight, and Sophia continued walking toward the beach without bothering to look at John who was behind her.

After paying for the meal, Zack saw the two from behind. He paused for a second and started walking toward the elevator, humming a tune while heading back to his room.

When Sophia finally stopped walking after arriving at the beach, John went up to her and stood next to her, saying, "After we get back, come and stay at the Constance Residence for a couple of days to ascertain what's going on out there. When it's safe to

leave, you can go back to your own place.

”

John’s sole purpose was to prevent anything bad that might happen if President McCaw was going to make a big scene out of their decision to stop working with the Infinity Group.

As such, he reckoned that he should still stay by her side.

Sophia was somewhat understanding as she agreed.

“Got it.

”

John stared out into the dark sea surface.

“Don’t worry. We’ll sleep in separate rooms when we get back.

”

This topic made things awkward between them as they had three sessions of lovemaking just within the past

**couple of
days and each time was equally
intense.**

**The thought of this
embarrassed them.**

**Sophia had nothing to say in
response as
nothing felt right.**

**With his hands in his pockets,
John waited
for a few more seconds before
adding,**

**“Anyway, I’d like to thank you
for what you
did this time.
”**

**As to what he thanked her for,
John had no
idea, and he couldn’t care less.
At this point, Sophia exhaled.
“John.
”**

**John grunted, waiting for her
next sentence.**

**Sophia giggled after a few
seconds.**

**“Nothing.
I was just feeling slightly
emotional as I
never thought we would end up
where we are**

right now.

”

John snickered.

“Same here. I’m
equally
surprised.

”

Both of them were pretty much
thinking
about the same thing: after
they signed the
divorce papers, none of them
thought that
they would ever have anything
to do with
each other again.

However, they were now even
more involved
with each other than before the
divorce.

A few moments later, John
turned around
and looked Sophia in the eyes.

“After we get
back, you can take your time to
think about
what you’d like from me for
helping me.

”

Sophia smiled and did not
respond.

In all honesty, when they divorced each other, John was really generous.

As such, she no longer thought about what she wanted.

When she first decided to help him out, it was mainly to save him from that predicament.

She was too soft-hearted and did not want to see him stuck in difficult situations.

The Returning Ex Chapter 76
After waiting for a while, Zack was still nowhere to be seen. As such, they knew what this was about.

Sophia sneered, and one could not tell if that was sarcasm or not.

“It might be harder for you to find a girlfriend in the future.

”

Even though Zack never dared to confront

people head-on, he was really good at working things out behind the scene. However, John did not seem to be bothered by this.

“I’ll probably be single for a good while.”

Sophia understood his point as they did not know when they could announce their divorce to the public, so before that happened he could not start another relationship anytime soon.

If an outsider found out about their divorce, it would be hard for them to explain.

Actually, many did not really care what the truth was. They would only believe in what they chose to believe.

At this point, Sophia felt somewhat happy for some reason.

Even if Isabelle wanted to be with him, that was not going to happen anytime soon.

This felt good.

From that point onward, the two of them stopped talking. Meanwhile, many around them were running around and laughing.

Sophia thought that she would probably never return to this place again, no matter what the circumstances would be, as all her memories of this place were unpleasant, though, they were not particularly horrible.

As the people around them gradually left, Sophia turned around.

“Let’s go.

We should get some rest tonight as we have an early start tomorrow.

”

John grunted and turned

around, leaving for
the hotel with her.
When the two were walking
toward the
elevator, they saw that singer
with his guitar
on his back.

When the singer saw them,
Sophia smiled and
greeted him,
“Hello. Are you
just about to
start working?”

The singer smiled as he saw her.

“Yes. I was
caught up in something earlier,
so I have to
start a little later today.

”

Sophia nodded.

“I’m leaving
tomorrow. It’s a
shame that we’re probably
never going to see
each other anymore.

”

The singer echoed,

“That’s a
shame indeed.

”

At this point, Sophia waggled

her phone.

“Whenever you visit any nice places, please remember to share them on Facebook.

”

It was a rare sight to see the singer laugh.

“You too.

”

Sophia then waved at him.

“Of course. Well, I’m going to go now. See you later.

”

The singer grunted.

“See you.

”

They walked past each other and never looked back.

Many a time, this sort of encounter and the emotions involved while on a trip were fleeting.

After a few days, those feelings would disappear.

After entering the elevator,

John leaned on
the wall and waited until the
elevator started
moving before saying,
“You two
seem to get
along well.”

Sophia grunted.
“He makes me
feel
comfortable.”

As of now, she could still vividly
recall the
look on the singer’s face when
he sang ballads
in some foreign language; he
looked like a
prince who had lost everything.
There was a moment in time
when she saw
loneliness in his eyes, but she
was never right
about people.
However, it did not hurt in this
instance as
that perception helped her to
be touched by
his singing.
John narrowed his eyes and

stared at Sophia
for a good while before pursing
his lips and
nodding.

“You are such a naïve
woman.
”

“I guess so.
” Sophia did not
refute.

“Otherwise, why was it so easy
for me to
agree to marry you?”
John raised his eyebrows.

“Did I
trick you
into it?”

Sophia turned around and
earnestly looked
him in the eye.

“Didn’t you?”

The promises he made to Old
Mr. Constance
about taking care of her for the
rest of her
life were genuine.

Of course, this was not entirely
a lie to her;
he was mainly lying to Old Mr.
Constance as
John did not even think she was

worthy of
his lies.

She was never in his heart, so
naturally, he
was not bothered about lying to
her.

At this point, he felt even more
conflicted.

Sophia turned away from him.

“Never mind.

Let’s not talk about this
anymore. I don’t
know how much longer I’ll have
to live with
you. So, we should try to keep
things
peaceful.
”

These words pierced through
his heart as he
really did not know how much
longer he would
have to face her.

After spending these couple of
days

together, he always found
interactions with
Sophia to be rather awkward.

It was not a pleasant feeling.

His greatest
hope was that they could

interact with each other just like before the divorce.

The Returning Ex Chapter 77

Upon entering the hotel room, Sophia did not go straight into her room.

Instead, she sat on the couch.

“You’re going to use the bathroom, aren’t you? You can go first.”

John looked at her, remained silent, and went to grab his pajamas before entering the bathroom.

The bathroom door was not closed all the way, so if one paid enough attention, one could hear the sound of running water.

While she sat on the couch and was on her phone, some strange images appeared in her head.

Those images were vague before this, but all

of a sudden, they were now
clear as crystal.

One of them was the image of
the naked

John standing below the
showerhead, and she
recalled that he was frightened
when he saw

her undress upon entering the
bathroom.

D*mn it. She had way too much
alcohol that
day, so she should not be
remembering all
these details.

Why did everything come back
to her now?

Not only that, but she even
recalled how

John tormented her in bed.

She put down her phone and
sighed before
putting her hands over her face.

In the beginning, John was
resistant to her,
but she kept throwing herself at
him.

Perhaps the alcohol that she
consumed had
made her shameless, just like
that one time

before this where she became
extremely
bold and shameless after
drinking.

Sophia then put her arms
around her knees
and buried her face in them.

She tried to
think of some political theories
to replace
the censored images in her
head.

Meanwhile, John was done with
his shower
and came out properly dressed.

Hearing the sound of him
coming out of the
bathroom, she quickly jumped
down from the
couch and went into the
bathroom without
looking at him.

She then slammed the
bathroom door and
locked it.

Even though the bathroom was
still damp, it
was still rather clean.

She paused for a few moments
before
undressing and jumping into

the shower.

She thought about taking a cold shower, but for health reasons, she had to let go of that thought.

Instead, she turned the water temperature slightly down and stood below the showerhead.

The more she tried to forget those images, the more her brain would not cooperate.

The moment the cold water landed on her body, she started to recall even more images, including the time she lost her virginity to him.

To her, that was not a pleasant experience; apart from pain, she could not feel anything else, even though she remembered how excited John looked.

Men's emotions and bodies were indeed

separate.

John never loved her and still did not, but he could still get so excited when making love to her.

She clenched her teeth and decided to stop thinking about that as it would not serve any purpose.

No matter how much that man liked her body, he would never like her, and all her efforts would be futile.

As such, she quickly took her shower and came out of the bathroom wrapped in a towel.

She was afraid that her mind would go crazy, so she quickly got changed and lay in bed, hoping that she could fall asleep as quickly as possible.

That method worked, and she had a good sleep apart from the fact that

**the remaining
images from the tormenting
lovemaking
session appeared in her
dreams.**

**She was taken back to their
wedding night,
where she lay in a huge red bed
and felt
somewhat nervous and lost.**

**Those emotions were so real
that she could
even feel them while she was in
her dreams.**

**In the very beginning, John was
opposed to
the idea of making love to her,
so the two
continued to lie there until
midnight when
John decided to turn over.**

**Perhaps no longer being able to
hold in his
urge, he started kissing her
rather
aggressively.**

**She did not really know what to
do and just
passively accepted it.**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 78
After that, he became more**

gentle and bold.

Still, it was just a dream, so the most exciting part would not come that easily.

Before it got to the juiciest part, she woke up.

She blinked her eyes and it was chilly around her.

It was pitch black outside the window and around her; it took her a few seconds to realize that it was just a dream. She felt somewhat perplexed to have woken up at this point in her dream—right before the most exciting part.

Then, she angrily turned over and hugged her blanket, falling back to sleep in rage.

The dream never resumed, but it was fortunate that she still had a good sleep after all.

The next morning, Sophia got

up rather
early, and it seemed like John
was still
sleeping.

She quickly freshened up and
packed her
belongings before walking to
the window and
taking a picture of the beach.

Then, she
posted it on Facebook.

Following that, she sat on her
bed, waiting
for John and Zack to come in.

A while later, John came
knocking on her
door.

Sophia carried her suitcase with
her and
opened the door. Without even
looking at
John, she said,
"Come on in."
"

She then left the suitcase next
to the door
before leaning on the desk,
waiting.

After that, John was able to
finish
freshening up in just a couple of

minutes.

By the time Zack came over,
both of them
were ready to go.

Then, Zack helped them with
their suitcases
as the three of them headed
downstairs; the
car bound for the airport was
already waiting
for them outside the hotel.

When they were on their way
to the airport,
John's phone rang.

Sitting next to him, Sophia
could not help but
notice the caller ID on his
screen, and she
quickly turned away and looked
outside the
window.

When answering the phone call,
John's words
were brief.

"I'm on my way to
the airport and
will be there soon. If there's
anything, we
can talk when I get back.
"

As she sat rather close to him,

she could
clearly hear Mrs. Constance's
voice, which
sounded rather jolly.

"Ah, of
course. Belle's
coming over this afternoon. You
guys should
be home by then, so we can
have lunch
together."
"

John paused before grunting.
There was no objection nor
explanation.

Meanwhile, Sophia let out a
bleak smile as
she watched the scene outside
the window as
the car moved forward.

Having a meal together should
be a good idea.

Prior to this, she had seen
Isabelle's pictures
in magazines and the news. She
was kind of a
celebrity and would always
attend all kinds of
charity events, even though
Sophia had never
met her in person.

She had always wondered what a person that Mrs. Constance was so pleased with would look like.

After they arrived at the airport, they got their boarding passes and went through the security checkpoints.

Their flight this morning did not seem to be packed as it did not take them long before they entered the boarding room.

After just a short while, they began to board the airplane, and of course, they were in business class. Naturally, John and Sophia sat next to each other.

After sitting and buckling her seat belt, Sophia turned around and looked outside the window.

Meanwhile, John was still on his phone, seemingly sending out some

text messages.

At this moment, Zack showed up with some food and gave it to them.

Not feeling too hungry, Sophia lay it aside.

Nevertheless, she and John had not spoken a word to each other, even though the atmosphere did not seem to be too awkward as this was always how the two had treated each other.

Many a time, they had nothing to say to each other.

Still feeling sleepy, Zack fell asleep right away in the corner.

A few moments later, Sophia took out her phone and opened her Facebook, noticing that the singer had liked her Facebook post and left a comment wishing her a safe journey.

Sophia smiled and put her

phone away,
thinking that there was finally a
person whom
she could interact with on
Facebook.

After the airplane took off,
Sophia made
sure that her phone was
properly stowed
before she went to sleep.

In actuality, she could not fall
asleep, but
she did not know what to do if
she stayed
awake.

She was in this drowsy state for
a good while
when she heard someone come
and speak
with John.

It was a female voice that
sounded rather
flirtatious and bold, asking John
for his
number.

John seemingly chuckled before
commenting,

“This person next to me is my
wife.

”

As he said that, Sophia could

feel that he
had seemingly reached for her
and touched
her hair, tucking the hair on her
face away.

That lady seemed to be
embarrassed and
quickly offered her apologies.
Then, Sophia continued to
pretend to be
sleeping until it was quiet again.

As he brought a book on
business
management with him, after a
few seconds,
she heard the sound of flipping
pages.

It was rather bizarre that John
could focus
on reading under such
circumstances.

Halfway through the flight, the
flight
attendant came with some food
and
beverages, but Sophia was still
not as hungry.

She drank some water while
she was still in
her drowsy state.

At this point, John reminded

her,
“You have
to at least eat something before
taking your
gastric medicine.
”

Sophia felt slightly annoyed.
“My gastric
problems are gone already. I
don’t feel
anything anymore.
”

John frowned, looking serious.
In the past, this was the look
she feared the
most because this meant that
he was not
happy, and she never wanted to
make him
mad.

But right now, what did that
have to do with
her?

Then, she gave him an
indifferent look
before placing her food on the
tray in front
of her and putting her eye mask
back on as
she got ready to sleep again.
John continued to stare at her

for a good
while before looking away.
He had somewhat lost control
and minded her
a tad too much.

The Returning Ex Chapter 79
By the time Sophia woke up,
the airplane was
already descending and about
to land.

She had almost slept through
the flight, and
it was not as bad as she
thought.

When the flight attendant
reminded
everyone to sit tight and buckle
their
seatbelts, Sophia stretched.

“I
had such a
good sleep.
”

John then put the book in his
hands away
without saying a word nor
looking at her.
Sitting next to them across the
aisle, Zack
was somewhat annoyed. He
stretched his

neck and looked at Sophia.

“Sophia, are you coming back to the Constance Residence with us later?”

Sophia peered at him through the corner of her eyes.

“You have to ask your boss. I don’t know where I should go.”

With the question being thrown at him, John grunted, and Zack took that as an answer.

After the airplane had landed completely, Zack walked in front of them as they walked out of the aircraft.

When Zack went to wait for their suitcases, Sophia and John proceeded to walk out of the airport.

She had a speculation. Alas, she smiled when she saw the person running toward John and waving at him.

She was right.

It was Mrs. Constance at the entrance together with another woman, who looked somewhat different from the pictures in the magazine.

Right now, she looked less stereotypical than in the magazines.

Perhaps it was all the image editing and the make-up that made her look like that.

As she stood next to Mrs. Constance, she looked rather average, which was nicer than in the magazines.

Sophia then laughed silently.

Fortunately, before she left the hotel this morning, she did put on some nice make-up.

She reckoned she did not look too bad compared to that woman.

John looked rather surprised as she walked up to Mrs. Constance.

**“Didn’t I
tell you that
you didn’t have to come get
me?”**

**He then turned to Isabelle as he
finished the
sentence.**

**That look made Isabelle rather
embarrassed.**

“W-We happened to—”

**“I wanted to come here, and I
asked Isabelle
to come with me,
” Mrs.**

**Constance quickly
added while grabbing Isabelle’s
hand.**

**They looked like a mother and
daughter pair.**

**Meanwhile, Zack secretly rolled
his eyes at
them while John looked
expressionless; he
did not say anything too.**

**Even though Mrs. Constance
saw that Sophia
was around, she had been
ignoring her
existence, and she was happy
that Sophia did
not choose to converse with**

her.

Following that, John turned around and looked at Zack then at Sophia.

“Let’s go.

”

Sophia gently lifted her head, looking proud as she ignored Mrs. Constance and walked out with the others.

Mrs. Constance came here with a private sedan. Apart from the driver, they could only fit at most four people in the car.

But the back part of the car was not too spacious, so it was rather tight when there were three people in the back seat.

Mrs. Constance opened the door of the passenger seat and asked John to get in the car.

After that, she gave Isabelle a look for her to quickly get into the back

seat.

Sophia was not interested in competing with them for a seat in the car, so she turned around and looked at Zack.

“You contacted the company to have them send their car over, didn’t you?”

Zack’s volume went up slightly.

“I did.

They’ve actually just messaged me to say that they are already here. Let me find them.

”

Meanwhile, John stood there and also looked around.

Mrs. Constance became rather nervous.

“John, come over and get in the car. Zack can get in the company car and go back to the office first. The meal’s ready at home. We’re just waiting for you.

”

Isabelle went up and opened the door to the back seat but did not get in; instead, she kept staring at John.

When Zack found the car sent by the company, he quickly waved at them.

“Over here!”

The car then slowly pulled up, and it was an SUV, which looked more spacious.

Sophia went up and Zack opened the back seat door for her.

At the same time, John decided to walk

toward the car sent by the company and directed his words at Mrs. Constance.

“I’ll take this car. It’s more spacious.

”

Sophia couldn’t be bothered and just got in

the car. She stretched her arms
and legs,
realizing that this car was
indeed spacious
and comfortable.

Then, John came in and sat
down next to her.

She gave him a quick glance.

“You can actually
take the other car. I’ll
I’ll just have Zack send me
back to my
place.

”

John leaned on the seat. One
could tell that
he was somewhat tired from
the plane ride.

Hearing what Sophia said, he
responded with
a whisper,

“Stop fooling
around.

”

John sounded rather helpless
and his voice
also carried a tinge of coyness.
The Returning Ex Chapter 80
Perhaps Sophia had heard it
wrongly, but his
words somewhat touched her.

At this point, she quickly turned away and looked outside the window, pursing her lips and refusing to say a word. After putting Sophia and John's suitcases in the trunk, Zack got in the passenger seat while Mrs. Constance and Isabelle were still standing next to their sedan. Even though Isabelle looked fine, Mrs. Constance did not look too pleased. Leaning on the car window, Sophia saw the reluctant look on Mrs. Constance's face as she got in the car, and how hard she then slammed the car door. The sight of this made Sophia laugh. Their car took off first while Mrs. Constance's car followed. Throughout the car ride, no one was talking, and the car was heading toward

the

Constance Residence.

**It was a familiar route for
Sophia.**

**Looking at the view outside the
windows on
both sides of the car, Sophia felt
rather
despondent.**

**When she moved out of the
Constance
Residence, she thought that she
would never
return, but look at how quickly
things
changed.**

**The car kept on going until they
entered the
front yard of the Constance
Residence,
which was situated halfway up
a hill; the
surrounding area was extremely
quiet.**

**As Old Mr. and Mrs. Constance
both loved
the countryside, there were
many trees and
plants around the Constance
Residence.**

Behind the Constance

Residence was a bamboo forest. It was very well managed and it made the environment feel quiet and peaceful.

Sophia opened the door herself when Old

Mrs. Constance was seen standing at the entrance of the main building and watching them while a maid stood next to her.

Sophia saw Old Mrs. Constance the moment she turned around.

During her time being married to John of just under a year, Old Mrs. Constance was impartial toward her.

She never gave her any trouble but neither did she ever protect her.

Hence, she felt the same toward Old Mrs.

Constance. It was neither cold nor hot.

After Zack helped move their suitcases from

the car, with the help of the
maid, Old Mrs.

Constance slowly walked up to
them.

As all the members of the
Constance Family
were now at the office, this
place seemed to
be unusually quiet.

Old Mrs. Constance looked at
Sophia and said
rather calmly,
"You're here."
"

Sophia grunted.

"Old Mrs.
Constance, good to
see you."
"

It did not take long for her to
change the
way she addressed her as she
used to call
her Grandma.

Old Mrs. Constance sighed and
turned to
Zack.

Since Zack was a frequent
visitor, Old Mrs.
Constance knew who he was.
She then commented,

**“You just
got off the
plane, didn’t you? Eat
something before you
go back.**

”

**Zack gave Sophia a look and
exhaled. He then
conveniently accepted the
invitation.**

**Now, the car that Mrs.
Constance was in
slowly pulled up, and Mrs.
Constance seemed
rather nervous as she got out of
the car
right after it stopped.**

**After that, she went to the back
of the car
and dragged Isabelle over when
Isabelle had
just stepped out of the car.
Mrs. Constance then walked up
to John.**

**“John, come in the house and
eat something.
We’ll talk when we eat. You
must be tired.**

”

**It was too obvious what Mrs.
Constance was**

trying to do, and even Old Mrs. Constance could no longer take it. Old Mrs. Constance then sighed, looking slightly stern.
“Matilda.
”

Mrs. Constance paused and turned to Old Mrs. Constance. She then pursed her lips and moved aside. Old Mrs. Constance looked at Isabelle rather blandly before turning around.
“Let’s go in.
You all must be tired. We’ll eat something before you all get some rest.
”

They all walked into the main building as Zack carried Sophia’s suitcase and a maid came to help carry John’s. The dining room in the main building was not too big given the number of people living at the Constance Residence.

However, everyone did not usually eat together.

All the dishes in the dining room had already been served on the table.

Without even going in, one could tell how much food there was on the table just from a quick glance.

After the maid and Zack placed the suitcases in the corner, they all went into the dining room together.

The Constance Family was particular about eating, so they handed out a hot towel to everyone to wipe their hands.

Meanwhile, Sophia found a seat and sat down right away, completely ignoring everyone else around her.

This seat was where she used to sit, which was right next to John.

Mrs. Constance was stunned by that. She

then frowned as she stared at Sophia.

How could Sophia sit down and start wiping her hands before the older ones did?

Old Mrs. Constance gave Sophia a look as well, but she did not get as annoyed as Mrs. Constance.

Sitting in her seat, Sophia proceeded to wipe her hands.

“Are you guys sitting down? I’m starving. I don’t want to wait any longer.”

She thought it would be ridiculous for her to entertain some meaningless rituals with a bunch of people who were no longer related to her, especially after having not eaten anything since the morning while on the plane. Meanwhile, John also sat down and waved at

everyone.

“Everyone, please
take a seat. We
haven’t eaten anything since
this morning.
We’re indeed hungry.
”

Old Mrs. Constance was helped
by a maid as
she slowly sat down before Mrs.
Constance
followed suit.

Isabelle was seated opposite
John, and they
two could see each other as
long as they
lifted their heads—Sophia and
Mrs.

Constance were in a similar
position.

The Returning Ex Chapter 81

It seemed that Mrs. Constance
did not want
to meet Sophia. Hence, she did
not look
directly at the latter. As if Mrs.
Constance
was afraid that people could
not see her, she
stood with her side slightly
turned toward

Isabelle.

On the other hand, Sophia did not mind and thought that it would be even better if Mrs.

Constance would turn her back toward her.

It was best to keep herself out of Mrs.

Constance's sight.

After Mrs. Constance washed her hands, she took out the bowls and utensils.

She first

gave John a pair of chopsticks before giving

another pair to Isabelle. She then asked

about the results from John's outing; she

was unaware of the problems that had

occurred between him and Infinity Group.

John pursed his lips as if he was thinking

about something and remained silent. It was

Old Mrs. Constance who continued the conversation.

“Why are you asking him about work when he had just returned home?”

Her words stunned Mrs. Constance and made her feel a little awkward.

Meanwhile, Sophia kept her head low while she ate because she

was starving. She wasn't feeling hungry as

she was sleeping throughout the entire plane

ride. Now that she was awake, her stomach

felt a little uncomfortable.

John had also eaten two mouthfuls before

putting his chopsticks down all of a sudden.

“Have you not taken your gastric medicine yet?”

Sophia raised her head with a blur

expression. However, she kept eating and did

not bother replying to him.

John glanced at

Sophia twice, looking a little

helpless. There was a grain of rice sticking on the corner of her lips, and her face was in a blur, making her look rather cute.

In fact, the only person who had yet to eat was Sophia; throughout their entire journey here, John and Zack had already eaten on the plane. John then reached out to remove the grain of rice that was on Sophia's face before he stood up to walk away.

Seeing this, Mrs. Constance called out to him and asked,

“Where are you going?”

Isabelle, who sat by the side, glanced at Sophia for a while; her face remained normal.

John excused himself and walked toward the living room. All their luggages were still at

the entrance. John then opened up Sophia's luggage and found all her gastric medicine in it. Following that, he carefully picked out the one that should be taken before meals before returning to the dining room. At that moment, the confused look on Sophia's face was gone. She was calm, but John swore that he caught a hint of satisfaction on her face.

The man then passed the medicine to Sophia and instructed her, "Take your medicine first."
"

She agreed, took the medicine over, put it in her mouth, and gulped it down with a mouthful of water. Old Mrs. Constance looked at Sophia. With a cold tone, she

asked,
“What happened? Are
you not feeling
well?”

Before Sophia could say
anything, John
opened his mouth to continue,
“Her gastric
problems are back.
”

Old Mrs. Constance then locked
her eyes on
Sophia for a while, and her tone
became
slightly softer.

“Did you have
gastric
problems before?”

Sophia answered,
“Yes. It’s
been almost ten
years.

” In fact, she had been
having lots of
gastric problems lately.

Old Mrs. Constance glanced at
Sophia again
and added,

“But I haven’t heard
you mention
it before.

”

Sophia then chuckled.

“It’s not
a big deal.

”

Her face was as calm as the sea.

It seemed

that she had not made a big
deal out of this
problem.

Perhaps because the Constance
Family was a
rich and influential family.

Hence, they were
slightly contentious about this.

Even when a
family member has a slight
headache, it
would be a big problem for the
whole family.

On the other hand, ten years of
gastric
problems was never a problem
for Sophia at
all.

However, this made Old Mrs.
Constance feel
a little uncomfortable.

Occasionally, she
would hear Old Mr. Constance
bringing this

matter up; he said that Sophia did not have a good life in the past. He even advised Old Mrs. Constance to treat Sophia better.

However, Old Mr. Constance's body was not feeling well during that time, so she focused all her strength on taking care of him and did not care about Sophia at all. In the end, Old Mr. Constance passed away while John went through a divorce. From then on, Old Mrs. Constance seldom got in touch with Sophia.

Mrs. Constance, however, seemed slightly indifferent. She looked at Sophia in disdain from the corner of her eyes and snorted heavily. It seemed that almost everyone could hear her from her seat, but no one spoke a word about it.

Sophia then glanced at Mrs. Constance for a while and imitated her. Naturally, the sound she made was louder than Mrs. Constance's.

Not only the people who sat around the dining table, but even the maids who were standing by the entrance could hear it clearly.

Mrs. Constance was stunned and looked at Sophia in disbelief.

“What do you mean by that?”

Sophia answered with an innocent-looking face,

“My stomach feels uncomfortable.”

Just because her stomach was uncomfortable, would a snort make her stomach feel more comfortable? Zack almost laughed out loud. What Sophia

said sounded
like the perfect excuse!
The Returning Ex Chapter 82
Sophia would never treat Mrs.
Constance as
such before, so how was she
able to tolerate
such behavior from Sophia
now?

Mrs. Constance immediately
slammed the
chopsticks onto the table and
asked,
“Sophia,
what kind of manners is this?”
John then lifted his head to look
at Mrs.
Constance and said,
“Mom,
that’s enough.
”

Meanwhile, Sophia swiftly
imitated her and
slammed the chopsticks on the
table. She
looked at Mrs. Constance with a
mocking look
on her face.
“I learned all these
actions from
you. If I’m the one with

problems with my
manners, I think you should
reflect on
yourself first.

”

Mrs. Constance’s face turned
stiff. She had
not expected Sophia to be so
sharp-tongued.

She opened her mouth.

“You—”

Sophia kept an expressionless
face while she
looked at Mrs. Constance—she
looked as if

she was eager to hear what
would come out

of Mrs. Constance’s mouth.

Sophia’s current behavior made
Mrs.

Constance even angrier

compared to her

careless behavior in the past.

Old Mrs. Constance, who sat by
her side,

instantly frowned. However,

she looked at

Mrs. Constance first.

“Matilda,

please just

sit down. Have your meal and

talk nicely. It's been so many years. Why are you still like this?"

Having already said such words, Mrs.

Constance was unable to back down with good grace.

Mrs. Constance looked at Old Mrs. Constance and felt a little upset as she said, "Mom, just look at her. She dared to talk to me that way."
"

With this, she glanced at Sophia, but Old Mrs. Constance was still fixated on her.

Then, Sophia seized the opportunity to roll her eyes at Mrs. Constance while no one was watching.

Her behavior was arrogant and she acted in a disorderly manner without fear. Upon seeing this, Mrs. Constance gritted her

teeth and pointed her finger at Sophia.

“Look at her. Just look at her.”

Sophia immediately adjusted the expression on her face and continued acting innocent. She could not imagine what she had looked like in the old days. Compared to now, she could let her old self die off. Mrs. Constance was a pretentious person. How could she have been bullied so miserably by Mrs. Constance in the past? This made no sense at all. Old Mrs. Constance glanced at Sophia. On the other hand, Sophia was able to remain calm; not even a hint of expression was shown on her face. Isabelle, who was sitting by the side, patted Mrs. Constance’s shoulder. “Mrs. Constance,

please don't be angry. I'm sure
Miss
Gwendolyn doesn't mean it.
Perhaps it's the
medicine she swallowed that is
causing her a
little discomfort. Please don't
overthink it.
”

Mrs. Constance then looked at
Isabelle. It
took a long time for her to take
a breather,
then she said in a suppressed
voice,
“You’
re
such a kind child. You know
how to find
excuses for someone else.
”

Meanwhile, Sophia picked up
her chopsticks
and started eating by herself
again as she
was not full yet.
John remained seated while his
face had no
expression at all.
Old Mrs. Constance had also
slowly adjusted

her emotions. She then took the napkin from the side to wipe her mouth.

“It seems like I can’t continue this meal anymore.”

With this, she stood up. The servants that were standing by the door hurried over to her.

With Old Mrs. Constance’s back facing them, she added, “All of you can continue your meal.”

By the looks of it, she was angry.

Mrs. Constance did not expect her to give such a reaction.

“Mom, why aren’t you eating anymore? You’ve only had a few bites.”

She quickly stood up and

walked toward Old
Mrs. Constance.
Meanwhile, Sophia lowered her
head to eat
and was not affected by this
entire situation
at all.

Zack, who was by the side,
secretly put down
his chopsticks.
If only he had known that it
would turn out
like this, Zack would not have
stayed behind
for a meal.

It wasn't like this meal tasted
particularly
good.

Isabelle felt slightly awkward
since Mrs.
Constance had chased after Old
Mrs.

Constance. This made Isabelle
feel a little
restless.

After a while, John picked up
his chopsticks
and looked at her.

"I'm really
sorry that you
have to witness this.

”

Isabelle then shook her head
and said,

“It’s

fine. Perhaps Mrs. Constance is
under the
weather today.

”

John nodded and continued,

“Please continue

your meal.

”

Isabelle then pursed her lips
and did not
leave.

John turned to look at Zack and
said,

“Eat

up. We still have to return to
the company
once we

’ve finished.

”

Zack swiftly lowered his head
and ate as if
nothing had happened.

On the other hand, John did not
have the

appetite to eat anymore.

He turned to look at Sophia. He
noticed that

she was not affected by the previous incident at all and was enjoying the food.

John stared at Sophia for a while before forcing himself to continue eating.

The Returning Ex Chapter 83
Sophia ate swiftly without taking into consideration her table manners.

In contrast, Isabelle, who was sitting across from her, behaved like a young lady from a noble family.

She ate elegantly as if she was at a beauty pageant.

Sophia took some time to look at Isabelle.

She wondered if she ate her meals like Isabelle before this.

It was really uncomfortable for Sophia to watch.

Since Sophia ate fast, naturally, she put her

chopsticks down much earlier
than anyone
else.

Then, she proceeded to take
the napkin to
wipe her mouth and hands.
She even burped before leaning
back on her
chair. Her entire posture was
not very
appropriate.

“Oh, my room...
”

John turned to look at Sophia.
Sophia thought for a while
before swallowing
back the second-half of her
sentence.

“Go
ahead and eat first. I’ll tell you
once you’
ve
finished your meal.
”

After eating a few mouthfuls,
John put his
chopsticks down.
Seeing this, Isabelle stopped
eating too.
Zack, who was by the side,
naturally became

embarrassed to continue eating.

John's actions were slow as he wiped his mouth and hands before standing up.

"Follow me."
"

Sophia's room was arranged by Mrs. Constance.

Her room was far away from John's room, and it was located at the end of the corridor with the worst lighting possible. John frowned the moment he entered the room.

He remembered that this room was empty previously with only a few idle items inside.

There were so many tidied rooms in the house, but Mrs. Constance deliberately tidied this room again for Sophia. It seemed like she had gone out of her way

to clean the room.

John turned to look at the servant.

“Please change to another room.”

The servant felt awkward as he looked at John.

“Actually, Mrs. Constance has put some things in the other rooms. It’s a little inconvenient to explain it to you.”

Sophia almost laughed out loud.

Mrs. Constance was not a particularly intelligent person. Had she not married a good husband and given birth to such a good son, she might not have survived this kind of family struggle.

The Constance Family was prosperous and Mr. Constance had four wives. Mrs. Constance was the first

wife, but
compared to the second, third,
and fourth
wife, she was scum.

Since John held a high position
in the
company, no one dared to
provoke them.

Otherwise, Mrs. Constance
would not have
the ability to dominate over
others at home.

For instance, she did not even
try to hide her
intentions while she tried to
sabotage
others.

If she did not have Young
Master William
and John to support her, Mrs.
Constance
would have died under the
other three wives'
hands sooner or later with that
attitude of
hers.

Sophia did not say a single word
and leaned
against the wall as she crossed
her arms,
waiting for John to make a

decision.

Meanwhile, John felt a little helpless.

“This

sort of stuff is really—”

In fact, he had been in the business world

for so long, so how could he not understand

such flagrantly cunning moves.

He then looked at the servant and asked,

“Are there no rooms left?”

The servant glanced at Sophia and stuttered.

“Yes. There is a room, but Mrs. Constance

said that room is for...

” The

servant felt a

little embarrassed to say it out loud.

Mrs. Constance said that the room was

prepared for Isabelle and it was located just

beside John’s bedroom.

On the day when John and Sophia got

divorced, she had ordered someone to clean

up the room.

She said that if she wanted to invite Isabelle over to visit, she would need to prepare a room for her to stay in—in case there were some unexpected needs.

Hence, the room was over there.

John looked at the servant's face.

Even if the servant did not continue talking, John already understood the situation.

He immediately turned around and walked to the other side of the corridor, saying,

“Which room is it? Please open the door now and let Miss Gwendolyn in.”

Naturally, the servant did not dare to disobey his words and hurried over to unlock the bedroom door.

“It's this room.

”

Sophia stood at the door to look inside, and could not help but sigh.

This room was meticulously well-decorated.

With just a glance, she could see that everything inside was chosen with much thought and care.

The bedsheet had sunflower prints on it.

There was a big, golden-yellow flower on the bed that looked youthful.

Beside the bed was a European-style dressing table that looked interesting.

At the foot of the bed was a bench that had the same covers as the bed. Just by looking at it, one would feel very comfortable, not to mention the wardrobe and the other items in the bedroom.

Sophia almost laughed out again.

Why did Mrs. Constance not flip the entire bedroom into a new one? That way, she could have skipped all the steps in the middle.

Looking at this room, John felt a little annoyed.

He pinched his brow bone before turning to look at Sophia.

“You can stay here.”

**The Returning Ex Chapter 84
Naturally, Sophia did not act polite. In fact, she could not wait to see the reaction of Mrs. Constance after she started living in this bedroom Mrs. Constance had prepared for Isabelle.**

Sophia entered with her luggage and was very satisfied with it after looking around.

The maid looked around and quickly left.

John stood by the door and leaned on the door frame, crossing his arms while looking at Sophia.

Sophia glanced around. Seeing that John was in such a state, she chuckled.

“Why are you staring at me like this? Is it because I made your mom angry at the dinner table, so you’re

here to settle things with me?” She then sat and turned over on the bed before lowering her head to touch it.

“This bed is quite soft. It must be an expensive bed.”

With this, she lifted her head and looked at John.

John was still staring at her but did not look angry. Instead, he had a curious face on him.

All of a sudden, Sophia felt like pulling a prank on him, so she patted the surface of the bed beside her and said, “Do you think it’ll be very comfortable on this bed?”

After Sophia finished her sentence, she tilted her head and smiled at John. Her face seemed as if she was seducing him.

John’s gaze also fell on Sophia’s body as he looked at her from head to toe, and back, twice.

Suddenly, he chuckled.

“If we have the time, we can definitely try it out.”

Sophia was slightly taken aback. Did John learn how to flirt back? Not bad at all.

Clearly, he has improved a lot. Sophia felt that she could not lose to him.

Hence, she wanted to find a few more words to flirt back with John.

However, before she could say anything,

Sophia heard someone talking in the corridor.

“John, if there’s nothing else, I’ll head off first.”

It was Isabelle’s voice. It seemed that she was standing quite close to the door.

Sophia swiftly stood up and managed to reach the door in just a few steps.

John was leaning on the door frame while Sophia leaned on the other side of the door frame and poked her head out of the room.

Indeed, Isabelle did not stand too far and had a calm face on her.

Then, Sophia said with a smile on her face.

“Don’t go. You’ve only been

here for a while.

Come over and have a chat with us.

”

Isabelle was not shocked to see Sophia. She

even raised the corner of her lips and said,

“It’s fine. I see that both of you are tired.

Please rest well. If I’m free next time, I’ll

come over and find you.

”

Indeed, Isabelle was a young lady from a

respectable family. No matter the situation

or the circumstances she was in, Isabelle

would not panic and remained calm.

Sophia admired her for that.

She nodded her head and said,

“Have a safe journey home.

”

Isabelle also waved at her and turned to look

at John before leaving.

Sophia watched as Isabelle disappeared from the staircase on the second floor before lightly slapping her own mouth. “You’re quite lucky in love affairs.”

John diverted his gaze from the staircase and turned around to return to his room.

Both their rooms were separated by a wall while the doors to both rooms were just beside each other.

With just a turn from where he stood, John returned to his own room.

Actually, it was not his own room as it was shared by both Sophia and him in the past.

Sophia was still holding the door open while her head poked out.

However, there was no longer a smile on her face.

She no longer had the right to

**enter that
room.**

**After some thought, she
reached out to
close the door.**

**Sophia then opened up the
wardrobe. Indeed,
Mrs. Constance had prepared a
lot of clothes
for Isabelle.**

**There were a lot of pajamas in
the wardrobe.**

**Sophia used her finger to hook
one of them
out.**

**To her surprise, the style of the
pajamas was
bold and risqué.**

**It was no different than not
wearing
anything at all.**

**Sophia looked at the other
pajamas and
noticed that most of them were
of such
style.**

**If Isabelle was to stay in this
house, Sophia
wondered if she dared to wear
these
pajamas.**

Nonetheless, Sophia knew that she would feel a little shy to wear it herself.

There was a fitting mirror installed in the wardrobe, so she took a good look at herself.

Isabelle was taller than her by a little.

Since Sophia was malnourished when she was young, her legs did not develop properly into a pair of long legs.

However, Sophia still had a good body shape and her height was just right.

The wardrobe was huge. Sophia hung a few of her clothes on the other side before entering the adjoining bathroom.

The bathroom felt like it had just been renovated.

There was also a jacuzzi in the bathroom.

Looking at this, one could tell that Mrs.

Constance was really thoughtful about the bathroom layout.

However, she must not have expected Sophia to be the one staying in this room.

Therefore, Sophia was waiting to see Mrs.

Constance's horrid reaction.

**The Returning Ex Chapter 85
John tidied up his room a little and went out.**

Meanwhile, Zack was still waiting for him downstairs. After John was downstairs, the both of them immediately left for the company.

Sophia stood by the window of her room and looked downstairs.

From this angle, it was similar to the location of John's room.

She watched John and Zack walking toward the Constance Residence's car park.

It felt like she was in one of the many days in the past where she would send her husband off.

Actually, there was nothing good about sending off someone.

John never knew how she stood by the window to see him off to work every single day in the past.

It was funny how in the end, she was the one that felt moved.

After waiting for the both of them to disappear, Sophia closed the curtains and returned to her bed.

Although she had slept throughout the entire journey back here, she still felt extremely uncomfortable.

She lay down and rolled around a few times in an effort to find a comfortable posture.

However, there came a

knocking sound at the door not long after she had found a comfortable position.

At the same time, Mrs. Constance's voice could be heard.

"Come out, Sophia. This room is not for you. Come out!" Her voice sounded extremely angry.

Sophia sneered and lay down on her back.

She stared at the ceiling and was in a good mood.

Mrs. Constance knocked on the door a few more times. Seeing that the door was still closed, she turned to the servant beside her and asked,

"Where are the keys? Open this door for me."
"

The servant said in a lowered voice,
"Mrs.

**Constance, please don't make
this a bigger
deal than it is. Old Mrs.
Constance was
already upset just now.
”**

**Mrs. Constance paused and
gnashed her
teeth in anger.**

**“This is not a
question of
whether I'm making a fuss out
of this. Look
at her; she already crossed the
line when she
bullied me. How could I just let
her be?”**

**She could not bear it any
longer.**

**What was Sophia's virtue in the
past? She
dares to challenge me now?
She really does not know her
own place.**

**Mrs. Constance then urged the
servant.**

**“Hurry up and open the door.
”**

**After some thought, the servant
opened the
door with the keys in her hand.**

The bedroom was a little dark when she entered the room. On the other hand, Sophia was laying on the bed. When Mrs. Constance saw Sophia sprawled over the bed she had carefully prepared, she started fuming in anger. Everything in the room was carefully chosen and prepared by her for Isabelle. It was impossible for Mrs. Constance to not get angry since everything she had prepared was unexpectedly occupied by Sophia. With huge steps, Mrs. Constance walked over to the side of the bed. "Get up, Sophia. Do you think you have the right to enter this room? Get out now!" However, Sophia remained lying on the bed as she stared at the ceiling.

With a faint
voice, she said,
“I advise that
you let me rest
in silence for a while. Please
don’t force me
to pull your son down together
with me.

”

Sophia said this calmly and
steadily, but her
words succeeded in stopping
Mrs.

Constance’s actions.

Mrs. Constance stared at Sophia
with a
sarcastic face.

“Sophia, have
you forgotten
who you are just because
you’ve been out in
the world? Let me tell you; John
took you in
because he pitied you, so don’t
you take us
for granted. Now, hurry up and
get out of
this room. This room is not fit
for people like
you.

”

Sophia felt slightly annoyed, so she slowly sat up and glared at Mrs. Constance.

Sophia used to look at her with a yielding expression. However, her expression now was nonchalant and carried a hint of sarcasm.

She then smiled.

“Pitied me?”

She slowly put her legs on the edge of the bed. Although the lighting in the house was not good, she could see the bottle of perfume on the dressing table. It must have been a newly-bought bottle. By the looks of it, it must be a premium brand.

Sophia continued,

“Mrs.

Constance, could you please ask about your son’s situation before talking? Otherwise, I might laugh.

”

With this, she stood up and walked over to pull open the curtains. Looking outside the window, she continued, “Let me tell you. If I wasn’t on this business trip together with him, your son’s reputation would have been ruined by now.

”

Mrs. Constance did not understand a lot of things in the business world. In her eyes, both her husband and John were good at everything and she did not believe Sophia’s words at all.

Meanwhile, Sophia opened the window. It was a little warm at this moment as a warm wind was blowing into the room. Mrs. Constance gagged.

“I

thought you were thick-skinned and did not

understand your
own place, so you were holding
onto
something that didn't belong to
you. Now, it
seems that I've overestimated
you. You'
ve
got a mouth that's daring
enough to say
anything and thick skin that's
worth nothing.

”

However, Sophia chuckled.
“With you as his
mom, John is really lucky to not
have died
from being screwed over.

”

In reality, Mrs. Constance
would always scold
others whenever she opened
her mouth.
Other than Old Mrs. Constance,
she would
scold everyone and no one
dared to talk to
her rudely.
But before Mrs. Constance
could talk, Sophia
continued talking.

This time, her tone of voice was calm.

“I’d advise you to stop provoking me. If I get upset and leak out the divorce between John and me, your beloved son’s reputation would be destroyed.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 86

Indeed, Mrs. Constance did not know what had happened during John’s business trip.

However, Old Mrs. Constance did tell her that the news of John’s divorce must not be spread out.

As for the reason, Old Mrs.

Constance seemed to be unclear about it too, but her tone of voice sounded serious when she told

Mrs. Constance about this.

Hence, Mrs. Constance felt that the consequences that came with

**this sentence
would be devastating.
She felt a slight chill in her heart
as she saw
how confident Sophia was in
carrying out her
well-thought plan to blackmail
her.
Perhaps, this matter was really
serious.
Mrs. Constance was so used to
bullying
Sophia that her heart felt
extremely
uncomfortable after being
oppressed by her.
Mrs. Constance then squeezed
Sophia's neck
and warned,
"How dare you?"
Sophia instantly sneered.
In just a few steps, she reached
the
dressing table and picked up
the newly
bought bottle of perfume.
Next, without a care, she threw
it toward
the wall by the side while
saying,
"Try me.**

”

The bottle of perfume flew past the side of Mrs. Constance’s face and smashed on the wall behind her.

As the force of the bottle smashing against the wall was strong, the perfume bottle broke into shards of glass, and the sound of it breaking was crisp and clear.

At this moment, Mrs. Constance was shocked by Sophia’s action.

She swiftly shrank her neck and even felt the perfume splashing on her back.

Since the perfume bottle was broken into pieces, the entire room smelled of flowers in an instant.

The perfume had a jasmine scent.

Mrs. Constance glared at Sophia; she was unwilling to believe that Sophia had not only

challenged her but even dared to fight with her.

This was getting completely out of hand.

Meanwhile, Sophia's face was icy-cold as she glared at Mrs. Constance without fear and said,

"You better not provoke me. Even your son has to talk to me with a good attitude, so you better not act smart with me. If I get upset, I'll pull John down with me, so don't blame me for not warning you first."
"

Mrs. Constance gritted her teeth; her eyes were about to pop out from all that staring.

The servant quickly went over to support her.

"Mrs. Constance, if your voice gets any louder, Old Mrs. Constance will get angry

again.

”

Mrs. Constance's chest was rising and falling.

She had been married into the Constance

Family for so long and had yet to be shamed

like this.

Even when she was being unreasonable at

times, the entire Constance Family would still

treat her with respect.

However, a person without manners like

Sophia had already managed to shame her a

few times today.

She really is... Mrs. Constance was so angry

she started clenching her fist.

Sophia was not pretending; her face was

more fierce than Mrs.

Constance's.

Mrs. Constance then took a few deep breaths

before slowly turning around and saying to

the servant,

**“Let’s go. I won’t
be calculative
with uncultured people.
”**

**Suddenly, Sophia opened her
mouth.**

**“That is
your first strike.
”**

**Mrs. Constance was stunned
and turned
around to look at her.
Sophia then raised the corner of
her lips
coldly.**

**“My patience has its
limits. This is
your first time provoking me, so
you better
remember it clearly. If the
number of times
you provoked me increases, I’m
unsure of
what I’ll do next.
”**

**This was clearly a threat.
Mrs. Constance raised her hand
to point at
Sophia and said,
“You—”
It seemed that she wanted to**

**say something
unpleasant, but was
immediately interrupted
by Sophia.**

**“I should take out
my phone to
record the cultured lady of the
Constance
Family’s words and actions for
others to see.
I’ll let everybody know what
John’s mom
usually looks like.
”**

**Mrs. Constance then quickly
lowered her
hand.**

**The servant by her side could
see clearly who
had gained the upper hand and
who was
suffering losses.**

**She tugged Mrs. Constance’s
clothes and
said,**

**“It’s enough Mrs.
Constance. It’s almost
noon now and you usually rest
during noon.
”**

Mrs. Constance was so mad

right now that
she could not sleep.
However, she still followed the
servant's
advice and said,
"Let's go."
"

When the two of them walked
toward the
door, Sophia instructed,
"Please
shut the
door."
"

Mrs. Constance did not move.
Instead, it was
the servant who helped to close
the door.
The entire bedroom was filled
with the scent
of the jasmine-scented
perfume.
Luckily, Sophia had opened the
windows
beforehand.
She also remembered that
Isabelle's body
smelled of this perfume.
Indeed, Mrs. Constance is such
a suck-up.
Meanwhile, Mrs. Constance

stood by the door
and gnashed her teeth in anger.
Her entire
face was contorted with rage.
Her hands were trembling as
she took out
her phone to call John.

The Returning Ex Chapter 87

After causing Mrs. Constance to
leave with
anger, Sophia lay down on the
bed again and
felt extremely comfortable in
her heart.

Not to mention, the bed that
she was lying on
was soft and comfortable too.
Even though she was not sleepy,
she lay down
on the bed since she had
nothing else to do.

Therefore, Sophia kept lying on
the bed until
the sky had almost turned dark
before she
got up again.

She was too familiar with the
Constance
Residence.

She then got out of bed and
went out for a

walk.

Since the sun had set, she could enjoy the scenery in the garden.

Sophia slowly walked over to a place with a cane chair and a sunshade.

She sat on the chair and rocked it.

Who knew that rich people's lives could be so comfortable.

Later, Sophia took out her phone to surf the web and noticed that the news of John and her divorce had not been leaked out.

Isabelle herself was calm too. She was able to stay away from the

Constance Family's problems even when she knew about the inside stories of the family.

Sophia tried putting herself in Isabelle's shoes and thought that if she was Isabelle, she might not be able to pull this off.

**She would have found someone
to tell about
John's divorce.**

**After all, for the sake of love,
women were
capable of doing anything.
She felt that as a woman herself,
she would
understand if Isabelle did this to
them.**

**However, Isabelle did not leak
the news of
their divorce.**

**Indeed, she was strong and
calm.**

**Oftentimes, people like Isabelle
who were
quiet could also get what they
wanted, and it
would be the most terrifying
thing to go
against people like her.**

**Fortunately, Sophia would not
count Isabelle
as her rival now since she did
not have any
relations with John anymore.
Sophia slowly hummed as she
continued
reading some gossip news.
Meanwhile, just as John got**

home and got
out of his car, he saw a person
sitting in the
gardens.

Next to the car park was the
garden. The
Constance Residence had
always been quiet,
so Sophia's hums could be
heard clearly.

In fact, she had good vocals and
was able to
touch a person when one heard
her sing
melancholic songs.

John then slowly walked over,
trying his best
not to make any sound.

He stood at the side of the
garden and
watched Sophia.

It was unsure what she was
looking at on her
phone, but Sophia chuckled
twice and the
dimples on her cheeks
appeared.

Sophia was wearing a pair of
hot pants, and
after she took off her shoes, she
sat cross-legged on the cane

chair, all the while
humming and looking at her
phone.

John had never seen this casual
and lazy side
of Sophia before.

Sophia sat there looking at her
phone for
quite some time before looking
up to the sky.

She thought that it was about
time that she
entered the house.

She placed both her feet down.
Before she
wore her shoes, Sophia noticed
John.

John had his hands in his
pockets while he
stood there watching her; she
was unsure of
how long he had been standing
there.

Sophia raised her eyebrows.

“I
didn’t know
you had the habit of peeping on
others,
President Constance.
”

John’s voice sounded calm as he

replied,
“How could you call this
peeping? I’m not
hiding anywhere and have been
standing here
for a long time. You’re the one
who didn’t
notice me.
”

Meanwhile, Sophia bent down
to wear her
shoes. As the collar of her
clothes was
slightly loose, her cleavage was
slightly
revealed when she lowered her
head.

John slowly diverted his gaze
and continued,
“Oh, right. I went to your house
this
afternoon to bring some of your
clothes
over.
”

Sophia stood up and tidied her
clothes
before grunting in reply.
Those clothes were bought
while she was
staying at the Constance

Residence. Although they were expensive, she did not like them.

Soon after, John brought Sophia over to his car and took out a bag.

Sophia did not intend on taking the bag over from him. It was John who carried the bag as they walked slowly toward the house.

As they were walking, the sound of another car could be heard.

It must have been people from the other rooms.

Since they did not treat Sophia well in the past, she did not want to greet them either and pretended to not hear anything.

John did not react too and just like Sophia, he pretended not to hear them.

The both of them returned to the main building.

Mrs. Constance was sitting in

the main living room. It seemed that she was waiting for John to return home. Sophia almost laughed out loud when she saw Mrs. Constance about to complain to her son. Meanwhile, Mrs. Constance was stunned to see both of them walking in together before glaring at Sophia. Sophia swayed her arms as she walked upstairs while instructing John, "Please take the bag of clothes up for me later; thanks."

Her words were obviously an order. Even though she ended her sentence with a 'thanks', it still made Mrs. Constance's heart feel uneasy. She did not want to fight with Sophia in front of John. Hence, she turned

to the
servant beside her and said,
“Please help her
carry the bag up.
”

The servant hurriedly took over
the bag
from John and carried it to
Sophia’s room.
Sophia glanced at the servant
and thanked
her.

The servant softly replied,
“No
problem.
”

Before she left, she turned
around to look at
Sophia again.

The Returning Ex Chapter 88
Sophia had changed.

The servant had actually heard
Mrs.

Constance say this in the
afternoon.

Now that she observed more
carefully,

Sophia really did change.

Sophia’s personality had
become more

independent, yet cold and

distant.

Previously, she was a warm person who would smile at anyone she met. Her attitude was also good toward the servants. However, when Sophia thanked her just now, her voice was neither soft nor heavy; it was emotionless.

She was not the same as before.

The servant exited the bedroom and closed the door before slowly descending the stairs.

Naturally, Mrs. Constance who was downstairs was complaining about Sophia.

She complained about how Sophia had retaliated at her words and how she was challenging her.

Mrs. Constance even complained about how Sophia had almost hit her.

At the beginning of her complaints, John did

not give any reaction until he heard about the last part of her complaint. Upon hearing this, John frowned.

“Did she hit you?”

Mrs. Constance looked slightly uncomfortable.

“No. She didn’t hit me. No matter what, she wouldn’t have the guts to hit me. She just threw the bottle of perfume I bought in front of me.”

Upon saying this, Mrs. Constance was raging with anger.

The bottle of perfume had flown past her face.

Had it gone a little to the side, the bottle would have hit her face.

John nodded his head.

“So, she just broke a bottle of perfume. If you liked that perfume,

I can buy you another bottle.

”

**Mrs. Constance snorted and
was unhappy
about it.**

**“What do you mean
it’s just a bottle
of perfume? Do you understand
what I’m
trying to convey here? You
didn’t even see
her attitude at that time. John,
why would
you bring this kind of woman
back? Since
both of you were married in the
past, I
wouldn’t say much about this,
but now that
you
're divorced, why would our
family need
her now?”**

**John thought about it for a
while before
replying,**

**“This matter is a little
complicated.**

**Dad will come home in a while,
then I’ll
explain it to both of you.**

However, Sophia
needs to stay here, for now, so
please don't
bully her.
”

John looked at Mrs. Constance
and said in a
very serious tone.

“I'm aware of
all the things
you
've done in the past. It's just
that I did
not wish to worry too much
about it. I know
that you've treated her badly all
along.
”

Mrs. Constance pursed her lips
and felt
ashamed. Then, she spoke
hesitantly,

“Since
when did I treat her badly?”
She pulled a long face.

“I think I
already
treated her well enough to let
her get
married into our family from a
family like

**hers. If it was another family,
she might
even be treated as a servant.
”**

**John did not like to reason with
Mrs.**

**Constance because most of the
time, she
would not understand his
reasoning.**

John could only say,

**“After she
got married
to me, we became one entity.**

**What you think
of her is actually a reflection of
how you look
at me.**

”

**“How could you be the same as
her?” Mrs.**

**Constance’s eyes were wide
open.**

**“You’re the
heir to our Constance Family. In
the future,
the entire Constance Family
belongs to you.**

”

**In reality, John disliked hearing
these words**

the most.

He just stood up.

“I’ll go up and
change first.

Once Dad returns home and
everyone is here,
I’ll tell all of you the situation
between
Sophia and me.
”

Mrs. Constance knew that John
disliked

hearing about these household
affairs, but

she could not help it as she was
annoyed by it

for the entire afternoon.

If she did not say it out, she was
afraid she

would be suffocated to death.

Meanwhile, John immediately
went upstairs.

When he arrived at his
bedroom door, he

paused for a moment and
listened carefully.

However, he could not hear any
movements in

Sophia’s room, so John entered
his bedroom

and changed into a casual

outfit.

When he exited his bedroom,
John could not
help but knock on Sophia's
bedroom door.

Next, he could hear the sound
of footsteps
walking over before the door
was opened.

All of a sudden, a strong
jasmine scent burst
out from her room.

Sophia's face was emotionless
as she asked,

"Has your mom finished her
complaints?"

This made John feel like
laughing.

"How did
you get into a fight with my
mom in the
afternoon?"

Sophia snorted.

"She came here
to find fault
with me, so naturally, I couldn't
bear with
her actions anymore.

"

This time, John really laughed
out.

“Didn’t

you say you were good at tolerating others?”

Upon saying this, Sophia became slightly angry.

She looked at John with a long face.

“If it wasn’t to save you from all the troubles of being the middle person between your mom and me, did you think I could’ve endured for that long? Indeed, your family is wealthy, but do you think you can humiliate someone just because you’re loaded? This is such a joke.

”

John raised his hand subconsciously. It seemed that he wanted to put his hand on top of Sophia’s head.

However, he paused mid-air. It seemed that he was shocked by his own actions. He froze slightly and

immediately
put his hand down.
John then sighed.
“My mom can
be a little
bad-tempered at times, but I
can’t do
anything about it since my dad
has been
tolerating her all this while.
Please don’t be
so calculative with her next
time, and try to
avoid her as much as possible.
”

Sophia rolled her eyes upon
hearing his
words.

“I’m not going to do that.
Why do I
need to hide from her? I was
once grandpa’s
favorite too. If he was here, he
would make
sure that I was afraid of no one.
All of you
only dare to bully me because
you saw that I
lost my refuge.
”

Although Sophia said it calmly,

John was
unexpectedly shocked by her
words and he
stared seriously at her.

The Returning Ex Chapter 89

John sighed after some time.

“Indeed, we’

ve

wronged you.

”

He had never met Sophia’s

grandfather

before, but he heard his

grandfather

mentioning him.

The two old men had a life-long
friendship.

If it was not for this, he would
not have

forced John to marry Sophia.

After some thought, John said,

“Alright.

Dinner’s ready. Remember to

join us for

dinner later.

”

Sophia nodded her head and

John turned to

leave.

She waited for a while before

shutting the

door.

She was playing games on her phone before this, and her phone was thrown onto the bed after John came by.

Even without thinking, Sophia was certain that she had lost her game.

She walked over to pick up her phone and exited the game and then sat on the bed while looking out the window.

It was really boring for her to stay at the Constance Residence.

Everyone here disliked her, but truth be told, Sophia disliked every single person in this house too.

It was a terrible thing for her since she could not get away from the people she disliked.

Sophia placed her hands on her legs and rubbed them back and forth. Her mind had turned and spun

several times.

Why should she live such a miserable life when she was wealthy now?

She needed to enjoy that money. Otherwise, it would be annoying to live the same life as before even when she had so much money.

Sophia licked her lips and thought that it was a matter that needed some research if she wanted to enjoy her life.

Unfortunately, she was at a loss in this area.

Since Sophia had spent too much of her life living as a poor person, a sudden burst in wealth made her feel at loss.

On the other hand, John was sitting in his study.

Old Mrs. Constance, William, and Matilda were present too.

John had roughly explained all the important things that happened during his

business trip.

William had a serious look on his face. He did not ask about Sophia's condition; instead, he only stared at John.

"How are you still being plotted against by someone that way?"

John remained emotionless as he explained,

"I was careless. I did not expect them to do this.

"

As William had been involved in the business world for a long time, these matters were not too shocking to him.

Old Mrs. Constance nodded beside him and asked,

"Is Infinity Group still in contact with you?"

John confirmed and said,

"They did call me today, but I didn't pick up the

phone.

”

The fact that they could make a move while working under the premise of good cooperation made it seem that they were capable of more dirty tricks in the future.

They were unsure of what those people would do next.

Old Mrs. Constance sighed.

“We’ll let Sophia stay here for now. Indeed, your divorce cannot be leaked out at this moment since it’s easy for others to write an article about it.

”

In fact, the Constance Family had made many enemies in the past years. Outsiders could not differentiate right from wrong and would generally react on hearsay. It would be troublesome for the

family if the
people cooperated to plot
against them.

Upon finishing her sentence,
Old Mrs.

Constance looked at Mrs.

Constance,

“Matilda, please restrain
yourself in the
future. John and Sophia have
nothing much
to do with each other now, so
please stop
going about with your head
high in the air.

”

Mrs. Constance pursed her lips
and waited
for quite some time before
agreeing with
her.

Meanwhile, William looked at
John.

“Your
uncle’s side does not know
much about your
divorce. I’ll explain it to them
later and say
that you didn’t divorce in the
end. Perhaps
they wouldn’t talk much about

this matter.

”

Old Mrs. Constance looked at Mrs. Constance again after hearing William’s words.

On the other hand, Mrs. Constance did not dare to look at her.

Even before John and Sophia divorced each other, Mrs. Constance had already spread the word of their divorce throughout their home.

She even brought Isabelle home to familiarize her with their household environment.

Now that Sophia was brought back by John again, it would be a mystery as to what the people would think.

William glanced at Mrs. Constance and felt slightly annoyed.

“Matilda, stop getting

involved in John's matters next time.

”

Mrs. Constance took a deep breath before answering,

“Alright. I understand.

”

Since they were almost done, Old Mrs.

Constance stood up and said, “It's almost time. Let's go downstairs and have our meal.

”

Mrs. Constance went over to support her and went down together with the others.

After arriving downstairs, they noticed that Sophia had already started eating in the dining room.

She did not wait for anyone and was excitedly having her meal alone.

Mrs. Constance could not help but whisper to

**Old Mrs. Constance,
“Mom,
look at her. She
doesn’t even have the
appearance of a decent
and respectable girl.
”**

**Old Mrs. Constance stared at
Sophia.
Since there was no one around
her and she
thought that the dishes were
delicious,
Sophia was having her meal
happily.
In fact, it was very appetizing to
watch her
eat.
She then sighed and said,
“Let’s
go over and
have our meal.
”**

**Meanwhile, John’s face was as
usual; he had
no problems with this.
He went over to sit by Sophia
and glanced at
her.
However, Sophia did not look at
him. Instead,**

she said,
“I was hungry so I
didn’t wait for all
of you.
”

John chuckled.
“It’s fine. There’s
no need for
so much courtesy.
”

Sophia almost laughed at his
words.

Indeed, the Constance Family
had the most
empty forms of courtesy.

The servant served John his
bowl of rice.

After having two bites of it, he
turned to
look at Sophia with a smile on
his face.

The Returning Ex Chapter 90
Mrs. Constance sat across from
Sophia and
would occasionally look up at
her.

Naturally, her expression was
no better than
before.

She particularly liked Isabelle
ever since a

long time ago.

The marriage between John and Isabelle was facilitated by all sorts of lobbying.

She was satisfied with Isabelle no matter how she looked at her.

However, when all the good things had almost arrived, Sophia had unexpectedly come in between them.

As a result, even before meeting Sophia in person, she was full of disgust and hatred toward Sophia.

During that time, Old Mr. Constance could not hold on much longer and kept asking John and William to promise and agree to their marriage.

Although Mrs. Constance was a little brainless and domineering, she had to be filial.

In the end, she had no choice

but to advise
John and make him surrender.
In the beginning, Mrs.
Constance looked and
scanned Sophia's entire person.
Looking back and forth, she
could only
manage to find one strong point
of hers—
Sophia's looks were okay.
Her looks were just okay, but it
was useless
as Mrs. Constance still disliked
Sophia.
This time, Sophia did not even
look at her
and continued filling up her
stomach. She put
down her chopsticks after she
was full.
She then took the napkin and
wiped her
mouth before saying,
"Please
take your time.
I'll head out first."
"

Old Mrs. Constance looked at
Sophia but
remained silent.
In the past, early departure was

not allowed
in the Constance Family.
It was disrespectful to the
elders when the
young put down their
chopsticks and left the
table even when the elders
were still eating.
Mrs. Constance hurriedly
looked at Old Mrs.
Constance, hoping that she
would say a word
or two to kill Sophia's spirit.
However, Old Mrs. Constance
only looked at
Sophia before lowering her
head to eat again.
Meanwhile, Sophia swaggered
her way out
from the dining room and did
not return to
her room.
Instead, she went out for a
walk.
Since she had just finished her
meal, she
needed to digest it.
Sophia stood at the space in
front of the
main building for a while before
walking

toward the backyard.

**Almost everyone was having
their meals at
this time.**

**Since there were many family
members in
the Constance Family, their
relations would
naturally be a little more
complicated.**

**However, everyone was a
responsible person.**

**If they could not get along with
each other,
they would not be in contact
with each other.**

**Sophia walked slowly toward
the backyard.**

**From there, she could enter
into a bamboo
forest at the back.**

**It was almost a year since she
got married
into the Constance Family, but
she had never
been there before.**

**Sophia went over to look for a
while and
noticed that the back door was
locked.**

She turned to look at her

surroundings and noticed that there was a shed by the side. It was not a big shed, but the door to it was opened.

So, she entered the shed to look around and found a ladder.

She did not mind using some effort to carry the ladder out and placing it against the wall.

Soon after, she climbed the ladder.

However, when she reached the top of the wall, she became speechless.

This wall was a little too high and there was

no way to jump down from there, which made

Sophia a little scared.

She felt a little discouraged.

However, when

she was still contemplating on whether she

should jump down or return,

Sophia heard

someone say,

“Hey, what are

**you doing up
there?”**

Sophia was startled by the voice.

When she

turned around, she saw a

person standing

under the tree not far away.

She was unsure how long he

had been

standing there as he was

leaning against the

tree trunk and crossing his

arms.

Sophia frowned.

“Can’t you

guess by looking

at my posture?”

After two seconds, the man

raised his foot

and walked over.

Sophia knew this person. He

was from the

Second Constance Family and

was the second

young master of the Constance

Family—Dylan

Constance.

Dylan stared at Sophia for a

long time and

asked,

“Do you want to go to

the bamboo
forest behind?”
Sophia replied,
“Yes. Do you
have any ideas?
The door is locked.
”

Dylan smiled and said,
“I do
have ideas.
”

Therefore, Sophia did not
hesitate any
longer and descended from the
wall.
She patted her pants and said,
“Alright then.
Let’s go.
”

Initially, Dylan wanted to say
that even if he
could unlock the door, why
would he want to
take Sophia out into the
bamboo forest.
Nonetheless, after looking at
Sophia, he
swallowed back his words and
nodded.
“Let’s
go then.

”

Indeed, Dylan had the keys to the back door.

He went over and soon, managed to unlock the door.

Sophia poked her head out to look at the surroundings and was shocked.

“So this is how it looks like in the back.

”

Dylan went out immediately and said,

“Let’s go. Didn’t you want to come out and have a look?”

Sophia was not afraid to be alone with another man even when it was almost nighttime.

She followed him out in an instant.

The sky was slightly dark, but the visibility was still fine.

Inside the bamboo forest, there was a path that seemed to be paved with

stones.

And so, Sophia and Dylan slowly walked toward the bamboo forest.

All of a sudden, Dylan turned to ask Sophia,

“By the way, didn’t you and my brother get a divorce?”

Sophia chuckled and simply replied,

“We’

re

not divorced. Your brother says that he’s not

divorcing me because he can’t live without

me.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 91

Sophia turned to look at Dylan and asked,

“Did I sound fake?”

Dylan nodded and replied,

“Yes.

”

Sophia shrugged her shoulders.

“Then, I can’t

help it.

” After both of them walked further

into the bamboo forest, Sophia stood still.

She continued,

“But your cousin

and I have

yet to divorce each other.

Initially, we

wanted to get a divorce.

However, we found

out that it wasn't easy to start

and end a

marriage. Hence, we decided to

give each

other another chance.

”

Sophia smiled and asked,

“Now

that I've put

it this way, would you believe

me?”

Dylan remained in his position

and thought

for a while.

“Since you've put it

this way, I

think there's more credibility to

it now.

”

Sophia then chuckled.

“That's

because it's

the truth.

” As the bamboo forest’s terrain was a little higher, they could see the entire Constance Residence while standing in their current position. Sophia continued, “Your family is really wealthy. The Constance Residence covers such a large area.”

Dylan agreed and added, “All I can say is that we have a better life since we know how to reincarnate.”

He was right and Sophia fell silent. The earth was filled with too many unfair things. One’s life was already determined at the very beginning. Some people were born into rich families, like John and

Dylan. Even if they did not work hard, they were still able to get what others could not even if those people had worked hard for their entire lives. Other people, on the other hand, were born into broken families. For instance, Sophia herself. She had been suffering a lot since childhood. Now that she was all grown up, it seemed that all those sufferings did not bear any fruits and bring her any achievements. That was why the 'chicken soup for the soul' was a lie. Dylan turned to look at Sophia. "What I've just said sounds realistic, right?" "Yes, and a little cruel too."

Sophia sighed. From there, they could see the

distribution
of the lands within the
Constance Residence
clearly. The main building
covered the largest
area. In fact, Sophia was still
unsure of the
reason these people would live
in such a large
house. What if somebody
suddenly had
diarrhea? If they did not
manage to run to
the bathroom in time, then...
wouldn't it be
embarrassing? At the thought
of this,
Sophia's heart became slightly
balanced
again. By looking at this, the
problems faced
by the rich were unimaginable
for normal
people.
Following that, the two of them
stood there
and did not speak any more
until it had
turned completely dark outside.
Suddenly,
Sophia waved her hands and

said,
“Hurry up.
We need to hurry back. The sky
has turned
dark now. If you kill me right
now, no one
would know about it, so I’m
quite scared.
Let’s hurry up and return
home.
”

Dylan turned to look at Sophia
with a funny
look on his face. Sophia then
held out her
phone and turned on the
flashlight. With the
help of the light, they were able
to walk out
of the bamboo forest. Dylan,
who was
following behind, asked,
“I
remember clearly
that you weren’t like this
before.
”

Sophia replied,
“What do you
mean by that?
Are you telling me that I’ve

become
prettier?"

With this, Dylan laughed and
did not speak
anymore.

When the two of them reached
the back
door, Sophia instructed Dylan,
"Please help
me put the ladder back over
there. I'll be off
first."
"

Dylan remained silent, while
Sophia had no
intention of waiting for him to
reply and
immediately left. The man
stood where he
was and looked at Sophia's
figure. The smile
on his face also gradually faded
away.

Sophia had just reached the
garden when she
saw John walking over toward
her. It seemed
that he was looking for her as
his face was
not looking quite well. Sophia
then greeted

him and smiled. Staring at
Sophia, he asked,
“Where have you been? It’s
already late and
you
’re still not in your bedroom
yet.
”

She thought that his words
were funny and
asked,
“Why? How would I be
lost when I’m
at the Constance Residence?
Besides, what
else could happen here?”
John did not say a word; his
face did not
seem to have relaxed a little.
Sophia then
puffed and did not continue the
conversation
with John anymore. Instead,
she walked
slowly toward the main
building.
Meanwhile, John followed
behind her. There
was no one in the living room
now. It seemed
that everyone had returned to

their room to rest. With one of them in front while the other following behind, John and Sophia went upstairs. She walked toward the entrance of her bedroom first. Just as she pushed open her door, she thought for a while and paused. Sophia then turned to look at John.

“Did you go out to look for me just now?”

John remained silent and walked toward his own bedroom. Sophia then asked in a treacherous tone of voice,

“Is there anything I can do for you? Do you want to try out this bed with me to see if it’s comfortable?”

John opened his bedroom door and paused for a while after hearing Sophia’s words.

Sophia then laughed.

**“I can
't do it even if you
want to because I'm not in the
mood today.
”**

**With this, Sophia opened the
door and
entered her bedroom. Then,
with a thud, she
shut the bedroom door.**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 92
Sophia leaned on the door with
a sly smile on
her face.**

**She could imagine the
complicated
expression on John's face right
now and it
felt comfortable.**

**Today was a comfortable day
for her.**

**Sophia waited for a while
before carrying
over the bag of clothes that
John had
brought over today and poured
out all its
contents onto her bed.**

**John had only picked out a few
clothes for**

her, but there were no pajamas in the bag.

Seriously, this man really acts like someone without brains.

He had brought so many clothes over, yet he did not think of what she would wear to sleep at night.

Hence, Sophia sat gloomily on her bed.

However, after a while, she stood up with a grin on her face.

She walked over to open the wardrobe door and looked at the pajamas inside.

They were all new and prepared specially for Isabelle.

Although she was not as tall as Isabelle, at least Sophia was able to fit into her pajamas sizes.

Sophia immediately took a pair out and went into the bathroom.

She lay in the jacuzzi and

enjoyed it to the fullest.

Mrs. Constance was so thoughtful in her planning that Sophia had to thank her properly tomorrow.

Sophia had almost fallen asleep inside the jacuzzi before climbing out from it in a daze.

After she had dried her body, Sophia put on the pajamas that were prepared for Isabelle and went to the fitting mirror to have a look.

Oh my goodness. T-This... How can the woman in this mirror be so beautiful? Sophia smiled to herself before returning to bed.

As this sexy dress was prepared for Isabelle, Sophia could not wear it out.

If this was specially prepared for her, she would have to show it to John no matter

what.

**Sophia never knew that she had
such a good
figure.**

**This explained why John was
obsessed with
her body. It's only natural.**

**At the thought of this, Sophia
smiled
sheepishly before rolling over.**

**She then shut
her eyes, calmed herself down,
and drifted
off to sleep.**

**That night, she had a good
night's sleep.**

**Thanks to this bed, Sophia woke
up the next
morning feeling refreshed.**

**She then wore a short-sleeved
t-shirt and
paired it with a pair of hot
pants.**

**As her hot pants were short, it
made her
legs look fair and long.**

**After washing her face, Sophia
went out to
stretch her arms and legs in the
open space
downstairs.**

**From there, she was able to see
the parking
lot on the other side.**

**It seemed that the Constance
Family each
had their own car since they
were living in
the middle of a hill. If they did
not have
their own car, it would be
inconvenient for
them to go out.**

**Sophia stared at the car park for
a while
before lightly slapping her
mouth.**

**She did not know how to drive
a car, but it
would be extremely
inconvenient if she did
not have her own car.**

**After stretching and moving
around for a
while, Sophia saw Mrs.
Constance descending
the stairs.**

**Usually, Mrs. Constance would
get up around
this time.**

**In fact, the Constance Family's
schedules**

were extremely disciplined and well planned out.

The moment Mrs. Constance saw Sophia, she pulled a long face.

Sophia became extremely happy when she saw Mrs. Constance pulling a long face.

She turned around to enter the living room just when Mrs. Constance reached downstairs.

Sophia pretended to stretch and said,

“Oh. I had a really good night’s sleep yesterday.”

Seeing how Mrs. Constance had ignored her, Sophia continued, “That bed feels so comfortable.”

Her words made Mrs. Constance gnash her teeth.

Mrs. Constance was never the type of person to tolerate someone else, and right now, Sophia was deliberately provoking her, so how could Mrs. Constance not hear the hidden meaning behind her words?

However, she thought for a while and decided to remain quiet.

Again, Sophia opened her mouth and said, "It's just that the fragrance from the jasmine perfume was too heavy and it made me feel a little uncomfortable."

Mrs. Constance turned her head to look at Sophia and warned her, "Sophia, I'm warning you to restrain yourself."

Sophia then laughed out loud. "Everything I said is the truth. Am I not

thanking you in
person? Look at how thoughtful
you were in
renovating the bedroom.

”

Since Mrs. Constance was no
match against
Sophia, she turned around and
headed
toward the kitchen.

Sophia chuckled before she
slowly went
upstairs.

Meanwhile, John was still in his
bedroom.

Sophia immediately knocked on
his door.

John only opened the door after
a while and
was seen buttoning his shirt as
he opened the
door.

This image somehow reminded
her of that
day at President McCaw’s
banquet.

John was also buttoning up his
shirt slowly
after he had performed those
bestial acts.

Sophia gave a gentle cough and

said,
“I’d like
to learn how to drive a car. You
must have
some connections, so could you
help find
someone to teach me?”

John frowned and asked,

“Why
do you want
to learn how to drive?”

Sophia hissed for a moment and
explained
unwillingly,

“This place is in the
middle of a
hill. If something were to
happen to me,
should I walk down by foot?”

John then replied,

“There are
cars in this
house. You can ask the servants
to fetch you
down the hill.

”

Sophia’s mouth twitched as she
continued,

“Nevermind. Your mom must
have secretly
done something from behind

the scenes to
stop me from doing so. I don't
want to use
your family's car. It's not that I
don't have
any money right now. I'll learn
how to drive
on my own, and I'll buy my own
car. I'll use my
own things and depend on
myself.
”

After she had finished her
sentence, she
felt that her tone was not firm
enough, so
Sophia repeated her words.
“I'll
be using my
own things. I'll depend on
myself.

Understand?”

John could not help but laugh
upon hearing
her words.

“Alright. Alright. I
understand.

I'll have Zack arrange these for
you. I think
he knows a driving instructor.
”

Sophia nodded her head.

“Thanks.

”

**With this, she turned around
and left.**

**John stood at the doorway as
he watched
her descend the stairs valiantly.**

The Returning Ex Chapter 93

**After having her breakfast,
Sophia went out
with John.**

**She wanted to find Zack to have
him arrange
the driving lessons as soon as
possible for
her.**

**Both of them saw the other
members of the
Constance Family walking over
just as they
were walking toward the car
park.**

**This was because almost
everyone went to
work at this time and it was
indeed a
spectacular sight to see them
walking in a
group.**

Meanwhile, Sophia saw Dylan

at a glance.

He was following behind
Master Owen
obediently.

Sophia did not greet him since
there were so
many people present. If she
were to greet
Dylan, it would be a bad idea to
ignore the
others.

Besides, she really wanted to
ignore the
others.

With this, Sophia instantly
opened the car
door and sat at the passenger
seat.

Naturally, John would need to
exchange a
few words with the other family
members.

Sophia also lowered her head
and pretended
as if she did not see all these
people.

Since these people used to
think lowly of her,
they did not have the right to
talk to her
now.

John only exchanged a few simple words and got in his car.

He did not mind Sophia not greeting them.

John's car was the first to leave the

Constance Residence.

On their way down the hill, Sophia leaned on the window of the car while looking out.

The scenery along the way was beautiful.

Sophia actually knew that many parts of the scenery along this road were built by the Constance Family.

Since the family was rich and willing to do some good deeds, no one could stop them.

Meanwhile, John took some time to look at Sophia.

In fact, he was taking her to the company out of his own selfishness as he was unsure if the Infinity Group would cause

any trouble
over there.

Now that he was revealing
Sophia's face, it
would be easier for him to
explain the
relationship between Sophia
and himself in
the future.

However, Sophia was unaware
of many things.

After John had parked his car in
front of
their company, Sophia opened
the door and
got down by herself.

She had never been to the
Constance
Company before her divorce.

Now that she was divorced, she
appeared as
a pair with John at the company,
which
seemed really funny.

Soon after, John got down from
his car.

After thinking about it, he
walked over to
hold Sophia's hands while she
knew exactly
how to cooperate with him.

Sophia walked into the company's lobby with a smile on her face.

It was right before their work time and the lobby was buzzing with people. Zack was standing at the front desk, discussing something unknown with the young receptionist.

Then, Sophia immediately rushed forward while calling out, "Zack!"

Zack was startled by her voice and turned around to have a look, even though he could not react in time.

Sophia swiftly changed to holding John's arm while she leaned her entire body onto his.

Then, she continued talking to Zack.

"Hey, come here. I have something to tell you.
"

Her voice was so loud that the

people around
them could hear her.
This was the first time John had
brought
Sophia to the company which
caused quite a
stir.

Their previous extravagant
wedding had
already attracted the attention
of many.

However, Sophia kept a
low-profile after
their wedding. Hence, the
outsiders did not
know much about her.

Even the employees of the
Constance
Company were unsure of what
her usual life
was like.

Now that Sophia was standing
inside the
company, all the passers-by
around them
stopped in their footsteps.
Some peeped at them while
some brazenly
gathered around them.

Zack hurriedly rushed toward
Sophia and

said in a loud voice,

“What

brings you here,

Madam Sophia?”

Sophia chuckled and added,

“Your boss says

that he’s too busy, so he wants

you to help

me arrange some matters.

”

“Of course. It’s my

responsibility to do so.

Please tell me what is the

matter.

” Zack was

good at cooperating with them

too.

Sophia then raised her head to

look at John

before loosening her arms

around him.

“You

can go off first. I’ll discuss it

with Zack.

”

John nodded and said,

“Alright.

Let’s have

lunch together in the

afternoon.

”

**Sophia nodded. Her smile
looked a little shy
and naïve.**

**Behind them, the uncles from
the Constance
Family had come over.**

**Sophia did not look back and
pretended to
have no idea that they were
there.**

**However, they passed by her
without
greeting her too, which was for
the best
since they would not disgust
each other with
their presence.**

**Dylan had also passed by
Sophia, but he
turned around to look at her
after taking a
few steps.**

**He did not have any expression
on his face
and just looked at her.**

**On the other hand, Sophia did
not look at him
but at Zack.**

**“I want to learn
how to drive.**

You know someone who is a

driving instructor,
right? Can you please
recommend someone
who can teach me properly?"

Zack was somewhat startled by
her request.

"Why would you suddenly want
to learn how
to drive?"

Sophia blinked and lowered her
voice.

"Perhaps I want to be
completely
independent.
"

With this, she started laughing
again.

Just as Dylan was about to turn
his head
around, he noticed Sophia
smiling with her
eyes.

Her current look was almost
similar to that
day, which made him
unconsciously pause to
look at her again.

The Returning Ex Chapter 94
Zack actually knew someone
who was a
driving instructor. Hence, he

immediately
nodded his head.
“Okay. I’ll
help you contact
him right now.
”

Sophia and Zack sat down at
the main hall of
the Constance Company.
Zack then contacted the driving
instructor
he knew. After hanging up, Zack
asked,
“How
was your stay there last night?”
Zack naturally knew about the
family
members disliking Sophia as he
was
responsible for managing many
things
regarding John and understood
the ins and
outs of the Constance Family.
He lowered his voice and asked,
“Did they
trouble you?”
Suddenly, Sophia recalled the
incident of
Mrs. Constance almost
stomping her foot out

**of anger and became very
happy about it.**

**She did not mind those
incidents at all and
replied,**

**“No one was able to
trouble me. From
the day I divorced John, I am
the person
who troubles others.
”**

**Zack looked at Sophia for a
while and seemed
to be relieved.**

He sighed.

**“Since you’re alone,
you have to
take good care of yourself. Even
though
those people don’t care about
you, you have
to take care of yourself.
”**

Sophia nodded in agreement.

**“You’re right. I
need to treat myself better.
”**

**Since John handed Sophia over
to Zack, it
was as if John was giving him a
half-day off**

from work.

Zack waited together with Sophia and not long after, they received a call from the driving instructor.

He then brought Sophia over to the driving school.

There were not many people at the driving school at this moment.

The driving instructor was already waiting by the entrance. As soon as he noticed Zack and Sophia's arrival, he hurried over to welcome them.

These days, it was easy to get things done when you had the right connections.

Sophia did almost nothing. She only signed a document and her registration was completed while her tuition fees were paid by Zack.

Initially, Sophia was unwilling to let him pay,

saying that she had the money to pay.

However, Zack glared at her.

“I’ll go back and claim these fees from my boss.

It’s his money after all, so why aren’t you using it?

Don’t worry. Just use his money.

”

Sophia was slightly annoyed as she said,

“But I really don’t want to use his money.

”

Nonetheless, Zack remained persistent.

“I’m a man. I came here with you, so how could I let a woman fork out her own money?”

Sophia hissed for a moment. He had said this with such confidence as if he would not be claiming the fees from John when they returned to the company.

**There was still a lot of time
after everything
was settled at the driving
school.**

**She then thought for a while
and suggested,
“I’ll return to my house to have
a look. You
can return to the company first;
I’ll come
back at noon.
”**

**Zack nodded.
“Alright. Since
you’re all alone,
please be careful.
”**

**Soon after, Sophia took a cab to
return to
her own house.
After using her fingerprint to
unlock the
door, she stood right in her
living room.
It was really empty as there was
not much
stuff in it.
It was evident with just a glance
that this
place was vacant.
Sophia slowly climbed upstairs**

to her room
and sat on her bed.
John had left a seam at her
wardrobe door
after he came over to take
some clothes for
her.

Then, she walked over to open
her wardrobe.

Her current wardrobe was filled
with clothes
she used to wear in the past.

When she left
the Constance Family, Mrs.

Constance was
very happy and proactively had
the servants
move all her items out.

She did not even let go of a
small hair-tie.

By the looks of it, Mrs.

Constance really
wanted her to disappear
completely from the
Constance Family.

Sophia did not think much
about it at that
time.

Now that she thought about it,
Mrs.

Constance must have been

afraid of Isabelle
finding her items which would
make Isabelle
uncomfortable.
Isabelle was really lucky.
She was able to reincarnate into
a good
family and be protected by her
future
mother-in-law.
Sure enough, it was better to
come from a
good family background.
That way, people would
naturally like you
even in the absence of reason.
Sophia flipped through her
clothes and found
that she had quite some clothes
herself.
However, most of them were
not in a style
that she liked.
Mrs. Constance had said before
that she
should not be a disgrace to the
Constance
Family. From the moment she
was married
into their family, they had
bought Sophia a

lot of clothes whereby most of them were chosen by Mrs. Constance herself.

Many clothes still had their tags attached to them.

One reason was that she did not have the opportunity to wear it. Another was because she did not like the style of those clothes.

Sophia took a look at each one of them and up till now, she still did not find one she liked.

After thinking for a while, she took her phone and went downstairs as she finally knew where she could enjoy herself.

Sophia called a cab to the shopping mall and proceeded to enter the women's clothing department store.

It was nice to be rich as Sophia immediately

**entered the first shop and
started her
shopping spree.**

**When she saw any clothes with
the style,
design, or color she liked, she
bought them
all.**

**Sophia only stopped her
shopping spree when
she could no longer hold all her
shopping
bags.**

She then called Zack.

Zack swiftly picked up her call.

**Sophia did
not know where he was at, but
Zack spoke
loudly on the phone.**

**“What’s
the matter,
Madam Sophia? Is there
something wrong?”**

**He did not usually call her by
that title when
they were just conversing
normally.**

**Sophia smacked her lips and
said,**

**“I’m at
Starlight Mall right now. Could**

**you come over
and fetch me? I've bought too
many items
and can't carry them.**

”

**Zack's voice still sounded quite
loud.**

**“Oh,
right. I'll go over now. Please
remain where
you are and wait for me,
Madam Sophia. I'll
be right over.**

”

**The Returning Ex Chapter 95
Starlight Mall was not far away
from the
Constance Company.**

**After Sophia hung up the call,
she slowly
walked out.**

**Perhaps Zack's voice sounded
slightly
exaggerated because there
were employees
around him, or because there
were other
senior executives around him.
Nevertheless, Zack really would
not let go of
any chance to act.**

Sophia did not wait long before Zack came over to fetch her.

Seeing the bags of clothes beside Sophia, he froze slightly before laughing.

“Now this is what a rich lady should look like.”

Sophia sneered, “Rich ladies have servants by their side to help them while I’m a one-man band.”

“You still have me.” Zack helped carry her stuff as both of them walked toward the car.

Sophia asked, “Who was by your side when I called you just now?”

Zack paused for a while. His tone of voice changed and he sounded slightly unhappy.

“It

was Elder Mr. Bailey. He said that he just dropped by to greet President Constance.

”

Sophia was startled and turned to look at Zack.

“Even Elder Mr. Bailey came?”

Surely, this was not a small battle.

Zack placed everything Sophia had bought

into the car and replied,

“That’s

right. I

didn’t buy it at all when he came by so early

and told us that he was just dropping by.

”

He proceeded to open the car door for

Sophia while his voice had a hint of sarcasm

in it.

“I’m guessing that Isabelle

said

something to them when she went back home

yesterday. Hence, Elder Mr. Bailey came by to understand the entire situation.

”

Sophia raised her eyebrows and asked,

“Was he still there when you left?”

“Yes.

” Zack nodded his head.

“He’s still discussing the current situation of the company’s operations.

”

He went around and got into the car. While buckling his seatbelt, Zack continued,

“However, our company has no business relationship with the Baileys.

It’s funny how he said he came by to discuss the company’s current condition.

”

Sophia leaned back in her car seat and rolled her eyes.

“You can drive now.

”

Sophia was unsure of how much Isabelle knew about the matter between John and herself.

However, based on how much Mrs. Constance liked her, she must have told Isabelle everything.

Since she told Isabelle everything, she might have told her about the divorce between John and Sophia.

It seems that I have to cause more trouble in the future for this Matilda, who can't do anything right.

Sophia waited until the car had arrived at the Constance Company before she opened the door and got down by herself.

Zack helped carry her stuff out of the car.

Both of them entered the hall and went

straight toward the elevator.
The elevator they took was a
special one that
led straight to John's office.
Meanwhile, Elder Mr. Bailey
was still in
John's office.

Just as Sophia walked toward
the entrance,
she could already hear his
voice.

She was unable to recognize the
Baileys.

However, when she thought
about it, even if
she did not recognize them,
there was still
hatred between her and the
Baileys.

Initially, she was the one who
came between
them all of a sudden, destroying
the marriage
between the Constances and
the Baileys.

Sophia stood at the entrance
and took a deep
breath before pushing open the
office door.

"Honey, I'm back.
"

Sophia put on a smile as she entered the office—as if she did not know that there was someone else present in the office.

On the other hand, John was sitting on a sofa while Elder Mr. Bailey sat across from him.

Seeing that Sophia had entered the office, John stood up and, with a smile on his face, said,
“You’ve been gone for so long. You must be tired.”

Sophia went over and threw herself into John’s arms. She then said in a delicate voice,
“No. It’s really hot outside. I’m really...”

She paused for a while before looking at

Elder Mr. Bailey with a shocked face. She felt embarrassed and continued, “I see you have a guest here.”

John smiled and hugged her. “It’s alright. Elder Mr. Bailey just came by to say hello.”

The smile that was originally on Elder Mr.

Bailey’s face had completely disappeared.

His eyes were staring cautiously at Sophia.

Naturally, she felt the fierce look in his eyes.

However, she was not afraid at all. Instead,

she looked directly at Elder Mr. Bailey in a respectful way.

“Oh. This must be Miss Bailey’s grandpa. It must be fate. I just met Miss Bailey yesterday, and now I’m meeting

**Elder Mr. Bailey himself. Tsk,
tsk. Look at
this; our family does have a lot
of fate with
the Baileys.**

”

**Sophia was implying something
in her
sentence. As long as one had a
brain, they
could hear the hidden meaning
behind it.**

**Then, Elder Mr. Bailey squinted
his eyes and
proceeded to stand up slowly.
Although he was old, he took
good care of his
body and still had black hair.
He was slightly plump and had a
strong aura
surrounding him.**

**He looked at John and said,
“It
seems that
there are still things going on at
your side.
We’ll talk again another day
when we have
the time.**

”

John nodded in agreement.

“Alright.

”

**Without looking at Sophia,
Elder Mr. Bailey
turned around and walked out.
According to formality, John
needed to send
him off.**

**However, Sophia immediately
held him back
and quickly instructed Zack,
who was
standing by the entrance.**

**“Zack,
hurry up and
send Elder Mr. Bailey off. We
can’t give him
a cold-shoulder.**

”

**With this, Sophia placed her
arms around
John’s neck and said,
“Honey,
let me tell you;
I found a lot of good stuff when
I went
shopping today. Since I was
alone, I could not
carry everything by myself. If
only you were
by my side...**

”

John remained silent and waited for a while before pulling down her arms.

“Alright. He’s gone.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 96

All the smiles and coy expressions Sophia had on her face were taken back.

She proceeded to stand up straight to look back at the door, then asked in a monotonous voice,

“What’s Elder Mr. Bailey doing here?

Did Isabelle go back and tell him something yesterday?”

John turned to walk toward the back of his desk.

“I’m not sure. He just said he was here to have a look and mentioned something about the business.

”

Although Elder Mr. Bailey was old, the entire ownership of Bailey Corporation was still held by him as he refused to surrender and let go of his power.

Sophia walked over to sit on the sofa and stretched.

“You should thank me. How were my acting skills just now? Was it natural? Did it look sincere?”

John was looking through a document. He only gave her a glance from the corner of his eyes but did not reply to her. On the other hand, Zack had returned from sending Elder Mr. Bailey off. He closed the door and spoke in a lowered voice.

“Elder Mr. Bailey didn’t look quite happy when he left.

”

His expression looked sullen.

Nonetheless, John did not care much about it.

“It’s fine. He’s already been unhappy since a long time ago.”

Ever since the Constance Family broke off their marital engagement, the Baileys started having their own opinions.

Sophia twitched her mouth as she leaned on the sofa without saying anything.

Since it was not time to get off work yet, Sophia could only sit there and wait.

Zack had returned to minding his own business while John was reading through his documents.

Sophia was bored so she took out her phone.

There was a message on her WhatsApp. It was sent by the singer, asking

whether she
had arrived safely at her
destination.

Sophia looked at the time and
saw that it was
sent last night, but she had yet
to see it.

She thought for a while before
replying to
the message.

Then, she hummed and began
watching all the
gossip news.

On the other hand, John did not
only have an
unhealthy obsession with
cleanliness, but he
had other pet peeves too.

For instance, he did not like his
surroundings
to be noisy while he was
working.

After a while, he could no
longer stand the
noise anymore and raised his
head to look at
Sophia.

“Can you please be
quiet?”

She turned to look at John. She
noticed that

he was furrowing his eyebrows and looked quite upset.

Initially, Sophia wanted to retaliate against him but dismissed the intention after the

words arrived at the corner of her mouth.

After all, this was not her territory and she should be obedient.

She then nodded and said,

“Then I’ll go out

for a walk.

”

With this, John lowered his head and

continued reading the documents.

Sophia silently rolled her eyes and left

John’s office while swaying her arms.

There was no one in the corridor as everyone was busy with their own work.

Since Sophia had not been to the company,

she went around to have a look.

At the corner of the path ahead,

she saw
Dylan at a glance.
He was with another employee,
and by the
looks of it, he seemed to be
assigning some
tasks to the employee.
Sophia then smiled as she
walked over
without saying a word.
With a turn of his head, Dylan
saw Sophia
and was slightly startled.

“I
thought you left
in the morning.
”

Sophia replied,
“I just came
here. I’ll be
having lunch with John at
noon.
”

Dylan thought for a while
before instructing
the employee about something
and sending
him off to work.
Then, he walked toward his
own office.

“Why

didn't you stay at John's office?

**Are you
bored?"**

"I'm not bored.

" Sophia echoed.

**"People
around him can't make any
noise when he's
working. I just couldn't stand
it.**

"

**Dylan entered his own office
and proceeded
to open his door wide.**

**"Do you
want to come
in and have a seat?"**

**Sophia looked around and
nodded.**

"Okay.

"

**Dylan's office was similar to
John's office.**

**Sophia entered and looked
around before
plopping herself onto the sofa.**

**"Aren't you
annoyed that you have to sit in
the office
every day? I feel that it would
be boring to**

see a pile of documents every
day when I
open my eyes.
”

Dylan chuckled.
“I’m fine with it
since I’
ve
gotten used to it.
”

Upon saying this, Dylan brought
up another
issue.

“I saw Elder Mr. Bailey
visiting just
now. Did he come to visit my
brother?”

Matters like these, Sophia was
unable to
keep hidden.
Instead, she simply admitted to
it.

“That’s
right. He did come by just now.
However, he
did not say much. He just
dropped by to have
a look.
”

The corners of Dylan’s mouth
were raised.

**“I
see.
”**

**His eyes looked over Sophia
before he
withdrew his gaze.**

**“I thought
he was here
because of Miss Bailey.
”**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 97
Sophia did not pretend that she
did not**

understand Dylan’s words.

She only smiled and said,

“As

for Isabelle,

**John has already explained it
clearly to me.**

**Mrs. Constance likes Isabelle
and he can’t do**

**anything about that. However,
he does not**

have feelings for her. If he did,

he would not

have ended up with me.

”

Dylan was unsure of whether

he could trust

**Sophia’s words and just nodded
his head.**

**The door to Dylan's office
remained open.**

**Occasionally, passers-by would
be able to
look into his office.**

**Actually, there was nothing
much for Sophia
and Dylan to talk about.**

**In fact, there was no history
between them
other than standing together in
the bamboo
forest for a while the previous
day.**

**However, Dylan could be
regarded as a
person that was friendlier to
her among the
members of the Constance
Family.**

**Sophia basically had little to no
friends, and
there were only a handful of
people she could
actually talk to.**

**Hence, Sophia regarded him as
a friend for
the time being.**

Dylan took out a document.

**After reading
through it for not more than a**

few seconds,
he could not help but ask again,
“About you
coming home yesterday, Mrs.
Constance
must’ve felt... happy right?”
Sophia instantly laughed out
loud. Dylan’s
words were too tactful.
She knew exactly what Dylan
had really
wanted to ask.
Sophia sat on the sofa while
swinging her
legs.
“She was very happy. At
least that’s
what I thought. She even found
all sorts of
opportunities to come and talk
to me
yesterday.
”

Her words made Dylan laugh
out loud.
Although he did not come into
contact with
Mrs. Constance often, he knew
her
temperament very well.
Since everyone had been living

in the same residence for so many years, it was impossible for them to not know about everyone else.

However, Sophia's way with her words felt new to him.

During the time that Sophia was married into the Constance family, she had to catch up with a lot of things.

When Old Mr. Constance passed away, the Constance Family was the most united and they would often get together.

Dylan also met Sophia quite a lot of times.

However, every time he met her, he would feel that she was a submissive person.

Mrs. Constance disliked her and would often embarrass her in front of everyone and all Sophia would do was purse her lips and

remain silent.

The current Sophia seemed to be different from before.

Dylan thought for a while and noticed that he had never seen her smile before.

Meanwhile, Sophia also laughed happily.

“See; you don’t even believe what I’m telling you.

How else would you want me to say it?”

Dylan smirked and replied,

“It’s not that I don’t believe you. I do believe you.”

As his words sounded too perfunctory, Sophia immediately snorted. Just at this very moment, someone passed by the door, and that person looked into Dylan’s office. As a result, the person saw Sophia inside and instantly stood still.

With a slightly serious look on his face, the person strode in.

“Dylan.

”

Dylan froze and quickly raised his head to look at the person.

“Dad.

”

Master Owen then added,

“I

have a file here.

Come over and have a look at it.

The numbers

on it don't quite match.

”

Dylan immediately stood up.

“Alright.

”

Sophia also stood up.

Since Master Owen did not

speak to her,

naturally, Sophia did not want

to open her

mouth to talk too.

As Dylan was about to go out,

Sophia clearly

could not stay here anymore.

Sophia exited Dylan's office and

waved at

him without saying a single word.

Dylan smiled and the both of them parted ways.

Sophia took a look at the time and noticed that it was nearing John's off-duty time, so she hurried back to John's office.

Meanwhile, John was staring at the computer while wearing anti-radiation spectacles.

His entire person seemed to have returned to the cold person he was during their marriage.

Sophia watched from the door before entering his office. She did not speak and just sat on the sofa.

Although John did not look at Sophia, he still asked,

“Where did you go to have a walk just now?”

Sophia stretched before
replying,
“I met
Dylan and sat in his office for a
while.”

John, who was typing on his
keyboard,
suddenly stopped.
He turned to look at Sophia.
“Dylan?”

Sophia did not think much
about it.

“Yes. I
saw him in the corridor and
followed him into
his office to have a chat.”

John stared at Sophia and asked
again,

“Are
you familiar with Dylan?”
Sophia then blinked and replied,
“No.”

This was the truth.
She had never spoken to Dylan
in the past
before.
“If you’re not familiar with him,
why would

you enter his office for a while?" John's voice sounded slightly cold. However, Sophia's expression remained normal as she said, "Isn't he your brother? He's also part of the Constance Family, so what's wrong with sharing a conversation with him?"

The Returning Ex Chapter 98
Can I believe her? John looked at Sophia with a troubled gaze while she remained unwavering and continued to stare straight at him.

A moment later, he looked away and said, "I hope you won't go to the Second Constance Family so often. Our family dynamic is a little bit complicated. Complicated or not, she did not care.

She was not from the Constance family; what did their family affairs have to do with her?

Thus, she remained quiet and waited until he got off work.

When Zack did not come over, John promptly left with Sophia.

However, they ended up running into Dylan again as they were walking toward the elevator.

Since it was break time, it was only normal for people to gather at the elevator.

Dylan was alone. When Sophia saw him, she smiled and waved at him.

He glanced at John briefly before smiling back at her.

The exclusive elevator was upstairs so the three of them went in together. John and Sophia stood inside while Dylan stood near the doors.

Remembering what John told her before,
Sophia did not initiate a conversation with Dylan.

But Dylan turned back to look at her.

“Where are you guys going for lunch?”

She blinked.

“I’m not sure.

”

Looking up at John, she asked,

“Where are we going to eat?”

John shot her a look but did not utter a single word.

She did not know what that look meant. Why does it seem like he’s not too happy? She pursed her lips and kept her eyes trained on him.

When he kept ignoring her, she hooked her arm in his and started to whine,
“Why the

long face? I'm asking you a question. Where are we going to eat?"

Her own petulant voice also sounded forced to her.

John raised his hand to pinch her face gently.

"You'll know when we get there."
"

His words clearly did not match the expression on his face.

Even though his voice sounded warm, he still looked indifferent.

Upon seeing that, she pulled her lips back and went to hug his waist instead, giggling as she leaned all her weight on him. She wanted to repulse him while there was someone else around.

Dylan was standing sideways. His line of vision fell directly on the elevator screen,

but he was probably able to see them from the corner of his eye.

John did not push her away but just looked down at her.

She blinked back at him with a smug look on her face.

After thinking for a moment, he put his arms around her and quickly bent down to place a kiss at the corner of her lips.

The mischievous look on her face froze in an instant then she slowly started to lose her composure.

She opened her mouth as if she wanted to say something, but the elevator doors happened to open at the same time.

Dylan turned out and left immediately.

John was still hugging her.

“Let’s go eat.”

”

He walked out of the elevator

with his arm
still around her, seemingly
unbothered by the
crowd that was usually present
in the lobby
of the first floor. Lowering his
voice so that
it was only audible to the both
of them, he
said,
“Stay away from Dylan
from now on.
”

“Huh? Why?”

“No reason,
” he replied.

The employees who noticed
them looked
rather astonished.
John was usually someone with
a cold
personality, but there was a
smile on his face
as he talked to her.
That was true love.
Their grand wedding was not all
just for show
after all.
There was some sincerity to it.
Nonetheless, Sophia knew that
he was

putting up an act so the smile
on his face
looked ingenuine to her.
Snuggling up to him, she asked,
“Are you
scared that I’ll cheat on you?”
She laughed,
then went on,
“Don’t worry.
Unless he has a
higher status than you, I will
never like him.
”

With pursed lips, John brought
her out to
the car.
The moment they were inside,
he proceeded
to straighten out his clothes in a
sulky
manner.
She was also fixing her hair.
“Don’t say a
word. I noticed something
recently. You have
quite a gift for acting.
”

Then, she broke into a fit of
laughter.
The Returning Ex Chapter 99
John did not pay any attention

to her and
just began to drive.
They did not drive for very long
before
arriving at a western
restaurant.

In fact, Sophia was not too used
to that
cuisine as it could never fully
satiated her.

John, on the other hand, always
opted for
western food because he found
it less
troublesome.

Once they sat down, she told
him,
“I’m going
out by myself this afternoon. I’ll
come back
right before you get off work
and we can
return to Constance Residence
together.”

He looked up at her briefly.
“Okay.”

That was the only exchange
they had
throughout the entire meal.

John was a bit busy and had to answer a few calls in between.

He was always strict when it came to work.

She stared at him while he was on the phone.

It seemed like he treated her the same way he treated the employee on the other end of

the call. He did not repeat himself when

something only had to be said once. Lowering

her eyes, she thought, perhaps I'm no

different than his work to him.

She was someone Old Mr.

Constance threw at John.

It felt like he had simply accepted a bigger project to work on and was just doing his job.

Yeah, that's exactly what it is.

At the thought of that, she felt a little stifled.

John was the first man in her life; the first

man she had feelings for.

She had even yearned to be
with him for the
rest of her life.

After John answered a total of
three calls,
she was done with her meal.
She put down her fork and knife
and wiped
her mouth.

“You can carry on
eating. I’m
going to head out first. I’ll be
back in the
afternoon.
”

A slight frown appeared on his
forehead.

He must have felt like she was
being a bit
disrespectful, but he did not
think about how
he had been on the phone the
whole time,
completely disrespecting her.
She stood up before he said
anything.

“This
is my treat,
” she announced,
then left the

booth to go and pay at the counter.

Once that was done, she exited the place.

She did not get a cab or had any place in particular that she wanted to go to.

Hence, she just chose a direction and walked down a path.

The city was very unfamiliar to her for she had only come here after marrying John.

Before this, she was just a girl who lived in the countryside.

Almost overnight, she jumped up the ladder and ended up at the top where she had been for less than a year now.

She let out a sigh and continued walking ahead.

After walking for some time, she looked around and noticed a dessert shop on the side of the road.

Thus, she went inside.

The shopfront was not big and there was not a huge variety of desserts to choose from either.

The girl working at the cashier also looked sluggish.

The place did not have many customers which made it seem very dull.

Nonetheless, Sophia ordered two different dessert varieties and a milk tea.

Once the cashier took her money, she went to the back to prepare Sophia's milk tea.

Sophia took her things and went to sit on a chair by the window.

From her point of view, she could see the buzzing crowd outside. The saying that all beings suffer probably came from these people who are working tirelessly to make ends meet. She suddenly

thought of Elder
Mr. Bailey. Those wealthy
people are the
ones who don't have to suffer.
Their days are
filled with poise and elegance.
However, the way that old man
looked at her
today did not look good.
It was a look of disdain.
Sophia was quite petty and she
made a
mental note of every small
action.
Even though she did not take it
up against
Mrs. Constance for the way she
used to treat
her, she still remembered
everything.
Perhaps she knew,
subconsciously, that she
and John would go their
separate ways one
day.
So, she knew that one day, she
would be able
to get her payback.
Despite not intentionally trying
to remember
those things, she still had a

mental record of
everything.

The girl working at the shop
brought out
Sophia's milk tea for her along
with some ice
cream.

Sophia was quite taken aback.

The girl smiled
and said,

"No one is going to
buy it anyway.
It's for you.
"

Sophia thanked her.

She was not hungry since she
had just
finished eating. She only
wanted to find a
place to sit after walking so
much.

Right away, she had a taste of
the dessert,
the ice cream, and the milk tea.
It was not too bad.

Even though she had not tried a
lot of types
of food before, she was still
able to taste
whether something was good
or not.

She lowered her head to look at the things on the table then looked up at the shop front. They probably don't make much judging by how empty this place is.

After thinking for a moment, she got up and went to the cashier.

The girl was on her phone and was not expecting to see Sophia.

"Do you need to order anything else?"

Sophia chuckled.

"No, I just wanted to have a chat with you. Hey, the dessert here is pretty good, but why does it feel like there aren't a lot of customers?"

The girl hesitated briefly then smiled.

"It's not just a feeling; there really aren't a lot of

customers.

” However, she did not see it as a big deal.

“Well, if it doesn’t work out, I will stop by the end of this month.”

Sophia blinked at her.

“Why? If you do this well, I’m sure you can still make it work.”

The girl shook her head.

“I don’t want to. The investment is too big. I can’t manage it.”

She was already trying her best to juggle the cost of rent and raw ingredients for her desserts.

It was impossible to do anything more.

Sophia pursed her lips and remained silent in deep thought.

The Returning Ex Chapter 100

**Sophia did not finish everything,
but she did
explain that she was still full
from the meal
she had earlier.**

**The girl did not mind. It looked
like she had
really given up on that shop.**

**After Sophia tidied up, she
exited the shop
and stood outside to look at it
for a bit.**

**The entrance of that shop did
look less
attractive compared to its
surroundings.**

**It was long overdue for a
renovation.**

**But when she went in earlier
and saw how
carefree the shopkeeper was by
herself, she
suddenly started to envy her.**

**The girl had a place of her own
to do what
she loved.**

**When there were no customers,
she could
enjoy time to herself and not
get interrupted
by someone else.**

Sophia also wanted a life like that.

She stared at the shop a little longer then turned to leave and returned to her house.

Her place was big enough and was in a prime location. It was a lot more comfortable to live there than at the Constance Residence.

She went through all the rooms once.

Perhaps she had been too uncomfortable at the Constance Residence that she suddenly liked the place now.

She figured she could redecorate it.

After taking a look downstairs, she came to a decision and went to the department store nearby.

Since she was rich now, she bought everything she wanted without a second thought.

Moreover, the department store had almost everything she wanted. She spent the entire afternoon shopping and did not find it troublesome to have to go back and forth several times. More things were added into her living room—a rocking chair and an additional plant rack.

She even placed a huge yoga mat in the empty space of her living room. Even though she did not know when she would use it, she got it because she wanted to have it.

The rest of the things were an assortment of small decorative items, like a vase for the coffee table and a wind chime to hang at the entrance.

After decorating for a bit, though she was tired, the house started to have

a different

look to it.

It was her home now.

**Furthermore, she bought some
fresh**

**vegetables which she put in the
refrigerator.**

**The kitchen had everything she
needed. If**

she left the Constance

Residence in the

**morning, she could come here,
then only**

return at night.

**The thought of this was enough
to put her at**

ease.

**Once everything was done, it
was almost**

time.

**She took a cab and went to the
Constance**

Company.

**Strutting into the company, she
went**

**straight up to John's office, but
he was not**

**in there. It looks like he went
for a meeting.**

**Thus, she sat on the sofa and
waited for him.**

Not long after, the door to his office opened.

To her surprise, it was a woman who came in and not John.

The woman paused the moment she came in.

Sophia looked at her without saying a word.

The woman quickly smiled.

“Mrs. Constance, I came to drop off a document for President Constance.

”

Sophia had a smirk on her face.

“Okay.

”

The woman put the document on his table and left immediately.

The corners of Sophia’s lips slowly curled up.

She did not know the face of the woman, but her voice was very familiar.

On the night she and John got a divorce, John stayed over at that woman’s place.

When she called him the next day, a woman's voice came through the phone instead.

It must be her.

Sophia was still lying on the sofa lazily.

The woman did not sound very serious on the phone at the time.

The voice on the phone was quite mellow and dainty.

Sophia also tried to paint a picture of the woman's face in her mind. Now that we'

ve met, she looks quite different from what I had imagined. It might be because she behaves differently around me compared to around him.

The woman she met earlier seemed bright and capable, which did not go well with the sweet image she had of her. However, the voice she heard

on the phone
was definitely dainty and pure.
Sophia remained seated until
John came back
from his meeting.
He was not surprised to see her
in his office.

“You’re here early.

”

She did not respond.
When he walked over to his
table and saw
the document, he frowned.

“Did Miss Allen
stop by?”

She turned to look at him.

“A
lady? She left
not too long ago.

”

He sat down and looked over
the document
then called for someone on the
line.

It was most likely Miss Allen.

His voice was stern.

“Come in.

There’s a
problem with some of the data
here.

”

Soon, the woman from before came in once again.

This time, she entered with a smile.

“President Constance.”

Although it was not as gentle as the voice on the phone, her voice was still different from when she talked to Sophia just before.

Sophia rolled her eyes at her discreetly.

The Returning Ex Chapter 101
John pushed the document toward her.

“Look at what I highlighted and cross-check the data again. There’s something wrong with it.”

Stunned, Miss Allen went over to retrieve the document and looked over it carefully. In a soft voice, she said,
“I’ve checked this before.”

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He scowled at her.

“Do the calculations again.

” There was a hint of impatience in his voice which Sophia found funny. He used to be impatient with me too, but he was still able to restrain himself and talk to me kindly. It must not have been easy.

Miss Allen was fidgety. After apologizing for her carelessness, she took the document and hurried out of his office. Sophia smacked her lips and slowly shook her head.

“Seeing you now, I suddenly have this feeling that you weren’t really that bad to me after all.

”

He was taken aback. Putting down what was in his hand, he looked at her in a serious manner.

“Did I treat you that badly?”

She grinned.

“My dear, didn’t

you know? Were you pleased with yourself thinking that you were good to me?"

He did not think he treated her very well, but he did not think that he treated her that poorly either. Even though he did not like her, he had no intention of being hard on her.

He

gave her enough allowance every month, though she was never really a big spender; he never pried into her business and always gave her space; once in a while, he would even personally ask Mrs. Constance to stop bothering her. He felt like doing those things was good enough.

Sophia looked at him in a slightly defeated manner.

Perhaps the physical differences between men and women also led to huge differences in their mentality. Women wanted men to care for every aspect of their lives. Whereas, men figured that doing one thing for them was more than enough.

Lowering her gaze, she fell

silent for a while.

“To be honest,
I wasn’t the least bit happy to
live with your family.

” She let
out a smile unwittingly, clearly
trying to ease the atmosphere.

“I don’t know about other
people, but being with you,
John, makes me feel so
exhausted.

You don’t feel like home to me.
There’s no warmth.

” Thinking
back on it, she spent all her
days with him on edge and in
fear. She was scared that he
was not happy or satisfied to
the
point that she even felt guilty
when Old Mr. Constance passed
away. Why didn’t Old Mr.
Constance’s illness get better
even after they had the
wedding? But things were
better now
as she finally reached the end of
that path.

When she received the divorce
certificate, though she was a bit
reluctant, she had to admit

that it came as a breath of relief to her. They were finally divorced. A great weight had lifted off her shoulders.

Moreover, Mrs. Constance did not look like she slept well these past two days from being so

enraged by her. As such, Sophia was over the moon. Still, she could not figure out what went through her mind back then. How could she bring herself so far down for a man who did not love her? It did not make any sense.

John was looking at Sophia; he was unsure of what to say. She had never said those things to him before, or she did but he just was not paying attention. After Sophia finished talking, she started to laugh and waved her hand.

“Why am I saying all this? I just gained a whole forest to myself and you’re just one old tree. It’s time to forget about everything that

happened in the past.

”

John pursed his lips.

“Maybe.

Maybe I really wasn't good enough. I just hope you'll find someone who can treat you better in the future.

”

“Of course. If I ever look for someone, though, I'll be sure to avoid someone like you before anything else.

” She had an expectant look on her face.

“I

want to find someone who will devote himself to me and make me his top priority.

”

More importantly, she was wealthy and beautiful now, so that was not going to be a problem.

**The Returning Ex Chapter 102
John got off work at the usual time without staying back for overtime.**

He then took Sophia and left the company right away.

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When they got in the car, she was buckling her seatbelt when she smiled and said,

“I remember you used to stay back after hours almost every day. Why don’t you do that anymore?”

He hesitated before speaking.

“I had to work on a big collaboration project before, but it’s over now.

”

“Oh.

” She nodded.

With pursed lips, he started the car and drove away.

In fact, he did not always stay back after hours purely just for work.

He also did it for selfish reasons. Perhaps he was actually reluctant to see her.

Whilst in the car, Sophia took off her shoes and sat cross-legged in the seat while humming a song.

He turned his gaze at her every now and then.

She looked quite relaxed. When she reached the climax of the song, she even swayed her body to the beat.

He smirked then stepped on the accelerator.

There were not a lot of cars on the road up the mountain, so the car sped through and arrived at the Constance Residence shortly after.

Sophia was clutching onto her seatbelt as she turned to look at him. Despite feeling afraid, she was still able to smile.

“What’s up with you? I thought the car was about to fly. Are you

that hungry? Were you in a rush to come home and eat?”

He did not reply to her and was just waiting for the gates to open before driving into the courtyard.

When the car came to a stop, she quickly opened the door and got out.

She took a deep breath.

“If we

had gotten into an accident midway, I don't even know if it would have been considered a workplace injury.

”

He swung his head back at her. Giggling, she tapped her mouth. “I'm just rambling. We're all safe and sound. You will be with Isabelle, and I will be with my future sweetheart. We'll all live long lives.

”

He turned back around and headed toward the main building.

She sneered behind his back then slowly followed after him.

That came out of nowhere.

What is he mad about?

Old Mrs. Constance was sitting in the living room while Mrs.

Constance kept her company.

The two were talking about something.

Mrs. Constance looked cheerful.

Old Mrs. Constance was not smiling but she did look quite relaxed.

Sophia was not too pleased to catch sight of that.

She had seen too much of it in the past.

The two of them were always amiable with each other as they talked, but they never failed to cast Sophia aside.

Neither of them paid any attention to her, making her feel awkward by herself at the side.

John went inside and greeted Old Mrs. Constance first,

**“Hello,
Grandma.**

” Then, he looked at Mrs. Constance.

**“What were you two talking about, Mom? You looked so happy.
”**

She glanced at him.

**“Nothing much. I saw a few girls when I went shopping today and sat down to have a chat with them.
”**

While stretching her body, Sophia interrupted,

“I’m going upstairs. You guys can continue

talking.

”

She was wearing hot pants and had her hair in a ponytail. When she stretched, her top also lifted, exposing her ant waist that was slender and fair.

Mrs. Constance pulled a face and waited for her to go upstairs.

“Look at what she’s wearing.

Did she go out with you today?

She has to dress more appropriately when she’s standing

next to you. If she goes out dressed like that as the Young Mistress of the Constance Family, we will be mocked.

”

John smiled.

“I actually think it looks nice.

”

It looked casual and comfortable.

Moreover, a lot of people commented on how young she looked when she showed up at

the company today.

They even thought she looked like a real princess just from the way she dolled herself up. It was no wonder John liked her.

The way Sophia dressed up today made her look quite young. He personally did not find it disgraceful.

“What do you know?” Mrs. Constance was not too happy.

“She is the Young Mistress of the

Constance Family now. She has to be more aware of her status when she goes out and be more mindful of the way she dresses. Have you seen a young mistress dress like her before?”

However, he did not usually pay attention to other people. He simply thought that Sophia looked fine the way she was now.

She used to wear more exquisite clothes that made her look like a little Russian doll. Her clothes and makeup were exquisite, and even her

expressions were managed properly.

But it was uncomfortable to look at her.

She was better off with the way she looked now.

Old Mrs. Constance placed the cup of tea in her hand down.

“That’s enough. It’s fine as long as John thinks it’s nice. Let’s not care too much. It might be that we just don’t understand young people.

”

Feeling surprised, Mrs.

Constance turned to look at her.

Old Mrs. Constance would never

side with Sophia. She asked John once more,

“Do you think it’s nice?”

John had his eyes fixed on Sophia the whole time.

“Yeah, I think it’s really nice.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 103

After Sophia returned to her room, she changed her clothes and went to open the window.

A whole day had passed but the jasmine scent still lingered inside the house.

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It was truly nauseating.

Her room overlooked the parking lot on the other side.

She stretched her neck out to look and saw several cars returning in succession.

One of the figures that got out of one of the cars looked like Dylan.

John's words popped in her mind just then. Stay away from Dylan.

She did not quite understand. Even though the Constance Family was big and they ran a big business, there was bound to

be some dispute within the family. However, she had not heard of any family discord between the Main Constance Family and the Second Constance Family.

When Old Mr. Constance passed away, the four brothers were quite united as they sat

together to discuss the funeral arrangements.

It did not seem like there was any conflict between them.

Is it just between John and Dylan then? She smacked her lips. It doesn't seem like it either.

When I was married to John, he and Dylan did not really interact with each other. Most importantly, that tattler Mrs. Constance has never said anything bad about Dylan.

If there was conflict between John and Dylan, Mrs. Constance would never stay quiet about it.

Sophia was unable to figure it out no matter how much she thought about it.

Leaving it at that, she went to open the door to let the odor out of the house.

Not long after, John came upstairs and walked past her door.

She was still sprawled over by the window and looking outside. She had changed into a loose-fitting mini dress that fell

right below her hips and exposed her fair legs.

It was the dress that he brought back just the day before.

At the time, it was hung up in her closet.

Although he did not bring back a lot of clothes, he still hand-picked each one of them instead of just grabbing at random ones.

She had a lot of clothes, but there were only a few that she usually wore.

This dress was one that she had worn more often.

He personally thought it was one of the better-looking ones out of all the home clothes she used to wear.

She was very relaxed; she was looking out the window while swaying her legs.

For some reason, one glance at her legs made him feel dizzy.

He quickly returned to his own room and changed out of his clothes.

When he came out again, she was already on the bed.

She was lying on it and drawing

something on a piece of paper
in front of her.

Those legs of hers were still
restless as they continued to
kick in the air.

This time, Sophia heard John
coming out of his room.

She snapped her head up at him
and smiled.

“Hey, John. I want
to ask you something. Come
here.

”

She beckoned him.

It seemed quite harmless. He
hesitated briefly before going
inside.

She was still lying on the bed.
Because her dress was a bit
loose around the neckline, the
view from the front made him
even more ill at ease than that
pair of restless legs.

He guided his gaze to the piece
of paper spread out on the bed.
It was filled with scribbles that
were practically indecipherable.
She suddenly became inspired
and sat upright.

“Hey, hey. You
know I don't really have

much to do right now. I'm thinking of opening my own dessert shop. What do you think?"

Pointing at the drawing on the paper, she continued,

"I'm thinking of a layout and design for the shop that can attract more customers.

"

That on the paper is the layout and design of a shop? It was very abstract. He could not tell at all. Grabbing the piece of paper, he looked at her.

"Didn't you want to learn how to drive?"

She nodded.

"I can do both. I'm looking for something to do now. Otherwise, I just have all this money in my hands with nowhere to spend it.

"

He smiled and gave her a nod.

"You're right.

"

That made her happy.

"Do you

**also think it's a good idea? Here;
give me some advice.
”**

**She patted on the spot next to
her for him to sit down.**

**When it came to running a
business, she still trusted him.
She had to admit that she did
not have much experience in
life.**

**The Constance Company was
huge, so John had more of an
eye for trends in the market.
She trusted his judgments.
He lowered his head to look at
the drawings on the paper and
proceeded to sit down
beside her.**

**“You want to open a
shop and make dessert. Let's
leave this drawing as it is for
now. Have you looked at a
location and storefront?”**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 104
Sophia inched closer to John
and looked at him.**

**“I found it. I
saw one today. The location is
pretty good and... Oh, I should
just take you there on a day
when you have time and you**

can take a look at it for me.

”

She tried to curry favor with him with her big round eyes.

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The way she was flattering him now and the way she used to was different.

In the past, it did not seem like she had a bottom line. As long as he said it, she was willing to do anything.

Right now, however, she clearly had a goal.

She was only looking at him like that because she wanted to use him, but how she really felt about him was unclear.

He stared at her for a while before agreeing to it.

“I’ll find time to go have a look.

”

She grinned and patted his shoulder.

“You’re really something. Though we couldn’t work out, at least we’re still friends.

”

**What is she saying? He smiled.
Standing up, he said,
“Let’s go. I
think they’re about to serve
the food downstairs.
”**

**She quickly got out of bed, then
they went downstairs together.
Mrs. Constance was surprised
to see them coming down
together.**

**Sophia suddenly remembered
Elder Mr. Bailey’s visit to
Constance Company today and
the
unkind look he gave her. Then,
she thought of how Mrs.
Constance and Isabelle were on
good terms with each other.
The more those thoughts
gathered in her mind, the more
dislike she felt for Mrs.
Constance.**

**Mrs. Constance shot her a dirty
look so Sophia took the chance
to glare back at her.
She did it so brazenly that
daggers were almost flying out
of her eyes.**

**Meanwhile, Mrs. Constance
gave her a warning gaze with**

her eyes.

Sophia sneered and completely disregarded her.

She reached the bottom of the stairs and went straight to the dining room with John.

With the help of the housekeeper, Old Mrs.

Constance was standing in front of the main building and staring blankly into a space at the side.

There was once a funeral shed there.

Old Mr. Constance was placed there on his last few days in this world.

The housekeeper was also elderly. She had been by Old Mrs. Constance's side for many years.

Seeing how desolate Old Mrs.

Constance was, she said,

“Go in

and eat, Old Mrs. Constance.

Don't think too much anymore.

”

“He was actually feeling uneasy when he left.

”

The housekeeper knew what she was talking about. Old Mr. Constance did not worry about anyone except for Sophia.

It seemed like he knew that John and Sophia only got married because he forced them to

be together. Without him around, their relationship would surely not last.

John had to promise him that he would take good care of Sophia.

In the end, though, he still felt uneasy as he passed.

Old Mrs. Constance let out a sigh.

“John and Sophia...

”

She did not finish her sentence.

The housekeeper consoled her in a small voice,

“They look like they’re doing fine to me.

”

Leaning against the housekeeper, Old Mrs.

Constance went back into the living room and

headed toward the dining room.

“Really? Why do you think so?”

Right after she said that, she spotted John and Sophia sitting in the dining room.

Because she was not at the table yet, they were not allowed to start eating yet. It was a rule

John and Matilda created.

But Sophia could not wait any longer and was ready to eat with the chopsticks in her hand.

He pushed her chopsticks down to tell her to wait a bit longer.

She was not happy about that.

To defy him, she was going to reach for the food with her bare hands, since she was unable to use her chopsticks anymore.

He grabbed onto her hands instead and secured it under the table.

Based on their current interaction, they seemed to be getting along better than before.

Back then, they had gotten married in front of everyone.

Everyone knew how they interacted with each other.

Compared to the courteous way they were around each other before, they looked a lot more natural now.

Old Mrs. Constance slowly made her way over.

“Okay, let’s eat.

”

Only then did John let go of Sophia’s hand—to which he received an eye roll in return. Without looking at anyone, she buried her face in her bowl and started to eat.

Old Mrs. Constance looked at her and asked,

“Did you go to the company today, Sophia?”

She paused as she did not expect Old Mrs. Constance to talk to her.

With a mouth full of rice, she said,

“Yeah, I went for a bit.

”

Mrs. Constance, on the other hand, was not pleased.

“Why did you bring her there?” she questioned John.

**But Sophia spoke out instead.
“If it wasn’t to keep your son’s
reputation clean for the
future.**

”

**After hearing that, Mrs.
Constance almost choked on
her own pent-up anger.
The Returning Ex Chapter 105
John was not angered by
Sophia’s answer because she
was right. He had brought her
to the
company today with that
purpose in mind.**

**Mrs. Constance took two heavy
breaths. This time, she did not
scream like she used to but
faced Old Mrs. Constance
instead.**

**“Mom, look at the way
she talks to her elders. Who
would
want a daughter-in-law like
her?”**

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Sophia’s eyes shot up.**

**“Who
said I was your daughter-in-law?
John and I divorced a long**

time ago. I'm only keeping up with this act for John's sake. If you're not happy with it, I'll go out right now and tell the world that I'm not in any way related to your Young Master John. What will you do about that?"

Mrs. Constance was rendered speechless.

Old Mrs. Constance turned to look at Sophia and said in a calm voice,

"Don't say things like

that so easily next time. It won't be great if someone overheard.

"

Sophia sulked and did not say anything else.

Beside her, John quietly put some food in her bowl.

"Alright, eat up. It's been a busy day.

"

They did not have any peace even when they came home for a meal.

Mrs. Constance mumbled to herself,

"It's not like I said

anything.

”

Pursing her lips, Sophia kept her eyes on Mrs. Constance.

“Elder

Mr. Bailey went to the company today. I think he wanted to sound out me and John. I wonder if Miss Bailey said

something to him. People are starting to get suspicious.

”

Mrs. Constance was shocked and so was Old Mrs. Constance.

Old Mrs. Constance looked to John and asked,

“Old Mr. Bailey went over?”

“Yes. He said he happened to pass by so he came in to have a look.

”

Before this, Old Mr. Bailey never went to visit the Constance Company before. The two families did not have any ties in business so going to the Constance Company for no particular reason was hard to comprehend.

Old Mrs. Constance glanced at Mrs. Constance.

“Matilda, I didn’t get around to asking you this, but what did you and Isabelle talk about last time?”

Mrs. Constance was hesitant. She told Isabelle so many things last time. Anything that she was allowed to talk about, she said it all.

John sighed and also looked at her.

“Did you tell her that we got our divorce certificate?”

She had a troubled look on her face.

“I think so.

” Lowering her voice, she said,

“It was the day you guys went to get your divorce certificates. I told Belle you were both out to deal with divorce procedures.

”

John pondered for a moment then said,

“What else did you say? Tell me everything.

”

At this point, Mrs. Constance was too afraid to even look at Old Mrs. Constance.

“After that, you told me not to reveal the divorce, so I told Belle that there was a bit of an issue on your end. You went on a business trip and Sophia went to look for you; something along those lines.”

Sophia smirked. That was definitely not all that she said. She probably told her that I threw my pride away and begged John to stay—that I was unwilling to let go. I’m sure she rambled on for ages.

After thinking for a bit, John said, “If you get the chance to, tell her that we never got our divorce certificates. Sophia and I changed our minds at the Civil Affairs Bureau, and I brought her along with me on the business trip. I wanted to use the time that I was away to

**talk over things between us.
You have to make it very clear
to her that Sophia and I are not
divorced, and that we want to
give each other another
chance.**

”

**Those words sounded very
similar to what Sophia told
Dylan.**

**That way, they could match
their stories.**

**Mrs. Constance did not dare to
say anything else and
immediately nodded her head.**

“Okay.

**You don’t have to worry about
this. I’ll tell Belle. She’s very
understanding and she won’t go
around telling people about it.
Trust me.**

”

**Sophia rolled her eyes and
carried on eating.**

**After that, Mrs. Constance
stopped being crafty and was
more forthright.**

**Sophia was the first one to
finish her food again. She put
down her chopsticks and right
as**

she grabbed a piece of tissue to wipe her mouth, Old Mrs. Constance said, "Stay here a bit longer. Talk to me."
"

Not only was Sophia surprised, but both John and Mrs. Constance were too. Old Mrs. Constance was someone who stuck to customs and never really spoke at the dining table.

The Returning Ex Chapter 106
Sophia blinked at her.

"Old Mrs. Constance, what do you have to say?"

She put some food in Sophia's bowl.

"Have you ever heard your grandfather bring up John's grandfather before? Do you know what kind of friendship they had?"

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Sophia paused and thought about it seriously.

"He did bring

him up before, but he did not say much.

”

Old Mrs. Constance seemed quite interested.

“What did he say? Tell me.

”

Old Mrs. Constance and Old Mr. Constance loved each other very much. When he passed away, she was the most calm and reserved with her emotions.

However, some things inevitably showed through one’s face.

Sophia felt like she was probably also the saddest and most heartbroken person.

After thinking for a moment, she decided to tell her. Old Mr.

Gwendolyn had, in fact, not told Sophia a lot. When he reunited with Old Mr.

Constance, he, with only skin and bones

left, was in a worse state than Old Mr. Constance.

Old Mr. Gwendolyn had worked his whole life as a farmer, so his

physique had long since deteriorated.

Exerting a bit of strength, he managed to briefly tell her about the past.

The two old men had once joined the army.

At the time, Old Mr. Gwendolyn carried out several missions while he was in his troop. He said that in one of his missions, he rescued Old Mr. Constance.

Though, he did not go into detail as to how he rescued him.

After that, the two of them developed a closer bond.

Old Mr. Constance had favorable family conditions back then while the Gwendolyn Family

had absolutely nothing.

When they were demobilized, the two got separated.

Old Mr. Constance had left a means of contact for Old Mr. Gwendolyn so he could go to him if he ever needed help.

But Old Mr. Gwendolyn wanted to keep his pride. He was aware of the difference between

them, so he was determined to not look for him no matter how hard things got.

Once they separated, Old Mr. Gwendolyn went back to the countryside to make a living.

In the end, his health kept deteriorating so Sophia brought him to a hospital to get looked at. There, he met the similarly burdened Old Mr. Constance again.

That was when the two reunited.

Sophia was a bit saddened as she talked about it.

“My grandfather had to stay strong because he had to raise me on his own, but I let him down and he passed without feeling at ease.

”

Old Mr. Gwendolyn was strong and independent throughout his life. He relied on himself in everything.

It was only at the end that he pleaded with one person—Old Mr. Constance. He asked him to take good care of Sophia

once he was gone.

Because of that, Sophia was redirected halfway and brought to marry John.

Old Mrs. Constance had stopped eating and her eyes were red now.

Mrs. Constance quickly gave her a piece of tissue.

Alas, she did not cry. Taking a few deep breaths, she said, "John's grandfather also left without feeling at ease. In his final moments, he was even reluctant to close his eyes.

"

She was by his side at the time, trying to appease him with words so that he could pass on in peace.

But he kept his eyes open and held on to his last breath of air. Sophia felt tormented and unsettled.

"It's my fault. It was all for me.

"

Beside her, John's expression also became stern.

At the time, Old Mr. Constance pulled on his hand and

repeatedly exhorted that he had to take good care of Sophia. John made that promise to him, but he also thought that he could still treat her well after they got divorced.

Treating someone well was not only reserved for while they were married.

Thus, after their divorce, he generously gave her money and a house.

Besides, he also gave her some of the company's shares.

He figured he had done more than enough.

Old Mrs. Constance let out a sigh and changed the topic.

“You should get a thorough check-up for your gastric problems. If you don't take it seriously now while you're young, you will regret it when you're my age.

”

Her words caught Sophia off guard. Is she caring about me? Even though Sophia did not really like her, she still knew

how to accept it when someone cared about her.

Hence, she thanked her.

Once Old Mrs. Constance was unable to eat anymore, she slowly got to her feet.

The housekeeper quickly came and helped her up.

After mentioning that she wanted to rest, she headed upstairs.

Sophia was sitting where she was. After a while, she also stood up.

“You guys can keep—”

Before she finished her sentence, John stood up too.

“I’m not eating anymore. Let’s go for a walk.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 107

Blinking at him, she had no intention of going out for a walk.

She had walked a lot that day and wanted to return to her room to rest.

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But after looking at Mrs. Constance, who was sitting across from her, she immediately nodded her head.

“Sure! Taking a walk after a meal can help us digest some of this food. It’s good for our bodies.”

Mrs. Constance initially had a glum expression on her face but not anymore.

She pulled a long face and was a bit unsatisfied.

Nonetheless, her misery was Sophia’s delight.

John walked out of the dining room first with Sophia following behind him.

The two of them made their way to the garden.

His strides were rather big, making it hard for her to keep up.

When she could not keep up any longer, she called out,

“Hey, did you come out for a walk or for race-walking.”

He stopped in his tracks and turned back to look at her.

“Why are you so short? Does it make it more convenient to pick up money?”

She was surprised.

He was a man of few words and was not usually sarcastic.

Even when he talked, it was about more serious topics.

He never teased her so blatantly before.

Looking at him, she even jumped up a bit.

“Why are you so tall? Does it make it easier to build a shed?”

John was indeed very tall. He looked neat and put together.

In addition to his impressive looks, it was no wonder she fell for him.

She was someone who had not seen much of the world yet, so it was only normal for her to be drawn to him when he was so handsome.

He lowered his gaze at her. Her dress is already short, but she's still jumping. Is she trying to expose herself to the whole

world? He raised his hands and pushed her shoulders down.
“Stand properly.”

She looked up at him without knowing what was going on. When their eyes met, something did not feel quite right.

Was it because they went overboard with some of the things they did after their divorce? It somehow felt rather awkward. She licked her lips and tried to find something to say.

“Uh, where do you want to go? I went to the bamboo forest in the backyard the other day. It was pretty nice.”

He immediately knew what she was talking about.

“That night?”

It was the night when she wandered out and only came back when it got dark. She nodded.

**“Yeah. The
Constance Residence looks
huge when you see it from the
bamboo
forest at night.**

”

**However, another thing caught
his attention.**

**“You were in the
bamboo forest by yourself
that late at night? You really
have no fear.**

”

**That bamboo forest was no
longer within the Constance
Residence’s vicinity so anyone
could go in there.**

**It was located in a hilly area.
Even so, she was not afraid of
bumping into a bad person.
She chuckled.**

**“I met Dylan that
day. We went in there
together.**

”

**John paused for a moment
before letting out a smile.**

**“It’s
Dylan again.**

**” As though he
thought of something, he**

suddenly said with a bit of
ridicule in his voice,
“If only I
had
known. What was he thinking
at the time?”

“Huh? What are you talking
about?”

He turned and entered the
garden.

“Nothing. I don’t care
what you do in the future, but
for
now, stay further away from
Dylan.

”

She scowled at him then
followed him in.

“I know. Are
you getting old? You’re getting
long?winded.

”

John sat on the bench and
looked at her.

“Am I old?”

He was five years older than
her.

She took a seat on a rattan
chair nearby.

“Why? Does that
make you uncomfortable?”

**Chuckling, she went on,
“You’re
an old cow nibbling on young
grass like me. What do you
feel uncomfortable about?”**

**Somehow that did not sound
quite right either.**

**Was she not over that previous
incident yet? She suddenly
thought of what happened in
bed last time.**

**At the time, he was quite
aggressive with her.**

**When she looked in the mirror
during her shower, all the
marks on her body made it
seem**

like she was being abused.

**Meanwhile, John also felt like
something was not quite right
but he could not tell what it
was exactly.**

**In the end, they ran out of
conversation again and just sat
in silence.**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 108
Sophia rummaged through her
brain to find a conversation
topic that could lighten the
atmosphere.**

Before she was able to do so,

however, the sound of footsteps came from the side.

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She and John both turned their heads toward it.

A few seconds later, they saw the people who were approaching.

It was Master Owen and Dylan. The two were heading to the parking lot.

Master Owen was on a call. It seemed like there was a problem with a project at work and he had to go over to deal with it.

Whether it was a social event that William had or a problem at the company, Master Owen handled them all.

The Constance brothers were not on good terms with each other, but they were clear on their responsibilities.

Neither of them saw John and Sophia.

After Dylan got in the driver's seat and Master Owen got in the passenger seat, the car

drove off.

She stared at the parking lot and clicked her tongue.

“Your company is so busy. How much do you make in a year?”

He could not answer that as it was different every year.

After mentioning that, she remembered her own business venture.

“Hey, how about I take you to that shop at noon tomorrow?

The owner said she was going to stop business after this month. I’m thinking of taking over.

”

It was already the middle of the month, so she had about two weeks left.

He answered,

“I can go take a look tomorrow, but you shouldn’t start a business so hastily. If you want to do it, you have to think through it first. Are you going to run it yourself? Do you know how?”

Of course, she did not know

how. She was going to have to hire someone.

But she planned on asking that lady for the store if she did not want it anymore.

She thought that their desserts were still up to par.

The lady just did not have capital. Sophia could potentially make it work if she gave her a higher wage.

On the other hand, John was not urgently thinking of those things.

“Let’s talk after I take a look tomorrow.”

The both of them continued to sit there for a while.

Sophia rambled on about her ideas and some future plans. She was all over the place; most of which she was saying to herself. It sounded like things someone would say after having too much to drink. Still, John paid attention to every single word.

He had never paid that much attention to the things she said before.

Only when the sky was completely dark did they start heading back to the main building.

Both Old Mrs. Constance and Mrs. Constance had returned to their rooms. Everyone at the Constance Residence strictly abided by their daily schedules. The only exceptions were the men who were working outside.

Sophia and John walked back to their rooms and opened their doors simultaneously. She turned to look at him, but he went into his room without looking back at her.

Taking a deep breath, she also went into her own room.

She put on the pajamas from the night before and was about to go wash up when she heard someone knock on her door.

She paused, thinking that it was probably Mrs. Constance.

In the whole Constance Residence, that woman was the only one who would come looking

for her at her door.

She's probably here to vent the anger she was unable to at the dining table earlier.

Sophia gritted her teeth and was not one bit scared.

Standing in place for a bit, more knocks followed.

She puffed out her chest and raised her head high. After giving herself some attitude, she

walked over boldly and opened the door at once.

"Is there a problem?"

However, John was standing at the door with her phone in his hand.

She was shocked. She never would have thought that it was John.

He handed her the phone.

"When we came back earlier..."

She suddenly remembered that she put her phone on a stone table at the side when they were in the garden.

He had brought it along for her when they made their way

back.

She wanted to see what his intentions were so she let him carry it the whole way back.

Slowly reaching for her phone, she said,

“Oh, it’s you. I completely forgot about this.

”

Meanwhile, he was too afraid to even look at her.

Her pajamas. These pajamas...

How were they any different from not wearing anything?

He took a deep breath and turned toward the corridor.

“I’m going back now.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 109

“Mm,

” she responded through pursed lips, then waited until he was back in his room before closing the door.

She leaned against the door.

Why is my face burning up?

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After taking a few deep breaths, she went into the bathroom.

Once she was done with her

shower, she had settled down quite a bit.

She lay down in bed and tried not to let her mind wander.

A man and a woman alone together, not to mention the fact that they used to have an intimate relationship. There was bound to be a surge of emotions.

John doesn't like it when I do those things. At the thought of that, her heart slowly calmed down.

It was very effective.

She flipped over and looked out the window.

One good thing about living in the hills was that she did not have to worry about people peeping in even when she did not draw the curtains before going to sleep at night.

From where she was, she could see the stars.

She had only seen them previously when she lived in her small village.

After a while, sleep finally started to overcome her.

She let out a sigh then slowly

fell asleep.

Meanwhile, John also went into the bathroom and took a cold shower to calm himself down.

He knew for sure that he did not like Sophia, but he still felt something whenever he saw her.

That was what he was fretting over.

He was so familiar with her body that he could imagine what she looked like under that thin fabric.

Laying back down in bed, he covered himself with the blanket and did his best to calm down.

He wondered if putting her in the room right next to his was a good idea.

It somehow felt like it was just giving him more trouble.

He tossed and turned in bed for a long time before finally falling asleep, but he was unable to sleep well that night.

He dreamed of a lot of things and they all had to do with

things they did in bed.

Sophia looked distressed every time from being tormented by him.

Whenever she did not speak up despite being in distress, it frustrated him and made him want to torment her even more.

Those were the kind of dreams he had throughout the night.

When he woke up in the morning, he felt like he had not slept a wink.

He was exhausted.

Getting up, he washed up and left his room. At the same time, Sophia also came out of her room.

She was wearing a floral dress today—one that she had worn in Tri Asel before.

It did not look classy but it was refreshing.

She seemed to have forgotten about the awkward tension from the night before and smiled

immediately when she saw him.

“Did you sneak out last night?

Look at you. Your dark circles

are so obvious.

”

He touched his eyes.

“Really?”

She giggled.

“I lied.

”

Stepping ahead of him, she headed downstairs with him following from behind.

Mrs. Constance did not go down for breakfast today.

Sophia figured she probably did not want to see her.

That worked out well because Sophia did not want to see that fox of a woman either.

Old Mrs. Constance had eaten her breakfast. She usually woke up early and ate in her room before going out.

Thus, Sophia and John were the only ones in the dining room now.

Even though there were not a lot of people eating, there was a wide array of food on the table.

John liked a Western-style breakfast, so they prepared bread, milk, and eggs for him.

Sophia sat with one leg folded on the chair and reached for a flat cake. She still preferred a Chinese-style breakfast.

Grabbing some salted vegetables from the side, she wrapped them in the flat cake and ate

it with porridge.

It did not taste too bad.

John smirked when he glanced at her then continued eating his food.

She was thin, but she had a big appetite and ate quite a lot.

After a flat cake and a bowl of porridge, she went on to eat two eggs and several pieces of ham.

She also ate some of the fruits in the fruit platter.

Looking at her, he felt like his own appetite was getting better.

Once they were done eating, she went to wash her hands, then followed him out to the parking lot while humming a song.

As they got in the car, she said, "I'm not going to your company

today. You can just drop me off anywhere in the city.
”

However, he just drove without saying anything.

During the car ride, she kept talking about her dreams. She wanted to open a dessert shop where she could work when there were customers and just sit around when there were none. She wanted to wake up at her own time every morning and count her money until her wrists cramped up.

John was skeptical. Has she not woken up yet?

His car arrived at the city center.

“Do you want me to stop at the junction over there?”

She nodded.

“Sure. That’s fine.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 110

Sophia did not have any place in particular that she wanted to go to. She just wanted to look around for dessert shops in the area and try some of them out.

On the street that she was on,

though, there were not a lot of dessert shops.

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She walked for a while before seeing a milk tea shop that sold mostly drinks.

There were only a few dessert options.

She bought a glass of milk tea, drank a mouthful, and let the taste sink in her mouth.

It was just average.

She kept feeling like the shop she wanted to invest in from that day was a good idea.

After staggering around for a while, she decided to go into a department store.

There were several dessert shops inside the department store, but they all tasted average.

Sitting down on a chair, she stretched for a bit and was feeling great.

Then, she took a selfie on her phone and posted it on Facebook.

After that, she went out, took a taxi, and went back to her

place.

She had bought new bedsheets and threw out the ones that John left for her.

This house was going to be hers. Except for several bigger pieces of furniture that she was keeping, she changed everything else to her liking. She lay down and rolled on her bed once she was done changing the sheets. This is so comfortable.

She idled around like that until noon, then she went downstairs to make some food.

She bought a lot of things yesterday so she decided to cook something herself.

Cooking was not difficult for her. She used to cook all the time when she lived with her grandfather.

It was a lot more troublesome then than it was now.

First, she cooked rice. Then, she stir-fried some sautéed broccoli with garlic, made some twice-cooked pork, and even made some soup.

It was a lot of food for one

person, but she did not mind.
It felt like she was really living
now.

Again, she took a picture of the
meal she prepared and posted
it on Facebook.

Not a minute after sitting down,
her phone started to ring.

It was Zack.

Surprised, she quickly answered,
“What’s wrong?”

Zack clicked his tongue.

“Where
are you? I see you even
cooked.

”

She looked at the time; Zack
was off work now.

After eating a spoonful of rice,
she said,

“I’m at home; in my
own house. Why? Are you
stalking me?”

He laughed.

“No, how could I
dare to? I saw your post on
Facebook. Your food looks
good.

”

“Hmph. I still won’t give any to
you.

”

Then, she hung up.

He clutched on his phone and
muttered,

“This woman sure is
fickle.

”

John was quietly waiting for the
elevator to come up, then he
stepped inside.

Zack quickly followed him in.

Since everyone else had left, it
was only the two of them now.

John had a blank expression on
his face like he always did.

But Zack was unable to hold
back as he said,

“Sophia is
eating by herself now. She
knows

how to cook. Since we’re not
too far from her place, she
could’ve invited us over for a
bit.

This child; I will have to give her
a good lesson when I see her
one of these days.

”

A moment later, John looked at
him.

“When did you two get so

close?”

Zack paused. We're close?

They were not that close—just enough to be able to speak freely to each other instead of holding back too much.

He frowned.

“When I met

Sophia, she was a very free spirit so we got along well.

”

He met her at the Constance Residence.

At the time, Sophia was a neat and upright young girl who was nagged on by Mrs.

Constance to the point where she could not even lift her head anymore.

He was not able to ignore her.

When Mrs. Constance left, he went over to comfort her.

That was when she smiled.

“Everything she says sounds like farts to me.

”

Zack remembered those words clearly.

Perhaps because of that, his friendship with Sophia became stable.

But of course, Zack could not tell John all those things.

Mrs. Constance was his mother.

John sneered.

“You were able to befriend the old Sophia?”

He sounded like he was sulking.

Zack added,

“You were married to the old Sophia.

”

John froze. That’s right. We were married once. We did everything as a married couple.

The affectionate things they said to each other during those late nights were all between them.

In an instant, his eyes started to lose their focus.

The Returning Ex Chapter 111

John had lunch with Zack. While they were eating, they talked about work. Before they finished, a call from Sophia came. John remembered that Sophia wanted him to take a look

at the store for her. He answered the call. On the other end, it was obvious that she had

just finished eating and she even burped while talking. He gave her the address of his location so she could make her way over first and they could depart together once he was done eating. She thanked him excitedly then hung up.

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Meanwhile, Zack heard the way she was talking.

“The little noises she made were so pristine.”

John put his phone down.

“You like that?”

Zack was shocked.

“Don’t say that so carelessly, Boss.”

John did not reply to him, and Zack quickly explained,

“I like amorous women. Sophia won’t do; she’s too small.”

Is she? John recalled the way

she looked in her provocative pajamas last night which showed off her curves. She's not small. Sophia was thin in appropriate places and was voluptuous where she was supposed to be. It must be nice to touch—darn it. He was letting his mind go astray again. Hence, he quickly pulled his focus back. By the time they finished eating, Sophia's taxi had arrived. Zack liked her company, so he also went along with them. When John arrived at the dessert shop under Sophia's guidance, it was still just as empty. Zack took one look at it and shook his head. "The building is too unrefined. It doesn't grab the people's attention."

John looked at the front of the shop from inside the car. "The location is not bad, but the exterior just won't do. The name of the shop isn't good

either; it doesn't sound original.
”

The three of them got down and went to inspect the inside of the shop. The lady at the cash register was still looking at her phone and came over when she heard a sound. She recognized Sophia right away. “Oh, it's you. What would you like to have today?”

Sophia ordered some desserts and a milk tea to go while John took a look around the shop. The place was not huge, but there was definitely a problem with the interior. It could have been clean and simple, but the current interior looked cheap and worn out.

When Sophia paid the bill, she tested the waters and asked the lady if she was really going to stop doing this business. The lady was very adamant.

“I'm not doing it anymore. Heck, I'll be satisfied if I don't suffer any losses.

”

Sophia nodded.

“Actually, I think opening a shop here won’t be too bad.

” She blinked at her.

“If I take over this shop, will you be willing to work with me?”

The lady was taken aback. Then, she smiled.

“I think you’re a good person. Let me be honest with you. It’s not worthwhile to open a dessert shop here. Look around. I’m the only one of my kind here, but I still don’t have a lot of customers. This place really won’t work. Don’t waste your money.

”

Sophia smiled but did not say anything this time. Once John was done looking around, they headed outside together. When they got in the car, John said, “If

we renovate this place, it should still be alright.

”

There was not another similar

shop nearby so the competition was not too high. Moreover, it was located in a busy district where there was a significant volume of people. When Sophia heard what he said, her mind felt at ease.

“I’ll let you guys try these this afternoon. You just ate so you won’t be able to taste anything.”

John drove back to the Constance Company, whereupon Sophia followed them in. Because she had shown her face yesterday, the employees did not overreact as much as they did when they saw her yesterday. They made their way to John’s office, and since it was not time to start work yet, John sat in his seat and rested.

After taking a seat on the sofa, she started to ramble on about designs. She had not taken over the shop yet, but she was already thinking of what to do when she started the

business. He stood at one side and watched her count on her fingers. She was sitting cross-legged on the sofa. Her dress was a bit longer and it covered her thighs. From the side, her face looked small and delicate. Did he like women like that? He certainly did not. Even though he did not like amorous women like Zack did, he still liked elegant women that everyone admired. He was not interested in a modest woman from a humble family. He gradually shut his eyes, but the chatter did not cease.

The Returning Ex Chapter 112

In the afternoon, Sophia prepared the desserts and milk tea she had bought for John and Zack.

When she went to send some to Zack, she happened to see Dylan.

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The two ran into each other. Dylan was coming out of the elevator with other employees.

He nodded at her when he saw her.

On the other hand, she was a bit flustered because she had the milk tea and desserts in her hands.

Because he had already seen it, it did not seem polite to not give him some as well.

After she left Zack's place, she went to the refrigerator in the tea room to grab another portion.

Good thing she had bought more.

Thus, she went to give some to Dylan.

He was inside his office verifying the data on a document.

Sophia pushed open the door and smiled at him.

"I bought this earlier at noon. There were an extra two. You can have one."
"

She went over and placed it on his desk.

He was surprised but he thanked her immediately.

She waved her hand.

“No need.

I’m more worried that you

won’t like it. Have some. I

won’t

bother you.

”

She was going to leave when

Dylan spoke,

“Did you come

here behind John’s back?”

Stunned, she turned back

around to look at him and

almost wanted to laugh.

Still, she was not afraid of

saying anything.

“John is

probably getting anxious now;

afraid

that he might lose me. He’s

such a burdensome fellow. I

have no idea what to do with

him.

”

She burst into laughter then

waved her hand as she walked

out.

Once she was outside, the

laughing stopped.

She did not believe what she

just said, but it would be nice if

it were true.

She was determined to pay back all the misery she suffered in the past and let him know what it was like to be unloved.

When she made it back to John's office, he was in the middle of a call.

"I got it,
" he said as he watched her come in, then hung up the phone.

She was also clueless about who he was on the phone with. He only had bits of the dessert and milk tea that were within arm's reach of him. It must not have suited his taste so he put them away.

Looking at the computer screen, he said,

"There's a banquet in the afternoon tomorrow and you're coming with me.
"

She stared at him.

When he did not get her response, he shifted his gaze from the computer onto her face.

"Do I have to go?"

He blinked at her.

“You don’t
have to, but it will be more
effective if you do go.

”

She asked again,

“Who did you
used to bring to these events?”

He paused and a frown slowly
appeared on his forehead.

She smiled at that.

“Just curious.

I’m just curious. I don’t mean
anything else.

”

He thought, There weren’t that
many of these events, but I did
attend a few. Though, I never
brought her to any of them.

Sometimes, I brought Zack;
sometimes I went alone.

Since he was already married to
her, even if their relationship
was not good, he was not
going to bring another woman
to such a public event.

“I’ve never brought another
woman.

”

She nodded.

“Okay.

”

He took that as her answer then added,

“I’ll take you to get a customized outfit later. You’ve never been to these events before. This one is more formal.

”

She pursed her lips.

“Just don’t think that I’m an embarrassment to you when the time comes.

”

She went to lounge on the sofa and stared off into space. There was a hint of ridicule on her face.

Seeing her like that suddenly made him feel unsettled.

He used to hear Mrs. Constance reproach Sophia all the time, saying that, if she were to go outside, she would be an embarrassment to herself with the way that she was.

Sophia never talked back. She always kept her lips pursed and her head down.

She looked helpless and sad.
Listening to those words did not
sit well with him either.

Moreover, seeing Sophia's
reaction to them made him
more agitated.

He hated how timid she looked.
It frustrated him to see her like
that.

A while later, she glanced over
at him.

"Oh, that's right. How
do those taste? Do you think
it's okay?"

Because he did not really like
eating desserts, his first
impression was that it was too
rich.

However, those few tasted
quite good, and one of them
even had a strong coffee flavor.
It made him feel like eating a
few more mouthfuls was still
bearable.

After thinking through it, he
nodded.

She broke out into a smile.

"If
you think it's okay, then I think I
can give it a shot. I trust your
taste.

”

The twinkle in her eyes made him feel slightly faint.

He did not stop himself from looking at her a bit longer.

The Returning Ex Chapter 113

John stopped talking again.

Sophia knew that he did not like noise, so she just sat quietly at the side.

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She did not look at her phone either and just sat there aimlessly.

He started to get busy and was all over the place.

One moment he had his subordinate organize all the documents again, and the next moment he was out giving orders.

It was just like in the past where he completely neglected her.

Not long after she sat down on the sofa, she started to yawn.

There was a lounge room inside of John's office where he would occasionally take naps at noon.

But the lounge room was closed, so she had no idea what was behind that door.

Initially, she wanted to lie on the sofa and sleep for a bit, but she felt like it might cross the line.

She knew that her sleeping habits were not too flattering.

While he was over there working tirelessly, it was not too appropriate for her to be sprawled out here asleep.

Hence, she just fidgeted on the sofa for a while.

In the end, she leaned against the corner of the sofa while hugging a blanket and fell asleep.

John was busy for a while before he was finally able to hand over his work.

When he looked up, he saw her sleeping soundly.

Her sleeping position looked rather aggrieved.

She was curled up into a ball in the corner of the sofa.

Already small and frail to start with, being curled up like that

almost made her unnoticeable.
He slowly stood up and went to stand by the sofa.

Sophia did not notice anything and continued sleeping with her head tilted.

A moment later, he let out a sigh and bent over to gently lift her up.

Her eyes opened but she was still groggy.

She hooked her arm over his neck and buried herself in his arms.

He brought her to the lounge room where he placed her down on a bed.

Turning over, she faced her back toward him and hugged the blanket at the side.

Her floral dress raised up slightly, but it did not reveal too much.

He bent forward to help her straighten it back down.

Just as he stood back upright, she started to talk.

She was fumbling through her words. It was unclear whether she was awake or still drowsy. She said,

“John, why did I meet you?”

Stunned, he stared at her back for a while.

He did not know how he came to meet her either.

If she had not shown up in his life, his life would have been so different now.

I would have followed through with the engagement and married Isabelle. Although I was never close to her, I think she would make a good wife. Mom also likes her, so they would have gotten along very well. We would have had a smooth married life together. By now, we

would probably have a child too. The course of my life would have been smooth-sailing.

He felt conflicted after thinking about everything.

Even when he thought about his situation today, he felt a faint sense of panic.

Though, he could not pinpoint the cause of it.

Feeling frustrated, he turned around and left the lounge

room.

He closed the door behind him then went back to his place.

There were a lot of things he had to do that afternoon, but for some reason, he could not look at them anymore.

Leaning back against his chair, he seemed to have let go.

After sitting there for a few minutes, his phone went off.

It was a text message.

Besides advertising messages and spam messages, very few people sent text messages these days.

He was caught off guard when he took a look at it.

It was from Isabelle.

She just found out that Elder Mr. Bailey had gone to the company yesterday and thought it was probably because of her.

She sent her apologies and mentioned that there might have been a misunderstanding.

Because she was really forthright, he did not sense any trouble.

Therefore, he replied with,
'No

worries.

,

No new messages came after that.

The Returning Ex Chapter 114

Sophia did not know how long she had been asleep, but she was in a bit of a daze when she woke up.

Looking around, she had no idea what room she was in.

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She stayed in bed for a bit before getting down to go open the door.

John was not in the office. It was all empty.

She stretched then turned back to look at the lounge room.

The rich never forget to enjoy themselves no matter what.

Who knew it was possible to have

a lounge room inside an office?

She was the one who knew too little about the world.

If I take over that dessert shop, I can probably do the same and have my own lounge room of some sort.

She sat down on the sofa and looked at the time. She had not slept for that long.

There was still a lot of time left before people got off work.

She was bored out of her mind so she left his office.

This time, she did not take a walk inside the Constance Company but took the elevator down and went outside.

People were coming and going in the afternoon buzz.

She stood at the entrance of the Constance Company for a while before walking down a street.

The neighboring area was filled with office buildings where commercialization was deeply ingrained.

She had never been to a place like that before so it was all very new to her.

Not too far ahead, there was a chain store that did bridal dress photoshoots.

The storefront was huge. As she was walking by, she spotted a wedding dress that was placed in the display window.

She stopped in her tracks.

At the time, her wedding with John was very grand, but it also made her very flustered.

Since she had never been to such a large-scale event, she was actually frightened.

The Constance Family also had many rules. The housekeeper who Mrs. Constance sent spent almost the entire night telling her everything—about what she had to look out for, about the kind of people she would meet, as well as the kind of expressions she should have on her face.

Back in her village, she had seen the look on people's faces when they got married.

They were all laughing and happy.

But being here, she was not able to smile at all.

Closing in, she looked at the wedding dress in the display window.

Her wedding dress at the time was said to have been bought with a large sum of money from overseas then shipped to

them by air.

Because Mrs. Constance wanted to show off, she had introduced that wedding dress to

Sophia.

She talked about the number of diamonds on the dress and how they were all embroidered by hand.

Sophia did not understand any of those things, but she simply felt more tired than usual while wearing it because it was so heavy.

That wedding dress was still hung up in one of the rooms inside the main building at the Constance Residence now.

What a waste.

Even if John got married again, Isabelle would not want to use something that Sophia had used before.

It was so expensive and it was just tossed aside.

There were customers inside the bridal shop. She saw the worker walk past with a gift box in her hands.

She stared at what was inside and felt slightly remorseful. She always thought that a good woman like her would only have to put on a wedding dress once.

Especially when she was being tormented at the time of her wedding, she swore to herself that that would be her first and last marriage in this life.

In the end, the slap in the face only came late but it was not non-existent.

It had not been a year yet. The universe was giving her another chance.

Taking a deep breath, she turned around and continued walking ahead.

She had walked pretty far when she discovered a bus stop and went to sit on the long bench there.

There were not many people. Since it was working hours, not a lot of people were out idling around.

However, Sophia sat there and did not think of going anywhere.

People came and went. Cars stopped then left. She was just watching them aimlessly.

As she was looking at the cars passing by in front of her, there was a brief moment where she felt quite lost.

She did not know what her future held or how to walk down this path.

Grabbing her phone, she thought, John should be back at the office by now.

Did he notice that she was gone?

There was no call or message.

She sighed. I don't know what I was hoping for.

Since no one minded, she kept sitting in the same spot.

Sitting there was no different than sitting inside John's office.

When the sky got dark, a call from him finally came.

She was not unreasonable and answered it right away.

His voice was neither rushed nor slow.

"Where did you go?"

She reported her location to which he responded with,

**“Why
did you go so far?”**

**She could not tell if he sounded
impatient or perplexed.**

**Pursing her lips, she hung up on
him straight away.**

The Returning Ex Chapter 115

**When John started to drive to
where Sophia was, someone
tried to strike up a conversation
with her.**

**The guy looked like a university
student; he was charming and
easygoing.**

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**He said he had seen her sitting
there for a long time and asked
if she was in some kind of
trouble.**

**Feeling slightly embarrassed,
she stood up.**

**“No, no. I’m
waiting for someone.
”**

The guy scratched his hair.

**“Which school are you from?
We might be going the same
way.
”**

She was even more flustered

now because she had never even been to university before.

Waving her hand, she said,

“I’m

not a student.

”

The guy was stunned, then he smiled bashfully.

“You look

really young.

”

She pursed her lips and was unsure of what to say.

John was already on his way.

When the distance closed, he saw Sophia and the guy.

The guy’s face was fairly red which showed that he was shy.

John sneered.

Guys like these were actually well-suited for Sophia.

They looked better together.

He slowly drove over. Initially, he wanted to wait for a bit, but, alas, she got rid of the guy.

When the guy was walking away, he seemed a bit reluctant as he looked back at her repeatedly.

She let out a sigh then saw John’s car when she turned

back around.

After concealing all the emotions on her face, she went to open the car door.

John teased,

“You’re still popular.”

”

She shot him a sidelong glance.

“One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.”

”

John started driving again in silence.

Throughout the car ride, neither of them spoke to each other and he did not ask why she ran out on her own.

She felt like perhaps he did not care.

He never cared about her anyway.

Just earlier, he had obviously arrived some time before and saw the guy approach her, but he did not feel anything about it.

He just did not care.

She had known all along, but she realized it was a bit hard to bear now.

The car went around and left the city center for the outskirts. But it never actually got to the outskirts.

At the border between the city center and the outskirts, John made a turn and drove the car into a small alley.

There seemed to be a courtyard house at the end of that alley.

The gate to the courtyard house was opened now.

Before they even went in, she heard high-pitched singing that sounded like those from Peking operas, Kunqu operas, and the like.

She was unable to tell what it was exactly as she had only seen them on television.

It was a narrow passage to go into the courtyard, but the area inside was huge.

He drove the car all the way into the courtyard house.

When the car came to a stop, a person dressed in monk robes came out.

He was wearing a necklace made out of large beads around his neck and was smiling as he

looked at John who had gotten out of the car.

“You’re here.

”

Sophia followed him out.

Because she did not know that person, she did not say anything to

him.

That person turned around and looked at her.

“This young lady

looks so young. You two have been married for almost a year now. She looks even younger than she did at the wedding.

”

John smiled.

“Her makeup was a bit heavy at the time so it made her seem that way.

”

After that person greeted her, they went inside.

“Come. It’s all prepared.

”

She followed John in. The interior of the house had a quaint design. It was clearly the

kind of
life only a wealthy person could
live.

This is why being rich is good.
You can live however you like
and do whatever you want to
do.

There was another person
inside the house. It was a man
with a long braid.

That man was very easygoing
and waved at her when he saw
her.

“Come here; do you have
a dress style in mind?”

She paused. She had a feeling
that the person in the monk
robes earlier was not a
designer.

Walking over to him, she
showed him a photo on her
phone.

“I’m not sure what I
want in
particular so I found a photo.
Perhaps something like this.
”

The designer took a look at the
photo then at her.

“It does go
very well with your modest

presence.

” He added,

“Sure;

we’ll go for a style like this. Do you have any requests?”

She did not know much about all that.

“I trust you. You can do what you think is best.

”

The designer smiled at that very moment.

“You’re making me shy, Mrs. Constance.

”

However, he agreed to it afterward.

“Okay, then I will do as I see fit.

” He looked at John.

“You haven’t been here in so long. How was it? I heard you were away on a business trip. Did talks on the project go well?”

Right after he mentioned the business trip, the look on John’s face turned sour.

At noon today, President McCaw from Infinity Group had the nerve to call him and tell

him
about how Elizabeth was
threatening to kill herself.
President McCaw even said that
he wanted everyone to sit
down and have a talk, and for
John to bring Sophia along as
well.

The Returning Ex Chapter 116
John felt like laughing. Even if
Miss Cox wanted to kill herself,
that wasn't his business.

McCaw says she's making a
ruckus so she can see me? Trash.
John had investigated Infinity
Group when he decided to work
with them, so he had McCaw's
details.

He didn't find any problems
with him back then, but now
the company and McCaw
looked
unreliable to him. McCaw isn't
clear about the situation even
now. He's even trying to ask
for my help over this? Thus,
John hung up right away.
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update and Novel Query
Sophia said nothing, for she
wouldn't take part in the

business world. The man in monk robes gave her some tea and snacks, and she thanked him before resuming her quiet demeanor.

John couldn't say anything about his problems with Infinity Group, so he didn't give a clear answer, since a collaboration is a big thing. The designer didn't say anything much, aside from something off topic.

Sophia could see that John knew these people a long time ago.

John was an aloof man, nor did he talk much, but he was friendlier toward these two.

Sophia held her teacup and looked down quietly, looking like she was listening, but actually, she had fallen into a trance.

John looked at Sophia after a while. Since she didn't make a sound, if nobody paid any attention to her, she would be invisible. Sighing silently, he asked the designer to measure Sophia's size. They would be

leaving after that, for it was getting dark. The man in monk robes and the designer came to send them off, and Sophia smiled at them before going into the car.

John drove her back, but they didn't talk at all. When they stopped at the residence's car park, she came out of the car. She didn't stop to wait for John before going toward the main house, but she stopped after coming to the clearance.

She could see what was happening inside the living room from where she stood.

Mrs.

Constance was in there along with Old Mrs. Constance, while Isabelle was sitting beside the former; they seemed to be chatting happily. As such, Sophia sneered. What a happy family.

When John caught up with her, he was surprised to see what was happening in the living room as well. Then, he held Sophia's hand.

"Let's go.

”

Time to act again, I guess.
Sophia was frustrated, and she didn't want to cooperate, but then, she wanted to trip Isabelle up. Even though she struggled, she still went inside with John.

When John came in, Mrs. Constance stood up.

“Speak of the devil. We were just saying you two are late today, but lo and behold. You're here.

”

Because Isabelle was here, Sophia called Old Mrs. Constance 'Grandma', then she looked at

Mrs. Constance. A long while later, she called her 'Mom'

,

which disgusted both her and Mrs.

Constance. She greeted back stiffly, then John took Sophia to sit with him.

Sophia leaned against him

heavily, while he looked at her and smiled. He pays attention to the details too, huh? Sophia was impressed.

When Old Mrs. Constance asked where they went, John told her honestly. At the same time, he looked at his mother, and Mrs. Constance nodded imperceptibly. In other words, the deed was almost done.

Looking at them holding hands, Isabelle smiled and said, "I'm also invited to that banquet. We can meet again then."

Sophia looked surprised.

"Oh, what did I tell you? We really do bump into the Baileys a lot."

Isabelle froze, for she knew what Sophia was talking about, so she explained, "I came here today to apologize. I only found out my grandpa went to your

company yesterday. It's really embarrassing. He must have been trying to help me. You must have been troubled.

”

Mrs. Constance felt unsettled seeing Isabelle looking so humble, so she held her hand.

“Oh, don't say that. This is my fault. I was in too much of a rush.

”

Sophia looked at them coldly. They work well together. Don't they know they'd make me awkward? I think they do though. Well, even a dumb woman like Mrs. Constance works

wonders if she's supported by Isabelle. They look so close, so natural. Sophia clicked her tongue and killed the mood by saying,

“I'm hungry. How long do we have to stay here?”

John looked at her.

“Let's have dinner then.

”

Since Isabelle was here, they

had to invite her for dinner, so Mrs. Constance took her to the dining room and sat in the same place as last time.

John felt like laughing. Even if Miss Cox wanted to kill herself, that wasn't his business.

McCaw says she's making a ruckus so she can see me? Trash. John had investigated Infinity Group when he decided to work with them, so he had McCaw's details.

He didn't find any problems with him back then, but now the company and McCaw looked

unreliable to him. McCaw isn't clear about the situation even now. He's even trying to ask for my help over this? Thus, John hung up right away.

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looked at

Mrs. Constance. A long while later, she called her ‘Mom’

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Sophia leaned against him heavily, while he looked at her and smiled. He pays attention to

the details too, huh? Sophia was impressed.

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“I’m hungry. How long do we have to stay here?”

John looked at her.

“Let’s have dinner then.”

Since Isabelle was here, they had to invite her for dinner, so Mrs. Constance took her to the dining room and sat in the same place as last time.

The Returning Ex Chapter 117

**Sophia was starving, since she only had some tea to drink back there, and the snacks were left untouched. Now, she didn't care about Mrs. Constance or Isabelle, for what she wanted to do was fill herself up. John was serious about his acting, so he took some food for her and even whispered, "Take it slow, or your stomach's going to complain."
"**

**Old Mrs. Constance looked up. "Sophia, I made an appointment for you. When John has his off day, ask him to take you to the doctor. You have to treat that condition as soon as possible."
"**

**Join Telegram Group For Fast update and Novel Query
Sophia looked at Old Mrs. Constance, thinking that the old lady only mentioned it in passing, so she was surprised Old Mrs. Constance acted so quickly. John chimed in,**

**“Got
it.
”**

Isabelle looked at Sophia and John, then she looked down. Seemingly thinking about something, Sophia slowed down for a bit. A moment later, she took a piece of pork belly and bit off the meat, leaving only the skin on. Then, she fed it to John.

**“Aw, this is too oily for me. Here you go.
”**

**Mrs. Constance was stunned.
“Just throw it away if you don’t like it. You chew a part of it off and give John the leftover? It’s not right.
”**

**Sophia’s chopsticks were still millimeters away from John.
“Why? It’s not the first time he did this. We’re a couple,
” she replied honestly, though she felt delighted. Sophia’s plan was to disgust everyone here,**

including John.

John looked at the skin, then he looked at Sophia. Even though she was looking at him innocently, behind that innocent gaze, she was gloating.

John ate the skin, much to Sophia's satisfaction. Then, she wiped his mouth, though there was nothing on it.

"You're really warming up now, honey."
"

John calmly took a piece of meat and bit the fatty part away before handing the rest to her.

"Sure. Here, have some."
"

Sophia froze up and blinked, but she took it anyway, and both of them gulped it down without chewing. Now, they were tied. Mrs. Constance and Isabelle had different looks now though. On one hand, Mrs. Constance's expression was the gloomiest she had ever shown, nor did she have the mood to talk, so

she kept on having her dinner. Meanwhile, Isabelle pursed her lips stiffly. She ate a bit more and looked up at John. Most of the time, John was expressionless, but Isabelle saw him smile. It was different from the smile she saw back in the living room; it was more natural and genuine. Isabelle took a deep breath and calmed herself down.

The dinner didn't take long, for everyone stopped when Old Mrs. Constance stopped. Then, they went back to the sofa. It was dark outside now, so Isabelle said goodbye. Mrs. Constance quickly stood up. "Send her home, John. It's late now."
"

Old Mrs. Constance looked at Mrs. Constance with disappointment, but the latter was oblivious to this. She only had her eyes on her son. Since his mother had said so, John could only say yes. Isabelle smiled at

him, then they left.

Sophia stood up and rubbed her belly.

“I had a bit too much to eat, so I’ll be going up now.”

Then, she went up, but she stopped after reaching the second floor.

As she expected, Old Mrs. Constance said,

“You dumb woman.

” Old Mrs. Constance was a soft-spoken, conservative person who led her life carefully, so she would normally never speak ill of anyone no matter how unhappy she was.

“What’s wrong, Mom?” Mrs. Constance was surprised. Old Mrs. Constance sounded done.

“You’re still helping Isabelle? Do you want John and Sophia’s divorce to be made known sooner?”

Mrs. Constance denied it quietly, then she continued,
“I

just like Isabelle. She's so much better than Sophia. You saw it too at the table just now. That was disgusting.

”

“So what?” Old Mrs. Constance replied.

“She didn't ask you to eat it. As long as they're happy, why should you care?”

Satisfied with Old Mrs.

Constance's retort, Sophia went to her room happily.

The Returning Ex Chapter 118

Sophia didn't want to think what John and Isabelle might be talking about on the way. She couldn't stop it, so she wouldn't bother herself with this. After playing a few matches of her game on the bed, John still wasn't back.

Sophia didn't know where Isabelle lived, so maybe it was far away. Maybe that's why he got delayed. Or maybe the Baileys gave him a warm welcome and invited him inside. After waiting for a bit, she came out of the bedroom.

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**She went to the staircase to see
if there was anyone there, but
everyone left. Thus, Sophia
slowly went down to a corner in
the living room. She
remembered there was an
underground cellar here, so
Sophia looked around, but it
didn't take her too long to find
it.**

**After she turned on the lights,
she descended the stairs.**

**It wasn't a big cellar, but there
were many bottles of wine
inside, and they were
categorized.**

**There were red wines, white
wines, champagne, and
everything else. She didn't
know much**

**about wine, so Sophia took a
random bottle of red wine.**

**After the nap at John's office
this afternoon, it would be hard
to sleep at night. Having some
wine would help with that, and
it could rejuvenate her skin too,
or at least, the rumors went
that way.**

She took it out and went to take a glass as well as a bottle opener from the kitchen before going upstairs. After returning to her room, she sat on the bed and uncorked the red wine before pouring herself a glass. Sophia took a sip and frowned, for it didn't taste good. Even so, she drank two glasses before going to look outside the window.

The car park was quiet, so John must still be outside. It's good though. They're alone, so something might happen. Even she started imagining things between them. Sophia went to drink a bit more, but she couldn't take the taste. When she swished the bottle around, she saw that there was still half a bottle left. So, she went out again, for it was impossible to finish half a bottle just like that. I need to get some snacks. John came back the moment she came down. Since Sophia was a bit tipsy, she was wobbling when she went to the

kitchen and rummaged through the fridge. There were a lot of things in there, but none could pair with wine. Then, she went through the cabinets as well, but she still came up empty-handed.

John came up to her slowly.

“What are you looking for”?

She looked back and smiled.

“You’re back.

” It was obvious

she had been drinking.

“Why did you drink?” John

frowned.

Sophia stood on her tiptoe to

see what was in the

compartment up there.

“Oh,

you have too

much wine. I don’t want them

to expire, so I helped.

”

She talks nonsense even when

she’s drunk. In a way, he was

impressed.

“What are you

looking for?” He went up to her.

Sophia scratched her head, for

she didn’t know what she was

looking for either.

**“The wine’s
hard to finish, so I want to pair
it up with something.
”**

**John went to look for some
food in the fridge. They had
ham and beef jerkys inside, so
he
took some out and held her arm.
“Alright, let’s go. I took it for
you.
”**

**Sophia’s face was red, and she
looked at what he was holding.
“I couldn’t find them earlier.
You guys even hide your food?”
Sophia obviously drank too
much, so John didn’t want to
argue with her. Instead, he
dragged her back to the room.
The moment he came in, John
saw the bottle of red wine
and the half-filled glass. He put
the food down.**

**“Enjoy your
supper. I’ll be going to sleep.
”**

She looked at him.

**“Aren’t you
having some?”**

“No.

” He turned away and left. Sophia ignored him and set everything up, then she changed into her pajamas. Only by being comfortable could she drink happily, then she sang as she drank. Obviously, she was high.

John went to take a shower and changed into his pajamas. Then, he thought of Sophia, and he was worried about her, so he went to listen through the door. There wasn't any loud sound coming from inside, so he opened the door. Sophia was in her sexy pajamas and was standing beside the window, singing as she did so.

**The Returning Ex Chapter 119
Sophia was slow in her reaction and only looked back after a few moments. When she saw John at the doorstep, she smiled and wobbled to him.**

“Do you want to drink? Here, I saved some for you. I knew you would come.

”

John looked around and saw the glass by the bed that was filled with wine, while the bottle was empty. It was rolling on the floor, while the snacks were only half eaten. The rest were splattered everywhere. Sophia went over and held the door. “Come in if you want to have a drink.

” She reeked of alcohol.

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John held the doorknob tighter.

D*mn, this is taking my all to hold it down. She really does know how to flirt.

Sophia chuckled.

“Don’t be shy.

” She then pulled him into the room by the collar, and she closed the door. Since Sophia was wobbling, she leaned against the door as she mentioned,

“That’s the last glass. Miss it, and you won’t have any more to drink.

”

John turned away.

“You’re
drunk.

”

Sophia admitted it, then she
pounced on the bed and rolled
around.

“It helps me sleep,
see.

” The pajamas were
revealing in the first place, and
now she revealed all her skin.
John took a deep breath and
cleared the floor, then he
picked up the wine bottle.

When he
was going to throw them away
in the bathroom, Sophia said
when he got to its doorstep,
“Oh, John...

” For some reason,
that summon lit his flame.
On many nights during their
wedding, as they entangled
themselves with each other,
she
would call out to him just like
this. He wondered whether she
was begging for mercy, or
asking for more. A moment

later, she snorted. She's going to sleep?

John stood rooted to his spot, frowning as he looked down at the glass before finishing the wine. Then, he went toward Sophia.

Sophia was still awake. It was hot, so she scratched her head and tore at her pajamas. When John came up to her, he gave her a glance and turned off the lights. The darkness made it easier for him to move. Sophia then felt someone taking her clothes off, then something heavy pinned her down. Even though she was groggy, she knew this was off limits, so Sophia sobered up and pushed him away.

John said,

"It's me.

" Sophia

slowed down, and that seemed to encourage him. Then, John quickly kissed her, just like how he did countless times. In a daze, Sophia wondered if she should resist or go with the flow. She tried to dodge, but John

raised his voice.

“Don’t

move.

”

Sophia stopped.

“John.

” Her

voice trembled.

John took a deep breath and

kissed her.

“I’m here.

”

The window was open, and the curtains weren’t pulled down.

The silver moonlight bathed over them, illuminating their every action. Sophia bit his shoulder, and he flinched, for she

seemed to have bitten him a bit too heavily. Suddenly, Sophia felt herself crying. Her mind was clear now, and as John kissed her, he could taste her tears.

He stopped everything.

“You

don’t want this?” John asked hoarsely.

“No.

” She wiped her tears and

hugged him.

**“I just feel sorry
for myself. Why can’t you just
fall for
ME?”**

The Returning Ex Chapter 120

**They spent the night going at it
nonstop, causing them to wake
up late the next day. Old
Mrs. Constance and Mrs.
Constance were downstairs,
surprised when the servant said
both
of them hadn’t come down yet.
They could understand it if it
was Sophia, but John had
never slept in.**

**Mrs. Constance was worried her
son might be unwell, so she
stood up.**

**“I’ll take a look
upstairs.
”**

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“Of course.

” Old Mrs.

Constance nodded.

**Mrs. Constance quickly went up,
and both of their rooms’ doors
were closed. Firstly, she**

went to knock on John's room's door and lowered her voice as she called,

"Are you awake, John? Do you feel unwell anywhere?" However, nobody came to take the door, though Sophia's room's door was opened instead.

John came out while buttoning his shirt.

"I slept in," he said hoarsely. Mrs. Constance was petrified, but John ignored her and went to his room's bathroom.

Mrs. Constance's jaw almost dropped to the floor as she looked at John, then at Sophia's room. Even though John had closed the door, Mrs. Constance didn't give up, so she opened it quietly and looked inside. Sophia was in bed, covered in a blanket, obviously sleeping. They were alone in a room last night? Something must have happened. Her expression changed, then she quickly went into John's room.

**“W-Why were
you in Sophia’s room last
night?”**

John came out of the bathroom.

“I was drunk.

”

**“Drunk?” Mrs. Constance was
shocked.**

**John didn’t care to explain as he
looked at the time and saw that
he was late for work.**

**Taking out his phone, he called
Zack to tell him about work
before going to take his clothes
from the cabinet.**

**Mrs. Constance closed the door
and hissed,**

“Tell me the truth.

D-Did you two, you know...

”

**John knew what she was talking
about, so he remained quiet,
for there was no need to talk
about this.**

**Mrs. Constance gnashed her
teeth.**

“Y-You can’t do that.

You’re divorced.

”

**John remained quiet, then he
looked at her after taking his**

clothes, meaning that it was time for him to change, so Mrs. Constance should look away. Mrs. Constance was trembling in anger.

“Did she seduce you? I told you she’s an evil woman. I—”

“I asked for it,
” John replied.

Mrs. Constance froze, then he continued,

“I had too much to drink last night, so I went into the wrong room.
”

Mrs. Constance tried to say something else, but John interjected,
“I’m changing now.

” She panted and was about to leave, but John added,

“Don’t interrogate her. She has nothing to do with this.
”

Mrs. Constance stood there for

a moment before leaving. She stood before Sophia's room, overwhelmed by the impulse to rush inside and drag her out of the bed for a good scolding or a couple of slaps. However, she wasn't stupid, so she knew making a ruckus would be bad for her. Furthermore, John was still here, so he wouldn't let her bully Sophia. Besides, Sophia was no longer the coward she used to be. Now, she might be fiercer than Mrs. Constance was. Even though he said he forced himself on her after getting drunk, nothing's for sure. That uneducated woman could have done anything. Mrs. Constance tried to come up with a lot of things, but in the end, she did nothing, merely waiting for John to come out.

She quickly went up to ask, "Tell me the truth, John. Do you love her?" John frowned at her, much to her annoyance.

"Did you fall for her?" Mrs.

Constance clicked her tongue.

**“A
woman like her is unworthy of
you. Even if you remarry, you
can get someone better than
her.
”**

Then, she mentioned Isabelle.

**“Did you chat with Isabelle last
night when you sent her back?
She’s so much better than
Sophia in every way. That’s our
standard. John. You’re the
fam—”**

“Don’t worry,

” John interjected.

“I didn’t fall for her.

”

**Sophia was leaning against the
door and heard the whole
conversation outside.**

The Returning Ex Chapter 121

**She leaned against the door and
looked up. A moment later,
everything went quiet outside
as they went downstairs. They
were so loud. Did they want me
to hear that? She sniggered
and went to the bathroom, but
she noted that the marks on her
body were worse this time**

as she filled the bathtub with hot water and went inside. Her whole body was sore, but she remembered she was in her safe period now, so she didn't have to take the pills. This is probably the only thing worth celebrating. She didn't sleep much last night. He wasn't drunk; he was on drugs. John was relentless. At that thought, she soon fell asleep in the bathtub.

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It was noon when she woke up, and Sophia was starving. She got out of the bathtub and wiped herself off before changing and going down.

There was only Mrs. Constance down there, who looked angry when she came down. Sophia ignored her and went to the dining room to have lunch.

The food was cold, and her stomach disagreed with it. She wiped her mouth after finishing, then she hailed a ride. Sophia

went to wait at the clearing, for the ride would take some time to come. As she waited, she stood there, unmoving as she fixed her eyes on the gates. Mrs. Constance stood at the living room's doorstep.

"You slut,
" she said, her voice audible.

Sophia said nothing the first time, for she thought last night's event was embarrassing for

her too. Then, Mrs. Constance continued,

"You uneducated swine. I bet your parents taught you how to seduce rich men so they can get rich too.
"

That angered her, so she looked back at Mrs. Constance, who was scorning her. Sophia slowly raised her phone and called someone. A moment later, she said,

"Contact all the news outlets for me. I want to tell them about my relationship

with the Constance Family's young master. I bet they would just love this scoop.

”

Mrs. Constance's expression changed, and she trotted to Sophia to snatch her phone.

“Nonsense! Give your phone to me!”

Sophia waited until she came closer, then she kicked Mrs. Constance away.

“Scram.

”

Mrs. Constance was plump and lived in grace all the time. If they were to fight, any normal person could beat her in an instant. Now, Sophia caught her by surprise, so Mrs. Constance took the kick squarely. She stumbled backward, but she failed to catch her bearings, then she fell heavily. One servant saw it, and she tried to help Mrs. Constance up.

Sophia looked at the servant.

“Scram.

” She didn't shout, but her look was scary, as if she

wanted to devour everyone. The servant shivered, for she had never seen Sophia acting this way. Mrs. Constance stayed on the ground, feeling nervous. W-What does she want to tell the media? The servant still tried to help Mrs. Constance up, but Sophia went ahead and kicked her even harder.

Mrs. Constance blinked and tried to shout, but then she swallowed everything back. She might be really mad. She might even kill me! When Old Mrs. Constance heard the commotion, she came down with the help of another servant. Mrs. Constance was still on the ground, while Sophia looked at her scornfully. Old Mrs. Constance was surprised.

“What happened?”

Mrs. Constance bawled when she saw Old Mrs. Constance, who frowned and said,

“Get up now. Why are you on the ground?”

The servant clutched her stomach and tried to help her up, but Sophia glared at her.

She

raised her leg, and the servant stopped. Now, Mrs. Constance didn't care anymore, so she stood up on her own.

Old Mrs. Constance frowned unhappily; she rarely got angry, for everyone would back down if she even showed a hint of anger. Nobody got on her nerves, but now she was looking at both of them darkly.

Mrs. Constance was genuinely crying. Well, a part of it was fake, but not much. This was the first time in her life someone kicked her, and right in front of the servants too. How humiliating.

The Returning Ex Chapter 122

A moment later, Old Mrs. Constance turned around.

"Come inside and explain.

"

"No,

" Sophia said in refusal.

Nobody could make her do anything now.

“The Constance

Family is a noble one. Someone like me can’t even hope to have any ties with you.

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I’ll call the reporters and tell them what happened between John and me. That will be the end of it. You guys are powerful, so you can settle this. I won’t trouble myself anymore.

” She

tried to leave.

Old Mrs. Constance panicked too, so she turned around.

“Hold it right there,

” she said

sternly.

Sophia stood with her back against the old lady quietly.

Then, Old Mrs. Constance looked at

her before turning to Mrs.

Constance. Suddenly, Mrs.

Constance stopped crying. If

Sophia

even dared to talk that way to

Old Mrs. Constance, that meant

she was taking this seriously.
“What happened?” Old Mrs. Constance asked Matilda. Matilda pursed her lips, unsure how to answer. She had told Old Mrs. Constance about Sophia and John having sex last night this morning. The old lady even called John to verify this, and John told her he forced himself onto Sophia last night, so it had nothing to do with her.

Old Mrs. Constance asked Matilda to keep a low profile about this, for it was normal for a couple to have sex, especially when they used to be married. She told Matilda to let them sort this out themselves, while they would not interfere. Matilda agreed to it, but now she was scared to confess that she provoked Sophia when the situation had come to this. Now, Sophia looked impatient, and when Old Mrs. Constance saw Matilda looking evasive, she knew her daughter-in-law

must have offended Sophia.

“Did you say something you shouldn’t again?” She looked at her with disappointment.

Mrs. Constance pursed her lips and looked everywhere else but at everyone. Closing her eyes, Old Mrs. Constance went up to Sophia. She had a long face, obviously angry as she went to hold her hand.

“Sophia.

” Sophia tried to escape her grip, but to no avail, for Old Mrs. Constance was gripping her hand tightly.

“Matilda is always clumsy with words, so let it slide.

”

Sophia sneered.

“Well, I’m impulsive too, so if I do anything reckless, let it slide.

”

She simply went along with Old Mrs. Constance’s words. Old Mrs. Constance had nothing to retort. She had never seen

Sophia bristling this much, so she sighed.

**“Let’s talk inside,
Sophia.
”**

Sophia pulled her hand back forcefully.

**“No, I don’t think I will. I don’t mind you and your family insulting me, but not my family. It’s a sin I can’t bear.
”**

She then went to the front gate and kept her phone on the way. The number she dialed earlier was a random one. She didn’t know anyone who could call the media, so that was just a ruse to scare Matilda.

Old Mrs. Constance knew Sophia was livid now. They shouldn’t stop her, or who knew what she would do. Thus, she took a deep breath and glared at Mrs. Constance.

**Mrs. Constance retreated.
“I didn’t say anything. It was just a nag,
” she mumbled.**

Old Mrs. Constance glowered.

“You useless woman.

” She went

inside the living room, and

Mrs. Constance followed.

**Sounding panicked, Matilda
said,**

**“Mom, do you think she’ll
tell everyone about her divorce
with John?”**

**Old Mrs. Constance’s face
looked dark.**

**“You think that’s
the end of it? She knows he’s
drugged on his business trip.
What if she works with Infinity
Group out of hate for us and
accuses him of having sexual
intercourse with the Infinity
Group’s employee? John would
never recover from that.**

”

**Mrs. Constance didn’t think
about that, and she paled.**

**“What should we do now?” she
mumbled.**

“Call John right away.

” Old Mrs.

Constance sighed.

**Mrs. Constance quickly took her
phone out and called John.**

The Returning Ex Chapter 123

After a while of waiting, her ride came.

Sophia went inside, and the driver smiled at her.

“You live in a big villa.

”

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Sophia looked outside.

“Just drive.

” It’s big, but living in it isn’t easy.

Once the driver drove away, Old Mrs. Constance received news. She watched as Matilda made the call. John didn’t know what happened, so he asked her calmly, thinking this was just another one of her little skirmishes.

Worried John might scold her, Matilda stammered, much to Old Mrs. Constance’s fury. She snatched the phone away and told her Matilda fought with Sophia. Since she couldn’t provide the details over the phone, she told him Sophia had

left.

Old Mrs. Constance sounded worried.

“Before she left, Sophia said she wants to tell everyone you two are divorced, so she will have nothing to do with us anymore.

”

John massaged his forehead.

“I see.

” Old Mrs. Constance wanted to say something else, but John hung up.

Matilda was worried.

“What did John say? Did he say how he’ll settle this?”

Old Mrs. Constance glared at her, but she didn’t answer Matilda’s question.

“This is all your fault.

”

Matilda shut up, for she had miscalculated this. She wanted to pretend she knew nothing, but the sight of Sophia angered

her. I didn't say anything offensive. It was just some grumbling. Why did she react so much?

Old Mrs. Constance thought about it and called her son. After telling him what happened, she reminded him to keep an eye on the media.

"If anything happens, push it down. You can't let the court of public opinion have a free season on us. It will be a disaster."
"

William didn't know what happened, and he was surprised to hear it.

"What happened? I thought we talked it through."
"

Old Mrs. Constance sneered. "Ask your wife. She did it."
"

Matilda blushed, and she teared up, for she didn't expect this incident to escalate so much.

William sighed.

**“Fine. I’ll keep
an eye out. We’ll talk later.
”**

**On the other hand, Sophia went
back to her house and deleted
John’s fingerprint data from
the account. Didn’t think I’d
remember to do this. She went
to the bathroom in her
bedroom after that.**

**For some reason, she bathed
once more, then after changing
into new clothes, she lay on
the bed and covered herself
with her blanket.**

**She felt uneasy. As for sadness,
she did feel that as well, but not
that much. Sophia heard
the conversation earlier, though
she already knew that John
never did love her. Even though
she heard it and it struck a
nerve, it didn’t really disturb
her. Still, it did make her feel
dejected.**

**He took advantage of her and
dumped her. Now, she knew all
he wanted was her body. This
was disappointing, honestly. As
for the reason she made a
ruckus, one was because of**

what

Matilda said, the other was to make the whole Constance Family suffer.

After 'getting along' with them over the past couple of days, the Constances should know she would say anything she wanted. Sophia wanted to make them nervous and on edge.

Everyone looked down on me, so now I want them to fear me.

The more she thought about it, the angrier she got. I'm going to wallop all of them one day.

That idea lingered in her mind as she fell asleep. A long while later, a phone call woke her up. She turned around and saw that it was from John.

Douchebag. She let the phone ring

on, not taking or cutting it off.

The Returning Ex Chapter 124

John was outside her house, but he couldn't get in now, for his data was deleted. He tried to call her, but she didn't take it. A moment later, he asked Zack to contact Sophia.

Zack didn't know what happened between them, but he carried out his orders. A moment later, he told John that Sophia wasn't taking his calls too. However, he added, "She posted a status, but it looks weird."

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John had unfriended her, so he didn't know what she posted.

Thus, Zack quickly sent him a snapshot showing her latest status uploaded by noon time.

There were only a few words: go

to hell. It was filled with hate, and obviously she wanted to drag everyone down.

John didn't know how Sophia would handle this. If it was in the past, John would have thought she was just throwing a tantrum, but on this day, she kicked his mother and the servant. Obviously, she was rash and impulsive now. There

was no point talking to her in this state, for who knew what she would do.

His grandmother said Sophia might break her promise and smear the Constance Family. If that were to happen, it would be a PR crisis. John didn't believe that, for he knew Sophia

would throw a tantrum, but not to this point. Now that he saw her status, he thought this wasn't beyond her.

John put his phone away and rang the doorbell, but Sophia didn't take the door, so he stopped. With how angry she was, they couldn't hold a proper conversation if they met.

He might even trigger her further, so John went back to his car, but instead of leaving, he lit a cigarette and waited there.

Sophia stayed in her room for a while and only went down after the calls and doorbell ringing had stopped. When she went up, she saw the car

outside the yard, and she sneered.

“Didn’t expect this day to come for you, didn’t you, John Constance?”

She walked to her kitchen and made herself some lunch, for the food she had in the Constance household was terrible. It was cold, and it upset her stomach. Now, Sophia was humming and preparing all the ingredients.

After he was done smoking, John spaced out for a while, then he saw someone moving in the living room. In other words, Sophia came down. He rolled his window down and stared at the living room. He couldn’t see anything but her silhouette moving from time to time, so he took a deep breath and went down.

He slowly went up to ring her doorbell. When Sophia had just finished cooking and setting up the table, the bell rang, but she ignored it. However, when

he kept ringing after she started to eat, Sophia was surprised about his patience. A moment later, she went to open the door.

“Anything?”

John looked at her, unsure what to feel, though he could still remember what happened last night vividly. That time, she was gentle and cooperative, but now, she was fierce; that was unexpected.

When John didn't speak, Sophia took a step back.

“Come in.”

John was stunned to see the interior after coming in. This used to be his house, so he knew it better than anyone else, but now, everything changed. A lot of new things were available, but a lot of the old stuff was gone. Aside from the big furniture, everything was different, including the pillow on the sofa; there was even a wind chime

beside the door.

Sophia turned around.

“Think

about what you want to say. I’ll resume my lunch. I hope you know what you should say after I’m done.

” She went to the dining room without looking at him.

It was a sumptuous meal, a celebration for her good mood on this day. Humming along with the tune she was playing, she ate slowly. It was a slow life, one enviable by everyone.

The Returning Ex Chapter 125

John went to sit on the sofa and looked at the curio on the coffee table, then he looked at the rocking chair beside it, as well as the yoga mat, guessing she was remaking this part over the past two days. She doesn’t want to live in the residence, I see. She hates everyone there. John knew that.

Sophia took an hour to finish her lunch, then she went to sit across from him.

**“Done
thinking?”**

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John nodded.

**“I know my
mother has been awful today.
”**

Then, he changed his tune,

**“I
did
that myself last night, because I
was drunk. You have nothing to
do with this. I told them
that, but they took it the wrong
way because they want to
protect me.
”**

Sophia smiled.

**“It’s not
important to me. John, you
know what?” She paused for a
moment
and frowned.**

**“I think we should
start our new lives now that
we’re divorced. Living together
and keeping things so
ambiguous between us brings
no good to us.
”**

She heaved a long sigh.

“I can’t blame you solely for this. I bear a part of the responsibility too. I’ve been blinded by my demons and let things spiral out of control. I think we still have time to turn back and explain this now.

”

John looked at her, thinking she was different from the other times, no longer the servile woman or the vengeful wench. Now, she was calm, rational, and distant. A while later, he said,

“I know you’re right, but you know my condition too. I have to think about a lot of things.

”

Sophia looked down, wanting to ask him why he didn’t think for her then, but it would be self-humiliating to her anyway, so she swallowed it.

John sighed.

“I can’t tell everyone about this like how you requested, since I have to

prepare
for the possibility of a crisis. Can
you understand me?"

Sophia couldn't understand him,
nor did she want to, but she
said nothing.

John paused for a moment.

"Why don't we come to a
compromise?" Sophia arched
her
eyebrow but said nothing as
John looked into her eyes.

"I
know you dislike living in the
residence, so we can choose not
to stay there. We can stay
somewhere else, separated too.
You can do what you want
without meeting them, and I
can guarantee they won't
disturb

you. What do you think?" A
moment later, he added,
"Infinity Group and I are in a
stalemate.

Once I settle them, maybe I'll
bring the explanation up earlier.
As long as it isn't too bad,
you can give them any excuse.
"

Sophia closed her eyes, for she

didn't know how she should refuse him when he was so sincere. Before she spoke, John looked at her. His gaze was too passionate, and she couldn't take it.

Sophia thought he should know she loved him, so he took a step back because he knew what her weakness was. A moment later, she sighed.

"I can go with that, but on one more condition.

"

"State it.

" John nodded.

"I want your mother to come here and apologize to me,

"

Sophia said sternly. Before John could say anything else, she continued,

"She must come and apologize for what she said today. Do that, and I'll agree to your terms. If you don't, then all bets are off.

"

The Returning Ex Chapter 126

Nobody heard what Matilda told Sophia earlier, but Old Mrs. Constance asked her after that. Matilda might be a flawed person, but at least she was honest. Even though she knew she made a mistake, Matilda repeated what she told Sophia in all detail. Old Mrs. Constance almost flung her tea set away in her fury.

As she pointed at Matilda angrily, she was unable to say anything out of her anger. She grew up in a famous family, and she was a cultured person, so smears like these were sanctimonious to her, for no well-educated person would say that. She told John about this, and John thought this was too much too.

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John nodded.

“Of course. I’ll tell my mother about it. I regret what she said to you.”

Sophia snorted.

**“Sure. I’ll wait
until your mother apologizes to
me.**

”

**John looked at her and
apologized in the end. Leaning
back on the sofa, Sophia looked
away from him, but then she
teared up.**

**“John, I endured
every suffering possible when I
was
married to you, but I said
nothing about it.**

**” John
stiffened up, but he couldn’t say
anything.**

**After he had left, she cleaned
up the table and went to the
kitchen. When the dishes were
done, she sat cross-legged on
the yoga mat and looked
outside. The weather was nice,
so**

**she thought it would be a good
day. Sophia won this little
battle, but for some reason, she
felt hollow.**

**Back at the residence, after Old
Mrs. Constance listened to**

John's explanation, she calmed down. Matilda's eyes were red, obviously from her crying earlier.

Then, Old Mrs. Constance put her phone down and looked at Matilda, who seemed to be at her wits' end as she looked back at Old Mrs. Constance. The latter heaved a sigh of relief.

"Sophia agreed not to take this further.

"

Matilda was surprised, but she relaxed too.

"Really? That's great.

"

"But there is a condition,

" Old

Mrs. Constance added.

Matilda froze.

"What is it? Does she want money? We can give it to her.

"

Old Mrs. Constance thought she was an idiot, so she shook her head.

"It's not about money.

Sophia wants you to go to her

home and apologize for what you said.

”

Matilda stiffened completely.

“She wants me to apologize to her at her place?”

“Yes. Don’t you think you should?” Old Mrs. Constance raised her voice.

Shocked, Matilda quickly said, “No, of course not. That’s not what I mean. I should apologize to her, yes.

” She did insult her out of anger back then, and she didn’t think about it.

However, she did feel humiliated by this request to apologize.

Indeed, she used to look down on her and bullied her all she wanted, but now, Sophia wanted her to apologize, so Matilda felt humiliated. What was worst—none of her family mentioned her getting kicked by Sophia earlier! That Sophia sure didn’t hold back; even until now, her belly throbbed. Matilda was plump and fair from her life in grace. When she

went to the bathroom, she saw that her belly was red from the kick. Nobody talks about that! I insulted her, but she kicked me!

I'm her elder! Not asking her to apologize should make it up for what I said, but they ignored this! Matilda didn't dare mention this though, for she was almost a hated person in the household now, so complaining would be a death sentence.

Old Mrs. Constance didn't want to drag this out, so she said, "Go to her home this afternoon, and remember to bring gifts. Make sure you apologize sincerely. This is related to John's reputation, so remember to be genuine."
"

Matilda nodded profusely.

"I understand.

" After that, she went back to her room and called

her son to grumble, for she felt greatly aggrieved.

John sounded resigned when he took the call.

“What’s wrong, Mom?”

Matilda sniffled.

“John, is it really all my fault? Sophia hit me!”

It took John a while to answer, but when he did, he said,

“Mom, haven’t you bullied Sophia long enough already?”

The Returning Ex Chapter 127

Matilda was surprised, for she knew whose side John was on right there and then. Thus, she pursed her lips and thought there was no need to talk about what she wanted to.

Sophia didn’t care about what the Constances were doing, so she went to the dessert shop that afternoon and chatted with the lady. After a while, Sophia told her she wanted to buy the shop, but she wanted the lady to keep on working there too.

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The lady noticed her fervor, so she agreed to it. She hadn't settled down on a job after closing the shop, and honestly, she liked it here, aside from the fact it didn't make any profit. So, she kindly reminded Sophia,

**"But this place doesn't turn a profit, you know."
"**

Sophia smiled.

**"We'll see. I can go for something else if there's no profit."
"**

**"The contract will be up this month, so I'll ask the landlord to contact you."
"**

Sophia nodded.

"Thank you then.

" She then strolled around before going home. Her body still wasn't feeling fine, so she moved about in the living room. When she was about to rest, Matilda came.

Sophia was standing before the staircase, and when she looked back, she saw Matilda coming with her servant, bringing along many gifts. The servant was the one she kicked earlier. Oh, they came together, huh? Those poor, poor ladies. She looked at them while Matilda rang the doorbell. A moment later, she opened the door for them.

Matilda stiffened up when she saw Sophia, but she still forced a smile.

“You’re home,
Sophia.
”

Sophia loved to argue, especially against her enemies.

“No, I’m not. This is an AI controlled robot.

” She sneered.

Matilda looked awkward, so she quickly asked the servant to bring those gifts inside. Sophia didn’t stop them, then when they were done, Matilda rubbed her hands.

“I know

what I said
was wrong, Sophia. Please let it
slide this time. You know how I
am. I'm stupid and rash.

”

Sophia was surprised she would
say that, and she wondered
where Matilda learned it from.
Since Matilda didn't even
stutter, Sophia thought she
must have practiced on the way
here.

Instead of saying anything,
Sophia glanced at her coldly.
Matilda felt awkward, for
Sophia didn't say anything even
after that. This was different
from

what she had in mind, so she
continued,

“John's
grandmother and father
scolded me after
knowing what I did. They said I
shouldn't have said that.

I know what I said was wrong,
so I'm here to ask for your
forgiveness. We used to be
family.

I know we aren't now, but just
for old times' sake, can you let

this slide? I know you're a good kid, so please forgive me this once, hmm?"

Old times' sake? Sophia almost laughed. Yeah right! We have nothing but bad blood! You abused me! Sophia remained silent.

The servant was awkward too, and Matilda licked her lips, for she was out of things to say. Sophia waited for a moment more and snorted.

"Done?"

Matilda was stumped.

**"Um,
yes.
"**

Sophia nodded and opened the door.

**"Then leave.
"**

Matilda and her servant were stunned. I-Is she chasing us away? Rude! Matilda's face was red with anger, but she had to hold it down, for she was here to apologize, so she took a deep breath to calm her anger.

"You need to rest, yes? I'll be leaving now then. Thank you.

”

She then left quickly with her servant.

Before they could go far, Sophia slammed the door heavily, shocking Matilda with the loud sound. Then, she went upstairs without a care in the world.

Matilda stood before the door and panted, then she turned around stiffly and left the yard. Her car was right outside the door.

“Leaving so soon, Madam?” the driver asked, but Matilda didn’t answer. She went into the backseat and looked outside as the driver drove away.

A long while later, she covered her face and bawled earnestly. She had never been humiliated this way. Even after an attempt to please Sophia, still she humiliated Matilda this way. Matilda felt insulted, and this was the first time she felt this way.

The Returning Ex Chapter 128
Sophia went back to her room,

delighted. She took her phone out and scrolled through her Facebook wall. Zack commented, asking her what happened. Then, there was that singer who asked her to cheer up. She turned her phone off and lay on the bed, unable to fall asleep.

She didn't know what she should do, so she killed time by simply lying on the bed.

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John was busy in the afternoon.

When the servant called him, he was notified of his mother's apology toward Sophia. He could hear the sounds of crying in the background,

then when he listened closely, he knew who it was. If Matilda was crying now, it could only be because of the apology.

John pretended not to hear it and hung up after saying he got it. His mother was spoiled by his father, and even Old Mrs. Constance took a step back at

times. Thanks to that, she thought she was all powerful, but now Sophia proved otherwise.

Nevertheless, it wasn't like he could do anything about it though. She had to bear the consequences of doing or saying the wrong thing, so an apology wasn't too much. If Old Mr. Constance was still alive, an apology wouldn't cut it. He was an honest man who wouldn't talk bad about anyone behind their backs. If he knew what Matilda had said, he would have flown into a rage. After hanging up, he leaned back against his chair and massaged his forehead. He didn't sleep well last night, so coupling that up with the business earlier, he felt drowsy. Zack came in with some documents which needed his approval, while some needed to be handed to William. After handing John the documents, he asked, "What happened

**between
you and Sophia? I called her,
and still she didn't take it, nor
did she reply to my comments.
”**

**John didn't want to talk about
this, so he put his documents
down.**

**“Get on with your work.
”**

**Zack knew this was big with
how he reacted, for this was the
same deal as the time he got
the divorce. Are they going
their separate ways now? Zack
didn't dare ask, so he left the
office with the documents in
hand.**

**John couldn't focus on anything
now, so he went to the
bathroom. Dylan was in there
too,**

**washing his hands, and John
didn't greet him. Instead, he
went to the basin beside Dylan.
His mind was muddled, so he
came to wash his face. Dylan
looked down at his hands.**

**“So you two aren't divorced
yet.**

” John paused for a moment,

but he said nothing, nor did he look at Dylan. Then, Dylan smiled warmly.

“See. You should have thanked me.

” He wiped his hands dry and left.

John held himself against the basin and looked into the mirror. Thank you? What a joke.

John didn't work much that day. When it was time to clock off work, he quickly went back home. No matter who greeted him, he didn't greet them back. He rushed all the way home to the old residence. Old Mrs. Constance was sitting at the doorstep, looking at where the casket used to be.

“Grandma.

”

John went over. She looked back at him and stood up.

“You're back. You must be tired.

”

There wasn't much he did, but

he was definitely tired, so they went to sit on the sofa.

Matilda was nowhere to be seen, so John asked,

“Where’s Mom?”

Old Mrs. Constance sighed.

“In her room. She’s been crying the whole afternoon.

” John felt mildly annoyed, then Old Mrs. Constance said softly,

“What is there to cry about? Does she feel insulted? Does she feel unfair? She said that to Sophia herself, so this is the consequence she must bear. She has no one to blame.”

Old Mrs. Constance might not talk about it, but she knew that Matilda insulted Sophia in far worse ways than what Sophia did. Back then, she called Sophia a poor wretch who depended on the Constance Family and John to climb up higher, essentially selling herself.

Sophia didn't even cry back then, so Old Mrs. Constance thought Matilda was fake when she

saw her daughter-in-law crying this much over such a small matter. She had not one ounce of sympathy for her. Then, she looked at John.

"Your mother told me you spent the night at Sophia's place.

"

The Returning Ex Chapter 129

"This is all on me, not her.

"

John didn't hide it, so in a way, he admitted it.

Old Mrs. Constance didn't dwell on this.

"You know what you did, so we'll stay out of this.

"

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John leaned back on the sofa and sighed. He would have consoled his mother usually, but

he wasn't in the mood now.

"I'll

go to Sophia's place tomorrow. Maybe I'll stay there after this. She dislikes it here, so we won't be coming back.

”

Old Mrs. Constance could understand that, for Matilda would just forget everything and repeat her mistakes after a while, so living under the same roof wasn't optimal for them.

She nodded.

“That's good. It's nearer to the company, so it's convenient for you.

”

William came back a short while later. He had an appointment on this day, but his wife kept calling him to complain. So, he had no choice but to ask Owen to go in his stead, while he came back to check out the situation.

Old Mrs. Constance was speechless, so she looked at her son.

“You spoiled her.

”

William smiled.

“I’ll take a
look.

”

After William had gone upstairs,
John said,

“My dad really loves
my mom. Now that’s really
enviable.

” William did spoil

Matilda, and she became
arrogant because of that. She
might be

old now, but Matilda was a
bigger troublemaker.

Everything she disliked in the
house, she

would complain to William, but
he never got angry at her and
kept taking a step back.

Maybe both of them got used
to it after all these years.

A moment later, Old Mrs.

Constance said,

“They didn’t
love each other in the beginning
as

well.

”

John froze, for he never heard

about his parents' story.
Old Mrs. Constance felt
compelled to talk about it.
"Your dad wasn't going to
marry your
mother in the first place. The
lady he wanted to marry came
from almost the same
background as us. They were a
good match, and after the
meeting, your father felt great
about her. However, a more
powerful family had their eyes
on her, so the lady chose them
after thinking about it. It had
been years since then. There
was nothing like the
engagement
system we have today, so
everyone skipped to marriage.
If she didn't marry you, she
could
marry someone else she liked.
Because of that, your father
was depressed for a long time.
Then, his old man asked
someone to introduce Matilda
to him. He didn't like her, or
well, at
least he thought she was
incomparable to the girl he

liked. Matilda didn't like him either, but she thought they were a good match in terms of family background, so they could try it out. Then, they got married.
”

They did argue about life after marriage, but William was a nice guy to begin with, so he tolerated her. After a while, Old Mrs. Constance noticed their relationship was getting better. After she was done with her story, she looked at John.

“When we wanted you to marry Sophia, I thought maybe you guys would fall in love like your parents did.

” However, they got divorced not long after Old Mr. Constance's death. He really doesn't love her.

John looked down quietly.

After that, Old Mrs. Constance lamented,

“Sophia doesn't come from a good family, and she used to be weak too. That wasn't enough to hold up a

family, but after your divorce, I think she has style.

” Old Mrs.

Constance thought she was like Matilda, a faker, but when she saw

how Sophia glared at the servant venomously earlier, she liked Sophia more. If she came from a better family and received better education, she would be perfect.

John kept quiet all the while his grandmother talked, then he went upstairs. When he went past Sophia’s room, he went inside. The bed was messy and filled with traces of last night’s event. The glass that he put on the windowsill was still there. John closed his eyes and went to his own room. After taking a shower, he went to Matilda’s room.

The Returning Ex Chapter 130
Matilda was crying in her room, while William calmed her down patiently. She merely threw a tantrum in her bedroom the whole afternoon, and her tears

only rolled when William appeared. Sighing, he patted her shoulder.

“Sophia’s not a part of our family now, so you can’t treat her like how you used to. Besides, John needs to work with her, so be nicer to her, will you?”

Matilda sobbed.

“Yes, I did insult her, but she kicked me.”

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John went to knock on the door despite it being wide open, and when Matilda saw him, she cried louder.

William looked at his son.

“What did she say?”

John replied calmly,

“She said she won’t pursue this matter anymore, but she won’t come back. I might leave too.”

Now that this had happened, they couldn’t stay in the same house anymore. Putting Sophia aside, Matilda would cause a

ruckus by herself, judging from her personality. In the end, she would get the short end of the stick. Thus, William nodded.

“Sure. You’re an adult now, so you can leave anytime you want.

”

Matilda pursed her lips and cried sadly. When William looked back at her, his tone softened

down as he said,

“Let me take a look. Where did you get kicked? Are you hurt? Do you still feel unwell? Do I need to call the family physician over?”

John looked at his father. His concern was genuine, even after all these years; he was always this patient with Matilda.

Sometimes when Matilda told him about her shopping, he could even ask her what happened.

So can two people who originally had no feelings for each other fall in love with time?

John

couldn't understand this.

With John here, she couldn't take off her clothes, so she told William how she was humiliated and how she never felt so insulted.

William caressed her hair.

"Alright. Once she's not useful to us, I'll teach her a lesson for you.

"

That was just lip service, but she was satisfied with it.

"That d*mned girl. I'm going to get back at her. I want her to apologize to me and feel how I felt today.

"

John leaned against the doorframe. Once his mother had calmed down, he asked, "She hit you today? Bold.

"

Matilda widened her eyes.

"Yeah, she kicked me and caught me off guard. Then, she kicked the servant even harder. She's like a demon.

”

John couldn't imagine how Sophia looked like as a demon. All he could think of was how servile or cheeky she was. Then, he nodded.

“Look after Mom, Dad. If the injury is severe, call the doctor. I'll go down now.

”

William nodded.

“You've been busy for the whole day now, so go have a meal.

”

When John came down, Old Mrs. Constance was still sitting on the sofa. He went to take her to the dining room. It wasn't a big room, but with only the two of them, it looked lonely.

Old Mrs. Constance looked at the spot beside her and sighed.

“Sophia is noisy and rowdy, but she knows how to lift someone's spirits.

”

John looked at her spot. Indeed, she was a rowdy person when it came to meals. Sophia

couldn't stop fidgeting, making noise, and eating however she wanted. However, she did improve his appetite.

"Is that so?" John looked away.

"I think she's noisy.

"

The Returning Ex Chapter 131

Old Mrs. Constance had no appetite now, so she only ate a bit before stopping, but she waved John down.

"Don't mind me. Have some more. You've been working hard.

" She

slowly got up, and the servant took her outside.

John slowly put his spoon down, for he couldn't eat anymore either. Leaning back in his seat, he took out his cigarettes.

The moment he lit the lighter, his phone rang, so he took it after glancing at who was the caller.

"Hello, Miss Bailey.

"

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Isabelle said gently,

“Am I

disturbing you?”

John lit his cigarette.

“No. Do

you need anything?”

She sighed.

“Your mother called

me this afternoon. She said

she’s upset and told me about

what happened. I’m worried

about her, but I don’t want to

agitate her. Are you home now?

Is she feeling better?”

He puffed and leaned back on

the chair.

“She is.

” He didn’t

need to guess what his mother

told Isabelle. Probably

everything and then something

more.

Isabelle didn’t know what to

say, so she kept quiet. A

moment later, she said,

“Do

talk to

her. They still have to live

together, so let’s not be too

tense about it.

”

John smiled.

“Got it.

”

Then, she lowered her voice and added,

“They’re family, so there’s no need to go this far.

”

John stayed quiet, so Isabelle asked,

“If it’s fine, can I visit her tomorrow? She talked a lot today, so I think I should visit her.

”

“Suit yourself.

” John didn’t care about this.

“I do have time.

” She was okay with it.

That was about it, so John hung up and finished smoking his cigarette before going outside.

He could see the carpark here, so of course he saw a part of the garden as well.

Dylan was right there, presumably walking around after dinner. Looking at Dylan,

John then went in his direction. Dylan stood there alone with his hands in his pockets, looking at the carpark, so he noticed John coming up to him.

“Done with your family issues?” He arched his eyebrow.

In other words, he knew about what happened between Sophia and Matilda, so John went into the garden to talk with him.

Dylan stood in his spot.

“Sophia’s different now.”

John snorted.

“You seem to know what she used to be like.”

Dylan looked at him with amusement.

“Of course. Your mother loves to insult her in front of us, but Sophia never retorted even once. Everyone knows that, and even the servants

used
to think she's a coward.
”

John pursed his lips.
Dylan looked at the carpark.
“When I saw her last time, she
seemed to have changed.

” A
moment of pause later, he
continued,
“It's not a bad thing.
She probably thought it
through.

If she doesn't change, living
that kind of life would crush her
no matter how mentally strong
she is.
”

John started turning shadowy in
the darkening skies, while Dylan
kept looking at the
carpark. There were many cars
in there, and almost everyone
in the household had one car,
even if they didn't know how to
drive. People like that had
drivers though, but not Sophia.
He noticed she would hail a ride
every time she wanted to go
out. That wasn't befitting of a
young madam. He took a deep

breath and fished out his phone, sending a text to Sophia before he even realized what he was doing.

Sophia was being a couch potato after she had her meal, but nothing good was on air.

She

felt scared living in such a big house alone, and when she looked at the second floor, panic

seized her. When her phone vibrated because of John's message, she leaped up in shock.

His text surprised her, but he only asked if she was asleep. What does he want? Thinking, she pursed her lips and texted, 'Yeah, I'm asleep.'

The Returning Ex Chapter 131

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"Hello, Miss Bailey."
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"No. Do you need anything?"

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"Your mother called me this afternoon. She said she's upset and told me about what happened. I'm worried about her, but I don't want to agitate her. Are you home now? Is she feeling better?"

He puffed and leaned back on the chair.

"She is.

” He didn’t need to guess what his mother told Isabelle. Probably everything and then something more.

Isabelle didn’t know what to say, so she kept quiet. A moment later, she said, “Do talk to her. They still have to live together, so let’s not be too tense about it.

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John smiled.

“Got it.

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His text surprised her, but he only asked if she was asleep.

What does he want? Thinking, she pursed her lips and texted, 'Yeah, I'm asleep.

,

The Returning Ex Chapter 133

She lay in her bed that night languidly, tossing and turning. It might not be as good as the one Matilda prepared for Isabelle in the Constance Residence, but this was good too. She

closed her eyes and thought about John's accommodation.

There were two guest rooms here, so she could let him stay in one of them. He can clean it up tomorrow himself. She didn't want to bother with his matters anymore.

Then, she remembered how she kicked Matilda earlier. She felt groggy, but she also regretted not kicking her a few more times. That old bat would give me a wide berth from now on if I did that. The idea lingered in her mind until she drifted to sleep.

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She then had a dream where she could do anything she wanted. In her dream, Matilda was not her only victim, but Isabelle too. Isabelle became the servant in her dream. Awesome.

I hate that woman. She sent Isabelle flying with a kick, and she cackled out loud, then she woke up from that dream of hers.

Oh, why do I have to wake up now? That was the fun part. She wanted to see how messy Isabelle got, so she forced herself back to sleep, for it was still early. However, continuing her dream wasn't that easy. She wasn't bothered by dreams after that, and she slept well. When she woke up, it was already morning.

The sun was shining warmly on her bed, then she slowly went to wash herself up. When she stood before the mirror, Sophia pulled her shirt up, revealing the traces John left on her. He did this to me when I was drunk.

That shameless animal.

After washing herself up, she came down in casual wear and made breakfast for herself. She had no job and nothing else to do, so the only thing here was to kill time at home. After tidying the place, she lay on the yoga mat. Do I need something more in this home? She stared at the crystal chandelier for a while.

Her mind was muddled. This whole house is mine.

Unbelievable. I'm rich now, I guess. Aside from money, she got nothing from the marriage, but in hindsight, money was fine for her.

She couldn't get more than that anyway. So, Sophia sneered and told herself to relax as she waited for John to arrive.

John came here during lunchtime. When he came out this morning, he only brought a simple luggage. Matilda looked at him, still hurt, so Old Mrs. Constance couldn't take it.

"Oh,

**for Pete's sake, stop crying,
Matilda.**

”

Matilda wiped her tears.

**“John
has never left us up until now.**

”

**Even John was speechless, let
alone Old Mrs. Constance, so he
left without saying anything.**

**She turned to look at the French
window while lying on the yoga
mat to see John's car
parked outside, while he came
to the front door with his
luggage in tow. Slowly, Sophia
went to open the door for him.
John put his luggage aside and
looked at the lock.**

**“Enter my
fingerprint.**

**” Sophia entered it
calmly and set it as one of the
passes to enter.**

**After she was done, he went
upstairs while pulling his
luggage with him.**

**“I'm staying
in the
room beside the study.**

”

Sophia looked at him quietly. For some reason, she thought she was facing the home's owner, and she had lost all power here the instant he appeared. The house is mine though, she thought. A moment later, John came down. He looked around at the living room.

"I ordered some delivery. Wanna eat together?"

Sophia sneered.

"I can cook, so I don't need deliveries."
"

John chose to ignore that and sat on the sofa to wait for his delivery.

The Returning Ex Chapter 134

Sophia had breakfast late, so she wasn't at all hungry. She continued lying on the yoga mat and went into various meditation positions.

Meanwhile, John sat on the sofa, and his cell phone rang in no time. He'd initially thought that it was the delivery he ordered, but when he picked it

up and glanced at it, it turned out to be a call from Mrs. Constance. He stole a peek at Sophia, but she seemed to have dozed off.

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After pondering for a moment, he then answered the call.

“John, I’m sure you’re on your lunch break now, yes?” Mrs. Constance’s voice was placid. John murmured his agreement.

“Why, has anything happened at home?”

Mrs. Constance paused for a moment before saying,

“No, it’s just that Belle is here to visit me.

” John remembered that Isabelle had mentioned going over to visit Mrs. Constance on the phone last night, so he murmured an acknowledgement.

Mrs. Constance then continued, “If you’re free this noon, come back and have lunch. I cooked quite a few dishes, and

most of them are your favorites.

”

Without even looking at the time, John replied,

“Never mind, it’s too troublesome.

”

Mrs. Constance sighed.

“What’s so troublesome? You can just go back to the office later. No one will say anything.

”

Still, John declined. Before he could speak further, he then heard Isabelle’s voice from the other end. She seemed to be helping Mrs. Constance, for she smilingly asked,

“Mrs. Constance, which plate should I use for this dish?”

Mrs. Constance rumbled a response to her before saying to John,

“Okay, fine. If you’re not coming back at noon, come back at night.

” Sighing, John

acquiesced. Then, he hung up the phone.

Sophia remained in the same position, appearing as though she'd truly dozed off.

After waiting for a while longer, the delivery came. John went out and took the food in, his hands laden with bags since he ordered a feast. He headed to the dining room.

As soon as he walked past her, Sophia's eyes sprang open.

Damn it, it smells too good! It's far more tempting than his voice when he was on the phone earlier. Nonetheless, she didn't move a muscle.

After John had set everything out, he then stood by the entrance of the dining room and gazed at Sophia who was lying down a near distance away.

"If you're not asleep, come and eat with me.

" His voice was very soft.

Sophia turned it over in her mind. In the next instance, she sat up.

“You’re so inconsiderate.

You woke me up by speaking so loudly on the phone.

” As she said that, she walked over to the dining room. He didn’t just order two servings. This is even enough for three people, and he has even laid out the tableware. She then took a seat at the table.

“You shouldn’t have ordered so much. It’ll be a waste if you can’t finish it.

”

John took his seat across her.

“I counted you in.

” Sophia pursed her lips and ceased making excuses.

During the meal, neither of them talked. Since they were sitting across each other, John could see Sophia’s dining mannerisms. She’s truly unrestrained in her eating, but

**it does
look rather comfortable.
John still had to work in the
afternoon, so he ate relatively
quickly. Before Sophia had
finished eating, he'd already
placed his cutlery down and
took a tissue to wipe his hands.
"I've got to go, so help
yourself.
"**

**Sophia waved a dismissive hand.
"Go, go. I'll clean up here.
"**

**Staring at her, John took her in
for a few more seconds before
he left. Now that Sophia was
alone, she became even more
uninhibited. She ate happily,
enjoying the spread before her.
After leaving Sophia's place,
John went straight to his office.
However, before he'd even
stepped foot into the lobby, he
caught sight of the person who
was standing at the
reception in the lobby upon his
arrival—President McCaw from
Infinity Group. Ah, he has
the temerity to come looking
for me! Without faltering or**

glancing at the reception, he walked straight in and headed to the elevator.

Meanwhile, President McCaw was still harassing the staff at the reception, insisting on meeting John despite repeated explanations from the receptionist that he couldn't go up to the offices since he hadn't made an appointment in addition to the fact that John wasn't in the office. Midway through his entreaties, he glanced back, only to spot John. He swiftly rushed over to John.

"President Constance! President Constance, you're finally back.

President Constance?"

Without sparing him a single glance, John walked over to the elevator before pressing the button and entering the elevator.

The Returning Ex Chapter 135
John didn't even bother to put on a façade, his face devoid of expression. Panic swamped

President McCaw at his indifference. Extending a leg, he stuck it between the elevator doors.

The elevator doors were gradually closing, but they then slowly opened upon sensing the obstruction.

He looked at John with a smile on his face.

“President Constance, let’s talk nicely, okay? I think there’s a misunderstanding between us, so I came all the way here to explain the matter.

”

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“A misunderstanding?” John sneered,

“Didn’t you contact the media for an exclusive exposé?”

President McCaw froze. Never would I have thought that John Constance could have found out about this so quickly. I’ve just contacted the media

yesterday and hadn't even said anything, merely the fact that I've got an exclusive exposé about him.

I was just thinking about using the media to stir up a scandal if I truly couldn't reach an agreement with him, but the news has actually gotten to him in the blink of an eye. But that makes sense. After all, the media will side with the more influential person.

His expression turned embarrassed.

"President Constance, this matter can't be explained in just a sentence or two, so let's find a place and talk at length. What do you think?"

Mortification flooded him as everyone coming and going stared at them.

"I'm not interested.

" After saying that, John took two steps toward the elevator doors and butted his leg out with a light kick. Then, he closed the elevator doors again. As the

elevator

ascended, his expression was terrifyingly grim, his entire aura going frosty.

Upon exiting the elevator, he went to his office. The first thing he did after sitting down was

to summon Zack in via the intercom. Zack eagerly jogged over.

“How was it? What happened?

Did something happen when you went back to meet Sophia at noon...

” Before he’d finished speaking, he swallowed the rest of his words at the sight of John’s forbidding expression.

He then blinked.

“Er... boss, what do you need me to do?”

John crossed his hands and rested them on the desk.

“President McCaw is downstairs.

It doesn’t seem as though he’ll be leaving immediately, so call the security and have him

kicked out.

”

“President McCaw from Infinity Group?” Zack’s eyes bugged.

“He has the temerity to come here? Didn’t he already contact the media?” John said nothing.

Zack rubbed his hands.

“Sure, sure, I’ll go and call the security at once to kick this person out. What a piece of trash!” He then pivoted and left.

Only then did John lean back against his chair and heaved a sigh of relief. I’ve never been a person who allows others to control me. In my entire life, yesterday was the only time I’ve

ever been blackmailed, and that person was Sophia Gwendolyn. Nonetheless, I can’t do anything about that since I was at fault in the matter, nor can I blame her. However, others certainly aren’t allowed to do that. No one else can do so. Zack was efficient, and he came back in no time to say that everything had been settled.

John was then busy throughout the entire afternoon.

Midway, William came and asked whether he was planning on going back home at night, upon which John remembered Mrs. Constance's words during the phone call.

"I might need to make a trip back. It happens that I've still got some things at home, so I'll take them when I leave.

"

William nodded.

"Don't worry about your mother. She's just throwing a tantrum and will be fine after a few days.

"

John looked up at him.

"Dad, you're really good to my mother.

"

William was startled for a moment before he smiled. He was usually a gentle person, so his smiles were also a fair occurrence. At this moment, his

expression was merely a tad more bashful.

“Your mother is a great person. She’s just a little childish. Well, all humans have their shortcomings, so a couple should tolerate each other.

”

Lowering his gaze, John nodded and said nothing further. When William had left, he pursed his lips and narrowed his eyes.

Tolerate each other? This is actually rather difficult to do. If someone has no feelings for the other person, it’ll only be forbearance instead of tolerance.

My personality is different from his, so I can’t do it.

Actually, Sophia is quite good. Now that I’m thinking about it, she’s indeed pleasant. She doesn’t have any major flaws, and on second thought, she even has quite a number of merits. He spaced out as he recalled Sophia’s various actions these days.

The Returning Ex Chapter 136

John got off work on time in the evening and drove straight back to Constance Residence.

After parking his car, he slowly walked toward the main building, only to spot the figures in the open space in front of it before he'd even reached. Surprisingly, Isabelle hadn't left yet.

Mrs. Constance and Isabelle were sitting on the rattan chairs by the entrance with a small table that was brought over by a servant in front of them.

There were scented tea and fruits on the table.

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Meanwhile, Mrs. Constance laughed as they talked about some unknown subject, her face

glowing. She seemed an entirely different person from the one who was dashing off tears yesterday.

John walked over.

“Mom.

”

Upon seeing him, Mrs. Constance instantly got to her feet.

“You’re back, John! You’re early today. I thought you’d only be back later.

”

Beside her, Isabelle stood up as well. John then inclined his head at her in greeting, while she pressed her lips together and smiled sweetly. Mrs. Constance tugged at John’s hand.

“Come, come, let’s go into the house. You’ve been slaving away all day, so you must be tired. Dinner will be served very soon.

”

After glancing around, John concluded that Old Mrs. Constance wasn’t in the living room.

“Where’s Grandma?”

“Oh, your grandma? The Zimmerman Family is hosting a small gathering today, and they

invited your grandma, so she's probably coming home very late.

" The matriarch of the Zimmerman Family was a bestie of Old Mrs. Constance, so the elderly ladies were very close, and they got together from time to time. John nodded. Mrs. Constance whirled around and beckoned to Isabelle, upon which she promptly hurried up to them. Mrs. Constance then beamed brightly.

"Belle has been keeping me company the entire day.

All of you are busy all day, so it's terribly boring for me to stay home alone every day. I really have no idea how to kill time if Belle doesn't call and visit occasionally.

"

Turning around, John glanced at Isabelle and thanked her. The corners of Isabelle's mouth lifted.

"Mrs. Constance and I get

along well, so I visit her often.

”

After looking at her for a while, John then retracted his gaze.

After a moment’s contemplation, Mrs. Constance blurted,

“Ah, I’ll have the servants serve the food now since it has been ready ages ago. It’s Belle who cooked this meal tonight, so you must try it, John. Come, come!” She dragged him to the dining room.

John was actually somewhat put off by her blatant matchmaking, but on second thought, it was a good idea now. She has always treated Isabelle in such a manner, even before my divorce from Sophia. Thus, it won’t arouse suspicion if this persists. Upon entering the dining room, he took his seat right away.

Subsequently, Mrs. Constance pulled Isabelle over, and they both sat down across from him.

The corners of Isabelle's mouth curved slightly, her expression gentle and tranquil. She had impeccable manners, so she was neither supercilious nor obsequious regardless of the circumstances.

The servants then slowly served the dishes.

"Belle cooked this soup for over two hours to the point that the fish bones inside have all dissolved," Mrs.

Constance said, pointing at the contents of the pot.

"Meanwhile, this is her signature dish, so you must try this later.

And this dish here is really troublesome. She had to soak the ingredients with water before washing them thoroughly.

While it didn't take long to cook, the prepping was truly troublesome.

"

John stared at the dishes on the table, saying nary a word. Thus, Isabelle piped up,

**“Let’s eat.
I’ll scoop some rice for you.
”**

Getting up, she picked up his bowl and scooped some rice for him. His brows furrowed slightly before easing.

At this, Mrs. Constance who’d been taking note of his expression finally breathed easier

upon seeing that he wasn’t particularly resistant.

During dinner, no one spoke.

The Bailey Family was very strict in forbidding conversation during a meal, and this was similar to the Constance Family.

Hence, the atmosphere at the dinner table was very quiet, just like the countless times before, everyone focusing on eating without bothering each other.

John hadn’t much appetite, so he placed his cutlery down after forcing himself to finish the rice.

“Please excuse me. I’m going upstairs to pack up the rest of my things before leaving.

”

Mrs. Constance looked at him.
“You’re done eating so quickly?
Belle spent a lot of time
cooking these dishes, yet you
just ate so little?”

Isabelle hurriedly interjected,
“It’s fine. Perhaps they’re not to
his liking. I still know plenty of
other dishes, so I can cook them
for you next time.

” John merely
glanced at her before he
pivoted and walked out of the
dining room.

The Returning Ex Chapter 137

As soon as John returned to his
room, he went to his closet and
took out the documents in
the drawer—a divorce
agreement and a divorce
certificate. He only
remembered this matter
today.

Mom has always been an
impulsive person, so it’ll be
troublesome if she fails to
control
herself and rummages these
documents out to show Isabelle
considering their close

relationship.

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After packing his things, he sat on the bed for a while before going to Sophia's previous room. The room was still a mess, making it obvious that no one had come in to clean. Mom probably made this room off-limits, so nobody dared to enter.

Walking over, he straightened the bed sheet before tossing the wine bottles, wine glasses, and even the unfinished food into the trash can. Many of Sophia's things were still here, so

he packed them up as well.

When he went downstairs again, Mrs. Constance and Isabelle had also finished eating. The two of them were sitting in the living room with the television switched on, their faces wreathed in smiles as they watched some program or other.

Occasionally, Mrs. Constance pointed at the television and

said something to Isabelle,
upon
which the latter nodded in
agreement. They indeed get
along very well. He stood on the
stairs and observed them for a
while before descending.

Mrs. Constance was taken
aback when she saw him
coming down with a suitcase.

That
suitcase is Sophia Gwendolyn's!
Only when John had reached
the landing did he say,
"I'll be
leaving since Sophia is still
waiting for me at home."
"

Mrs. Constance pursed her lips,
all the exuberance gone from
her face.

"Why don't you drive
Belle home as well? It's very
late now."
"

Turning his head, John glanced
at Isabelle.

"Have the
housekeeper arrange for
someone to
drive her back. I'm in a hurry.

”

Isabelle hurriedly interjected,
“It’s fine, it’s fine. I’ll call the
driver to come and drive me
back
later.

”

John didn’t care one way or
another, so he merely dipped
his head at her in farewell
before
walking out while wheeling the
suitcase. When he reached the
parking lot, Young Master
Owen’s car happened to drive
in, and the person driving was
Dylan.

Just after John had placed the
suitcase into the trunk, Dylan
swung open the car door and
alighted. Meanwhile, Young
Master William probably
imbibed since he got out of the
car

very slowly, followed by Young
Lady Jennifer.

“Uncle Owen,
Aunt Jennifer,
” John greeted.

Young Lady Jennifer exclaimed,
“You’re going out at this hour?”

It was as though she didn't know that John and Sophia had moved out.

Without hiding anything, John replied,

"Yeah. I'm recently living outside with Sophia, so I came back to retrieve some things.

" Young Lady Jennifer murmured an acknowledgment and nodded. Dylan, on the other hand, glanced at John but said nothing.

After getting into the car, John started the car and drove away.

From the rear-view mirror, he could see Young Master Owen and Young Lady Jennifer walking toward the house.

Dylan, however, remained rooted to the spot, staring at his car. His face devoid of expression, John floored the gas pedal and sped away.

Meanwhile, Sophia was lying on the sofa, watching television.

She wasn't bothered although John wasn't back. After all, it was no different from the past; he never came home on time,

nor did he bother to call or text. In the beginning, she fretted over this, but later, her warm heart slowly cooled. Not only did she fail to warm him up, but her heart was even turned frozen by his iciness.

This change in perspective was actually a good thing, for she hated obstinate people the most, those who knew full well that something would never yield results yet remained clinging tight and refusing to let go. Such people were just making life difficult for themselves, so there was no one else to blame.

She channel-surfed, but none caught her interest, and she wasn't hungry now since she'd eaten too much during lunch. She then proceeded to shift around on the sofa. Finding it just too boring in the end, she went over to the yoga mat and lay down in a meditative posture. Perhaps that was more comfortable, for she almost dozed off, only to startle awake when the lock clicked upon

John's arrival home after he'd unlocked the door with his fingerprint. Nevertheless, she remained lying there motionless.

John walked in with her luggage. Then, he glanced at Sophia who was lying a near distance away. She was lying there in her yoga clothes while soothing music played in the living room. She had an hourglass figure, and that was outlined all the more clearer in yoga clothes. John had thought that he knew her body like the back of his hand, but he'd never seen her like this. Unbidden, his throat tightened.

**The Returning Ex Chapter 138
Sophia, however, didn't notice the change in John. She continued minding her own business. Meanwhile, John suppressed the desire within him and pivoted, carrying Sophia's luggage upstairs.**

As he opened her room door, his eyes darted around the interior. He'd stayed in this

room

twice, and while that didn't say much, he still remembered how the room used to be.

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Now, however, everything had changed. One could tell from a single glance that it was a young maiden's room since there was a gigantic stuffed toy on the bed, taking up half the space, and the bedsheets had been changed to pink ones. Even the floor mat by the bed was different.

John stared for a long time before he placed the luggage in the room and left. When he returned downstairs, Sophia had already gotten up and was sitting cross-legged on the yoga mat with her cell phone in hand, looking at something or other. As he descended the stairs, he asked, "Have you eaten?"

Sophia didn't look at him, but while her eyes remained fixed on her cell phone, she

answered,
“I’m not hungry.”

That means she hasn’t eaten.
When John had gotten downstairs, he went to the kitchen and took a quick look around.

There’s nothing much here.
Then, he went over to the refrigerator and peered in.

There’s plenty of raw ingredients in there, but regretfully, I don’t know how to cook a single thing.

After scrolling her cell phone for a while, Sophia stood up.

“Have you eaten?”

John murmured in affirmation and closed the refrigerator door.

“I went back to Constance Residence, so I ate there.”

Nodding, Sophia then headed upstairs.

“I’m going to bed.”

John frowned slightly but said nothing in the end.

Upon entering her room, Sophia locked the door after a moment's contemplation. Then, she

opened her suitcase and took out everything in there, only to see the divorce certificate and divorce agreement between her and John at the bottom.

Surprisingly, he even brought these here. She stared at them for a moment before taking them out. He looks stern in the photo on the divorce certificate, which is very much like the photo on the marriage certificate, his expression indiscernible.

After staring at it for some time, she guffawed before leaving the room with both the divorce certificate and divorce agreement.

John was still downstairs, so Sophia went to his room and placed the documents on the bedside table. Returning to her room, she then took a shower.

Subsequently, she applied a facial mask and played some music on her cell phone while

sitting before the window,
gazing out.

Such days of having no husband are truly a delight. I no longer need to worry whether he hurt his stomach imbibing while entertaining clients, nor do I need to bother about cooking supper when he comes home late, much less concern myself with thoughts of whether there are ladies around when he's entertaining clients and lose sleep over the possibility of him losing control and straying. All this has nothing to do with me anymore!

After a while, Sophia then went to bed. Perhaps she'd truly gotten over it, for she didn't have any dreams that night, sleeping soundly through the night.

The next day, she was awoken by hunger pangs. She hadn't eaten anything last night, so she woke up starving early in the morning. Sitting on the bed, she sighed. Can't this stomach of mine wait for me to have my fill of sleep before making noise?

She got out of bed and washed up for a bit before going downstairs.

It seems that John isn't up yet. Sophia then got busy in the kitchen. She initially wanted to just cook some noodles for herself, but as she mulled it over while staring at the water in the pot, she made enough for two. There's no need to be so petty and appear so calculative.

Isn't it good to be gracious?

When she was done cooking, John came downstairs. He was used to having Western-style breakfasts, so he originally didn't plan to eat at home.

However, when he reached the landing, Sophia spoke without even sparing him a glance,

"Get your bowl yourself.

" Only then did he notice another bowl on the kitchen counter that had been prepared for him.

After staring at it for a bit, he carried it to the dining room.

Her cooking is rather good.

Although it's only noodles, one can tell from the aroma itself that the taste must be great. There were egg and shredded meat as well as chives for garnishing. John then saw that Sophia had even cooked a side dish.

Taking a seat across Sophia, he then tried a bite of noodles. It tastes just right. While it isn't gourmet, it tastes pretty good as I eat. The atmosphere, however, was a touch too silent.

After pondering for a moment, John remarked,
"I didn't know you can cook."
"

Sophia chuckled.
"Did you think everyone was born with a silver spoon in their mouths? I know far more than you can ever imagine."
"

As John looked up at her, he recalled that Old Mr. Constance once said that Sophia had always been leading a hard life

all her days when he was still alive. Poverty speeds up maturity, so she must have quite the skill set. Thus, he then asked,

“What else do you know?”

Sophia stopped eating. She stared at him before snickering out of the blue.

“Needless to say, I know things Isabelle Bailey doesn’t know, and they’re naturally things that are better kept under wraps.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 139
John froze, at a loss as to how Isabelle came into the conversation. His brows creased for a moment before easing. Meanwhile, Sophia glanced at him with mirth etched on her face before she lowered her head and resumed eating. After breakfast, John went to work, while Sophia leaned back against the sofa and watched

television. It was early in the morning, so there wasn't any interesting program. She held the

remote in her hand, channel-surfing impatiently.

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When John had reached the door, he looked back over his shoulder at Sophia who was dressed casually, leaning back against the sofa with her legs crossed. She's truly laid-back. I

won't even consider befriending such a lady, let alone marrying her. He stared at her for a

while before leaving and closing the door behind him.

He then drove to the office. As soon as he stepped out of the elevator, he saw Zack waiting right at the doors of the elevator, and he seemed to be waiting for him in particular.

When

Zack caught sight of him, he hurried over and exclaimed, "Boss, there's something I need to

tell you.

”

John was a touch surprised since he'd never seen Zack this anxious. He snorted.

“Did someone give you a hard time?”

Zack shook his head.

“No, no, let's talk in your office.

” He was fairly bursting at the seams, and as soon as they'd entered John's office, he promptly closed the door. Then, he stared at John anxiously.

“The Bailey Family called early in the morning.

”

John's brows knitted together.

“The Bailey Family?”

Zack nodded.

“Yes, the Bailey Family, Miss Isabelle Bailey's family, called Young Master William. It sounds as though they're interested in a collaboration of sorts.

”

John was momentarily taken
aback.

“Who called?”

Letting out a sigh, Zack
answered,

“From Young Master
William’s tone, it sounded as
though
it was Elder Mr. Bailey who
called.

”

John said nothing, but his
expression was rather solemn.
Even when the Bailey and
Constance Families were
planning to be related by
marriage back then, the subject
of
collaborating never came up.
In fact, Mrs. Constance had
once brought this up to William
in private, saying that the two
companies should have
business dealings together since
they were planning to be
related
by marriage. Back then, William
replied that the Baileys never
mentioned this.
Thus, it seemed that Elder Mr.

Bailey wasn't in a hurry to associate with the Constance Family in business. He was an extremely cautious person, so he might have worried that the in-law relationship could possibly impede the collaboration.

Now, however, they're suddenly bringing up the subject of collaborating. Could it be that they're convinced that Sophia and I aren't divorced, thus gave up hope on my relationship with Isabelle and planned to become regular business partners instead? After a while, John asked Zack, "What did Young Master William say? Did he give an immediate reply?" Zack shook his head.

"No, but it seems that someone from the Bailey Family will be coming later to take a look at the specific situation here.

"

John nodded.

**“Alright, got it.
You can go and get busy.
”**

However, Zack was still a tad worried.

“If we collaborate with the Bailey Family, will you then always be with Isabelle Bailey?”

John was momentarily taken aback.

“What nonsense are you spouting?”

Concern was written all over Zack’s face.

**“My beloved boss, you must remember that this is regular collaboration, so you can’t allow yourself to be tempted.
”**

John’s expression turned frigid.

**“Leave.
”**

Zack hurriedly left, but he remained standing outside John’s office door. Still a touch worried, he swiftly took out his cell phone and texted Sophia. Sophia hadn’t been replying to him all this while, but he thought that she’d at least fret

after he'd sent this message,
but
he was wrong. It was as though
the message got lost in the vast
ocean, for there was no
response thereafter. He
clutched at his hair before
returning to his own office.
Sure enough, Elder Mr. Bailey
and Old Mr. Bailey visited the
Constance Family's company
later in the morning. The two
companies were on a similar
scale, but one dealt in
construction materials while
the other in furniture
manufacturing. Even with a
collaboration,
neither was helping or boosting
the other since both were
evenly matched.

John wasn't part of the team
who greeted the Bailey Family.
There were still William and his
other uncles in the company, so
he didn't need to do it.

Restless, Zack went to John's
office again. At this time, John
was looking at the data on his
computer with his brows
furrowed. The moment he saw

Zack entering, he knew the reason for his visit.

“Stop letting your imagination run wild and concentrate on work.”

Zack slowly walked over to John’s office desk and lowered his voice.

“Boss, I just want to ask you a question. Can you please answer me patiently?” John looked up at him without saying a single word. Pursing his lips, Zack asked, “Since you’re single now, have you ever considered taking your relationship with Miss Bailey further?”

The Returning Ex Chapter 140

Upon hearing that question, John was noticeably startled. His brows creased deeply, and his expression turned severe.

Surprisingly, Zack wasn’t afraid this time. He remained staring at

John.

“Boss, do you have feelings for Miss Bailey?”

John’s expression grew frosty.

“Leave.

” When he noticed that Zack didn’t move, he warned,

“Don’t make me repeat myself.

”

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Zack pursed his lips. He knew that he’d somewhat pissed John off, but still, he muttered,

“It’s

a yes or no question. What’s there to be chagrined about?”

After saying this, he pivoted and left.

When he’d left and closed the door behind him, John shoved the mouse away irritably. Do I have feelings for Isabelle Bailey? I’ve actually never considered this question. As for whether I’ve ever considered taking my relationship with her further... I did. Since she got along well with Mom, I’d indeed

wondered whether I should just marry her. If I marry her, the house will be harmonious and peaceful in the future.

Meanwhile, I can concentrate on my career outside.

He leaned back against his chair.

But... But... He smacked his lips.

Now that he was contemplating this problem, he was feeling inexplicably perturbed yet couldn't figure out

the reason. He could even picture the look on Sophia's face if he truly got together with

Isabelle. Disdain? Contempt? Or perhaps she'd merely smile faintly, looking as though she'd expected it to happen. He felt discomfited at such a thought, unsettled from head to toe and inside out.

Meanwhile, Elder Mr. Bailey and Old Mr. Bailey stayed in the meeting room for about an hour before leaving. John wasn't quite interested in

inquiring about the discussion since they couldn't have possibly just shot the breeze with such an imposing entourage. If it involved work, then William and the others could handle it. As John worked, it was then lunch break. After mulling it over, he went straight back to Sophia's place.

At this time, Sophia was bustling around the yard, getting her hands dirty. She bought two flower racks that now stood proudly in the yard and was now placing flower pots on them.

She wore an apron and had her hair in a bun, looking very much like a botanist.

Today, she bought a lot of things. For some inexplicable reason, she always felt distressed whenever she spent money in the past, but now, spending made her incredibly exuberant. She bought many plants whose names she didn't even know,

having bought them as long as they appealed to her. The proprietor probably hadn't seen such a big spender like her in a long time, for he even gave her a few pots for free. Over the moon, she was particularly enthusiastic as she fluttered around the yard that she didn't even notice when John's car came to a stop in front of the gate.

John observed her for a while from the gate before walking in. "You bought a lot of stuff."
"

Glancing over her shoulder, Sophia spotted him. She even flashed him a smile, in high spirits.

"What do you think?
Aren't they lovely?"

John walked over and peered at the plants, some of which were rare breeds. Nodding, he noted,
"It isn't that easy to keep these plants alive."
"

Sophia was unfazed.
"If they

wither, I'll just throw them away and buy new ones.

Anyway,

I've got money now.

”

Stilling, John stared at her with intrigue.

“You weren't such a person in the past.

” She'd never

been this casual in anything back then. In the past, while she was servile and obsequious to the point that she made others ill at ease, she'd always been exceedingly serious in everything. I've never seen her so perfunctory.

Sophia merely snorted at that.

After watering all the plants, she then asked,

“You haven't

eaten, have you?” John

murmured in assent, upon

which Sophia said,

“I've already

cooked,

so go and take the dishes to the dining room.

”

She's definitely in a good mood,

else she wouldn't be so amicable with me. Without a single protest, John went into the house. The dishes were indeed ready in the kitchen, so John went over and took them to the dining room. Sophia's cooking is indeed great, for I'm salivating at just the smell of these dishes.

When he'd served all the dishes and prepared the tableware, Sophia was done in the yard as well. Her mood was truly good today, for she even hummed while walking into the dining room after taking off her apron and washing her hands.

John was already seated, and he stared at Sophia intently. Her face is slightly flushed from the sun outside, and her hair is also a tad messy, but she seems to look even more alluring now.

The Returning Ex Chapter 141
While eating, John asked Sophia why she suddenly bought those plants. Seemingly a touch surprised that he'd voluntarily

talk at the dining table, she froze for a moment. After chortling for a while, she replied,
“It was just a sudden interest. Perhaps it’s because I’m now single, so I hope to have a more fulfilling life.”

John stared at her for some time before nodding.

“It’s good that you have such optimistic thinking.

” He’d rest easier if she had a good life since that was tantamount to having fulfilled his promise to Old Mr. Constance.

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John usually didn’t eat much for lunch, but for some reason, his appetite was just astounding today. He ate two bowls of rice and even drank a huge bowl of lotus root soup. Sophia, on the other hand, ate relatively less since she was no longer hungry after bustling

around for such a long time. John didn't merely dust his hands off after eating. When they both had finished eating, he took the tableware into the kitchen and placed them into the dishwasher. Although the machine helped, it could still be grudgingly considered as him doing the work.

There were a few pots of flowers in the living room, so Sophia arranged them neatly. Then, she stood in the center of the living room and looked around, seemingly very much satisfied with the current décor.

Likewise, John glanced around as well. This place is entirely different now. He inhaled deeply.

"I'm going back to the office. If there's anything...

" He paused for a moment before continuing,

" ... give Zack a call.
"

Sophia murmured an acquiescence.

“Alright, got it.

”

In the afternoon, Sophia didn't remain idle but went over to that dessert shop, mainly to look at the layout of the shop and contemplate how to renovate it in the future to make it

look better. The proprietor was a lady named Robin Jaeger, and she was ecstatic to see

Sophia, telling her all about the shops nearby that were doing well as though she'd found a way out. Sophia stayed in the dessert shop for the entire afternoon, only hailing a taxi home

when she saw that it was rather late.

She'd already signed up for the first course at the driving school.

It was fortunate that she had an acquaintance there, for everything was done without her having to worry about anything. When she arrived home, she took a look at the

contents of the first course, but after so many years since she'd last studied, drowsiness plagued her as she glanced through

the subject matter. Forcing herself to pay attention, she then did a rough read-through.

When she next glanced at the time, she went downstairs to cook.

She liked Oriental food with rice and dishes, having never grown accustomed to eating steak, salad, and the like.

Putting on an apron, she hummed and got busy in the kitchen.

When John came back, Sophia was just about to plate the dish.

She stood in the kitchen with a plate in her hand, scooping the food into the plate little by little, her movements leisurely and unhurried. John stood at the entrance and stared.

In the past, this was never the Sophia I saw every time I came home. Perhaps she was truly unhappy back then. While she'd

tried her best to conceal that fact, John could still read it from her expression. She used to look sullen every day, making me feel very much disturbed. He waited until she was done plating the dish before walking over.

“Go and wash your hands. I’ll take the dishes out.

”

Sophia startled.

“When did you come back? Why didn’t I hear anything?”

“I just came back,

” John

murmured.

Staring at his back, Sophia blurted after a moment’s deliberation,

“I heard that the Constance Family is going to collaborate with Bailey Corporation?”

I don’t even need to guess to know that it was Zack who told her. John recalled the two questions Zack asked him today.

With his back to Sophia, he sighed.

“Yeah, that’s the plan.”

Sophia arched an eyebrow. However, she didn’t make any sarcastic remarks, merely sniggering softly.

During dinner, John didn’t speak again, much less Sophia. Sophia’s cell phone that was beside her vibrated with a buzz, signaling a message, and she replied occasionally with a faint smile playing on her lips. John looked up at her before glancing at her cell phone, only to vaguely glimpse a chat window without a clear view of the specific conversation. After taking another look, he then retracted his gaze.

At this exact moment, his cell phone vibrated as well. Fishing it out, he saw that it was a message from Isabelle. Actually, he could guess what it was about without seeing the contents. Isabelle must be aware that Elder Mr. Bailey came over today. Sure enough,

when
he opened the message,
Isabelle spoke of the two
families' collaboration. After
taking a
look, he then replied,
'I saw
them today.

,

A reply from Isabelle came at
once.

'I hope you won't feel
awkward because of me.

,

The Returning Ex Chapter 142
John stared at Isabelle's
message for a while before
replying,
'Not at all.

,

Subsequently, there
was nothing else from her end.
Sophia knew that John's phone
dinged and was well aware that
he'd received a message. In
fact, she was almost certain
who the sender was, but she
didn't bother looking, not even
glancing out the corner of her
eye.

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She was chatting with the singer back then. The singer said that he'd been going around to a few cities, but he didn't quite like them all, so he was at a loss as to where he should go next. Thus, Sophia naturally went along with the conversation and invited him to this city to have a look. There were several underground bars in the city center with lounge singers, so she felt that this was a viable option for him.

The singer replied with a smiley and a voice message. Without even thinking about it, Sophia played it, upon which the singer's voice drifted out, sounding very much alluring. He didn't say anything outrageous, merely saying that he'd treat her to a meal if he decided to come.

Beaming, Sophia replied, 'If you come, I'll treat you to a meal. Perhaps I'll even let you

sample my cooking.

,

John stared intently at Sophia. She looks sincere. After a moment's contemplation, he retracted his gaze. Sophia didn't chat for long either, all noise subsiding after a short while. After John was done eating, he didn't leave immediately but sat there and waited for Sophia. When she placed her cutlery down slowly, he finally asked,

“Was it the singer we met in the hotel?”

Sophia raised her eyes and looked at him.

“Yup.

”

John tried recalling the person's countenance. He's the gentle and elegant type, so he does look quite the pair with Sophia. He nodded.

“Is he coming?”

Sophia said yes, so after turning it over in his mind, he chuckled.

“Do you need me to make myself scarce?”

Bewilderment swamped Sophia,

but after mulling it over for a bit, she could somewhat guess John's meaning. He's trying to give me some space with that singer. She chortled as well.

"We'll see when he arrives. I'll tell you when I need you to do so."
"

The corners of John's mouth lifted.

"Okay.

" After saying that, he stood up and cleared the table. After sharing two meals, they both seemed to have a clear division of labor—Sophia cooked, while John did the dishes. Despite knowing that he was somewhat cheating, Sophia wasn't bothered since she was rather gracious in some things. Sophia went out to look at her flowers again and stood in the yard, noticing that John had driven his car in, parking right beside the plant rack.

Pursing her lips, she thought for a moment. Then, she returned to the house and went

upstairs to the study. I've got to put my back into studying the questions in the first course. She'd taken a look at the materials today, but it felt as though she was reading a mythical book, for she truly didn't quite understand anything. Sitting in the study, she started scratching her head after looking at two questions. These are so much more difficult to understand than the stuff I learned back in school! Meanwhile, John took two calls downstairs—one from Zack who called to inquire about a work matter and the other from Mrs. Constance. Mrs. Constance's voice was slightly sullen, sounding very much anguished as she griped about how she wasn't used to not having him at home. John could only mollify her by saying that he only moved out, but she could still see him because he would go back when he had time.

Mrs. Constance sighed.

**“I
shouldn’t have allowed you to
marry Sophia Gwendolyn back
then. She made a mess of our
family. There wouldn’t be so
many problems if you’d married
Belle back then.**

”

**Pursing his lips, John stared at
the plant rack in the yard.**

**“That’s enough. Just get over it
since there’s no changing reality.
I’ll go back when I’m free.**

”

**Still, Mrs. Constance was
disgruntled.**

**“John, I’m not an
unreasonable person. It’s not
that I
want to pick on your wife, nor
do I want to be at odds with my
daughter-in-law like most
families out there. But the truth
is, Sophia Gwendolyn isn’t
worthy of you. If it were
someone
else who’s well-matched, I
definitely wouldn’t be making
such a fuss.**

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 143

Mrs. Constance had uttered such remarks in the past, so John truly didn't want to listen anymore. He merely murmured an acknowledgment.

**"It's late now, so you should sleep earlier. I've got to go since I still have something to do."
"**

Knowing that he was growing impatient, Mrs. Constance quickly went along with him.

**"Sure, sure, I will. We'll talk next time since you're busy."
"**

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After hanging up the phone, John closed his eyes for a moment. There was a stringent feeling within him which he just couldn't brush off. On his way back to his room, he walked past the study. Sophia was still scratching her head inside, googling the questions that went over her head,

but she just couldn't understand the explanation given by Google at times. The door to the study was opened, and she sat before the computer, groaning softly from time to time. John had instinctively walked over, but he retreated on second thought. Leaning against the door frame, he stared at Sophia who had changed into another set of clothes, sitting cross-legged on the chair as she stared at the computer screen with great resentment. Mrs. Constance's words on the phone earlier flashed across John's mind, and his mind automatically supplied him with Isabelle's image. His gaze darkened. After a few seconds, he walked in. "What are you doing?" Startled, Sophia's head snapped back before her expression fell. "This stuff is exceedingly difficult to understand."

Going over, John saw that the computer screen was filled with a bunch of driving test questions. These questions weren't all that difficult, but perhaps Sophia had trouble understanding out of the blue since she'd never come across them. John pulled a chair over and sat down beside her.

"Which one don't you understand? I'll explain it to you."
"

Without an ounce of hesitation, Sophia pointed at a question on the screen at once.

"I don't understand this one."

John was patient and explained things to her one by one. His explanation is much simpler than Google's. Sophia nodded slowly.

"Don't go first. Wait a moment, for I'm bound to have other questions."

John wasn't in a hurry to leave, so he sat there and explained as Sophia

went. Sophia felt much more relaxed now, and she learned much faster.

While she was looking at the computer, John's gaze gently alighted on her collarbone since her collar was rather loose, baring her collarbone. There are still faint traces on it. He actually had quite a high alcohol tolerance, so the single glass of red wine that night truly couldn't have affected him in any way. However, he himself couldn't say for sure what possessed him that night, but he was just worked up and wanted to ravage her.

The next day, when he was awakened by Mrs. Constance's knock on the door, he even glanced at her when he got out of bed, noticing that her bare body was littered with black and blue bruises as though she'd been beaten up, looking rather pitiful indeed. For a brief moment, he was upset,

knowing that he'd been far too rough with her, but he also knew that it'd still end similarly even if he was given the chance for a do-over.

As he stared at the marks on her body now, he could still remember how frenzied he'd been that night. He hurriedly averted his gaze, feeling inexplicably restless once more even as uneasiness flooded him.

Sophia, however, wasn't at all aware of all this, her sole concern on the questions in the driving test. John was rather patient tonight, and he only stood up when Sophia yawned, making it clear that it was past her bedtime.

"Take it easy. There's no need to rush since all this isn't all that difficult to understand.

"

Sophia nodded.

"Thank you for tonight.

"

John didn't say anything. After stretching and yawning, Sophia left the study. John stood in the corridor and watched as she entered her room before going back to his own room. The room wasn't all that big, nor was there much in there, but he wasn't bothered about such things now.

After washing up, he slipped into bed. Before he'd even closed his eyes, a phone call came

in from William. William rarely called him, perhaps because their communication didn't necessarily have to be via language since they were both men. Thus, he felt that William had

to be calling regarding an important matter.

Sure enough, when the call was connected, William said that the collaboration with the Baileys was confirmed. In the future, the Constance Family would be supplying the Bailey Family with raw materials. The Bailey Family had a huge

business, so this collaboration was a good thing for the Constance Family. However, William didn't sound very much happy, so John merely murmured an acknowledgment to indicate that he'd gotten the message. Sighing, William then reminded, "You might be coming into contact with the Baileys often in the future in work matters, so watch yourself."
"

John understood his meaning. He chuckled.
"Okay, I got it."
"

After hanging up with William, he then closed his eyes, only to have the marks on Sophia's collarbone flashing across his mind once more. Still, there was a tightness in his chest that just had him feeling incredibly restless.

The Returning Ex Chapter 144
The custom-made evening gown John ordered for Sophia was ready in a few days, so he

took her back to the house with a courtyard in the alley for a fitting. The designer was waiting for them, and he smiled as soon as he caught sight of Sophia.

“I can already imagine how you’ll look in the evening gown.”

The evening gown was hung in a room inside, so the designer led Sophia in for a look. At first glance, Sophia was stunned. It was entirely different from the evening gown in the picture she showed the designer.

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This was far more resplendent with a champagne-colored train, a deep V-neck, and a bare back. Furthermore, the waist was cinched to flaunt the wearer’s figure.

She looked at it for a long time yet didn’t make any move to try it on. This feels exactly the same as when I first laid eyes on my wedding gown back then.

**Mrs. Constance kept harping on how exorbitant the wedding dress was, making me feel unworthy of that luxurious dress, but from the look of things now, it's just a matter of money. I now have money, too. The designer flashed her a smile. "I'll step out for a moment, so you try it on."
"**

Only when the room door clicked shut did Sophia take the gown down and slowly put it on.

The measurements are just nice. There was a pair of champagne silver shoes beside the gown that was probably for her judging from the size. After putting them on, she then gazed at herself in the full-length mirror at the side. Sure enough, I look like an entirely different person.

Meanwhile, John and the designer sat on the chairs outside. The designer was still a tad

puzzled.

“Didn’t you use to hide this wife of yours away? Why the stark difference now? You’re no longer afraid of her being seen in public?”

John chuckled.

“Nah, she was shy previously.

”

The designer turned it over in his mind, vaguely aware that Sophia’s background wasn’t all that good. Back when John married Sophia, the wedding was so grand that Sophia’s background was later dug out and made public.

While many people weren’t optimistic about Sophia marrying above her station at that time, some claimed that it was true love. John, however, had never said a single word about the real situation, so these friends of his could only hazard their guesses.

Thus, Sophia might not have been shy previously, merely having not seen a lot of the

world.

After about a year now, she's finally ready, so it's time for her to show her face and meet the public. After a moment's contemplation, the designer commented,

"From her looks alone, this beautiful wife of yours is presentable.

"

Remembering Sophia's countenance, John murmured his assent.

"Her looks are naturally fine.

" He was actually surprised that such a stunning bloom could come from backwater circumstances.

After thinking for a while, the designer blurted,

"Education and knowledge can be slowly nurtured in the future. I think she's rather smart with a spark of intelligence in her eyes, so she isn't a bumbling fool. You can actually...

”

Before he'd finished speaking, Sophia pushed open the door and stepped out. She seemed a touch embarrassed, clutching the gown on both sides even as her expression betrayed her discomfort.

The designer's words trailed off, and John's expression froze. Pursing her lips, Sophia looked at the two of them.

“Does it not suit me?” Her voice was a mere whisper.

Getting to his feet, the designer laughed at once.

“I just knew that such a style suits you. Come, come, let your husband take a look.

” He glanced over his shoulder at John.

“You're lucky in having staked your bets on a true gem!”

After John got up, he walked over to Sophia. Sophia was truly feeling embarrassed. This feels the same as when I spotted him while wearing my

wedding dress back then. John stared at her gown intently before nodding.

“It’s quite good.”

His tone was nonchalant, but Sophia breathed easier. On second thought, this makes sense.

He’s been in the business world for so many years, so he must have seen all kinds of women. A woman like me doesn’t even register with him. The designer then turned around and called the man in monk robes over, saying that he wanted to ask him the kind of hairdo and makeup that suited her.

Sophia was taken aback. The man in monk robes is responsible for the hairdo and makeup?

This is truly unexpected. The man in monk robes was in the backyard, but he came over upon hearing his name being called. There was a dressing table at the side, so he

led Sophia there, his expression stern despite the monk robes he was wearing. He stared at her reflection in the mirror for half a day before nodding.

“I know what will suit you.

”

Contrary to his monk-like dressing, his skills were truly impressive. Sophia, however, could only sense the clinking of the prayer beads hanging before his chest as he moved about, numb to everything else.

After an indeterminate time, the man in monk robes put down everything in his hands.

“I’m

done. Please stand so that we can all take a look.

” He helped

Sophia up, while John and the designer walked over. Without needing them to point it out, Sophia herself could sense that she seemed a different person now.

The Returning Ex Chapter 145

From the beginning to the end, John didn’t show much astonishment or surprise at

Sophia's appearance, so despite the two people praising her to the skies at the side, she merely felt that it was passable. I probably won't stand out at a party filled with stunning beauties.

After scrutinizing herself from head to toe and finding no flaws, Sophia then changed back into her clothes, leaving the makeup to be removed at home later. I wonder how much this evening gown costs. Ah, no matter. It's not my money anyway.

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When she'd packed the shoes as well, John took them over to the car. Meanwhile, Sophia got into the car after bidding the two people farewell.

**"I'm starving."
"**

**While putting on his seatbelt, John suggested,
"Let's dine out.**

” It’s so late now. If we’re to go home and cook now, it might be a while yet before we get to eat.

Sophia was actually feeling lazy, so she nodded.

“Sure.

”

The car drove toward the city center. At this time, the nightlife had just begun, so traffic was rather heavy, forcing John to drive relatively slower.

“What do you want to eat?”

Leaning against the window, Sophia gazed out.

“I’m not picky.

Let’s just eat whatever you want to eat.

” He’s a picky eater, after all.

Upon hearing this, John sped up slightly and headed toward a restaurant right ahead. There were quite a number of cars in front of the restaurant now, but the valet at the entrance instantly jogged over as soon as

he saw John since he was a regular patron here. John alighted with Sophia, upon which the valet smiled brightly. “Mr. Constance, this must be Mrs. Constance. Good evening.”

John handed him the car key.

“Good evening.

” The valet then

drove the car away, while John steered Sophia into the restaurant. He had his regular private room, so the server led the

way along a long corridor that was lined with private rooms on both sides.

They’d only taken a few steps when the door of a private room at the side swung open. It was a server coming out with tea, leaving the door wide open. With a casual glance, Sophia spotted the people in the room, and naturally, the people inside likewise caught sight of her and John.

Sophia smacked her lips. Damn it, it’s just a small world.

Isabelle was sitting in the room,

and
beside her was Elder Mr. Bailey.
These were the two persons
she'd seen before, so the
others in there today had to be
of the Bailey Family as well. In
the blink of an eye, John had
also glimpsed the people in the
room. He hesitated slightly, and
Sophia could sense that he
was reluctant to stop.

The server then wanted to close
the door behind him after
exiting, but Isabelle blurted,
“Wait!” Nonetheless, one
couldn't be certain whether she
was directing this to the server
or
John outside.

The server stopped short and
opened the door.

“Yes? Is there
anything else?”

Isabelle got up and went over in
a few steps. Meanwhile, John
had already taken several
strides forward while the server
was about to close the door.

Coming over, Isabelle stood by
the door.

“Mr. Constance.

”

Standing beside John, Sophia surreptitiously reached out and took his arm. Halting, John turned and looked at Isabelle.

“Miss Bailey, what a coincidence!”

Upon seeing this, the server retreated. There was, however, another server who’d been leading John to his private room, and that person was standing beside Sophia. Sophia arched an eyebrow.

“Is anything the matter?”

Isabelle was momentarily taken aback before she smiled.

“No, I just found it quite the coincidence.

”

Her face devoid of expression, Sophia turned and said to the server,

“Please lead the way.

”

Perhaps it was because she had on exquisite makeup today, for she felt incredibly confident now, unafraid of anyone.

After Sophia and John entered their private room, John ordered. There were no changes to be discerned from his expression, and Sophia didn't mention Isabelle either.

The server then left after they'd ordered, and John fished out a pack of cigarettes from his pocket after a moment's deliberation. He took a cigarette and lit it before taking a puff.

Pursing her lips, Sophia grumbled inwardly, Back when we'd just gotten divorced, he still asked me whether I minded for courtesy's sake, but now, he doesn't even bother asking.

This rat b*stard had truly changed a lot, huh?

The Returning Ex Chapter 146

The speed of service here was very quick, for it felt as though only moments had passed before the server started serving the dishes. John ordered a lot of dishes, taking up half the

table despite it being just the two of them.

Sophia had long since waited with her cutlery ready, so she took the first bite. Then, she mumbled,

“Why did you order so much food? Are you in a bad mood?”

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John scoffed.

“I thought this is your preference.”

Sophia was taken aback before she remembered that she ordered a feast the day she got divorced from him in a deliberate attempt to vent.

Actually, she only wanted to upset him,

but that was, in fact, the happiest day for a person who didn't love his spouse. Thus, nothing

she did worked in ruining his mood. She said nothing, merely ate with her head lowered.

Just after John had finished smoking his cigarette, the door

of the private room was opened.

However, it wasn't just Isabelle who came in, for she was accompanied by another man.

Raising her eyes, Sophia stole a glance. This man isn't Elder Mr. Bailey, so he must be Old Mr. Bailey.

John stood up.

"Old Mr. Bailey.

"

Old Mr. Bailey's expression was rather dour, and he was wearing a long face. Truthfully speaking, Sophia could understand. After all, it was said that he blew his gasket when John went over personally to break off the engagement.

The humiliation at having the engagement called off was one thing, but the other thing was probably the fact that the socialite, Young Lady Isabelle Bailey, actually lost to someone of her background. Thus, it was indeed degrading to Old Mr. Bailey.

Sophia, however, didn't stand up. She merely continued eating while sitting down. I don't know these people, so why should I be so pretentious? Isabelle stood beside Old Mr. Bailey with a faint smile on her face. Sophia thought, She must have practiced smiling in front of a mirror to achieve such a perfect smile, neither overdone nor understated.

Isabelle then said, "I came over to greet you since I saw you. There'll be inevitable contact between us considering the collaboration between our families, so I hope that you'll take it easy on me in the future, Mr. Constance.

" Inevitable contact? Sophia scoffed. Is she purposely directing that to me? John merely smiled without responding.

A few seconds later, Old Mr. Bailey shifted his gaze to Sophia, disdain written all over his

face. Hah, rich people are just pompous, feeling as though they're superior to others and acting as though they're not human just because they have a pretty penny. Sophia didn't even spare the two of them a single glance.

There was a plate of steamed crabs on the table, so she broke off a crab leg and ate with relish, the sounds so loud that they were difficult to ignore. John merely lowered his eyes and glanced at her without saying anything. Old Mr. Bailey, however, frowned.

At this time, Isabelle greeted, "Hello, Miss Gwendolyn."
"

Languidly lifting her head, Sophia looked at Isabelle, chuckling mildly.

"You're wrong.

" Both

Isabelle and Old Mr. Bailey startled, not at all understanding her meaning.

Tossing the crab leg shell onto the table, Sophia

took a tissue and wiped her hands.

“Please address me as Mrs. Constance.

” After saying that, she tilted her head and gazed at John, her expression slightly sultry even as her voice softened.

“Isn’t that right, hubby?” This endearment of ‘hubby’ had goose bumps rising all over her body.

John, on the other hand, had quite the composure and managed to keep his expression placid. He even seemed to have smirked slightly.

“Yup.
”

Sophia then cocked an eyebrow at Isabelle, her expression indiscernible as to whether it was provocative in nature. Isabelle’s expression remained unchanged with a smile on her lips, whereas Old Mr. Bailey at the side pulled an even longer face.

Pulling his gaze away from Sophia, Old Mr. Bailey looked at John once more.

“I’m planning to have you in charge of the collaboration between our companies, and I’ve also mentioned this to your father, to which he agreed.”

John murmured an acknowledgment.

“I’ll just go along with whatever was decided.”

Sophia inwardly rolled her eyes, derision etched on her face. The Baileys seem to be lacking in morals. No matter what the situation was in the past, John Constance is a married man in the eyes of the public now. However, not only are they not being circumspect, but they’re even coming on to him, from Elder Mr. Bailey to Isabelle Bailey. Basically, it’s the entire family. Don’t tell me that they aren’t

aware of the multitude of misunderstandings that might arise from this series of actions? Damn, and they even like to boast of being people of good breeding.

The Returning Ex Chapter 147

Old Mr. Bailey and Isabelle didn't stay for long since Sophia put on an exaggerated show of her meal being interrupted. Old Mr. Bailey merely discussed some details of the upcoming contract with John in brief before leaving. Anyway, Sophia didn't understand a single word of it.

When they'd left, Sophia then turned and looked at John.

"Miss Bailey must be the person in

charge on the Baileys' side for this collaboration between the two companies, no?" Isabelle was working in Bailey Corporation, but Sophia had never bothered to find out her post.

Isabelle Bailey will certainly grab hold of such a golden opportunity this time.

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Sitting down, John murmured
an assent.**

“Probably.

**” He
wasn’t quite certain, but
judging
from William’s call earlier
whereby he warned him to
watch himself, he was likely to
have
rather frequent contact with
Isabelle.**

**Sophia snorted and took
another crab leg.**

**“Ah,
familiarity breeds fondness.
”**

**This remark
was a taunt of sorts, but John
merely sat down and stared at
the room door for a while
before he started eating.
Meanwhile, Old Mr. Bailey and
Isabelle went back to their
room, the former’s expression
still
grim. Glancing at him, Elder Mr.
Bailey asked,
“What happened?”**

Why are you still so angry when you've gone over for a visit?"

Old Mr. Bailey pulled a face.

"I'm now all the more furious after going over there.

"

Beside him, Isabelle aptly patted him on the back.

"Dad, don't get worked up.

"

Elder Mr. Bailey looked at Old Mr. Bailey in exasperation.

"You're still as hot-tempered as ever. Why can't you just get over it?" He peered at Isabelle out of the corner of his eye.

"Besides, Belle has already made it clear that John had no choice but to marry Sophia Gwendolyn back then. Why can't you let it go?" Isabelle nodded in agreement.

Sighing, Old Mr. Bailey took Isabelle's hand and placed it on his own.

"He dashed Belle's hopes of a marriage.

"

The fact that Isabelle had

feelings for John was common knowledge in the Bailey Family.

Her

joy was plain as day back when the Bailey Family and Constance

Family contracted a

marriage between the two of

them. Later, when John

personally came to break off

the

engagement and subsequently

married Sophia, she isolated

herself for a whole week and

lost much weight; everyone in

the Bailey Family knew this.

Mrs. Bailey who was sitting at

the side sighed as well.

However, Isabelle had now

gotten

over it, and she even laughed.

“Ah, let’s just eat. Don’t think

about the past anymore, for it’s

all water under the bridge.

”

While Old Mr. Bailey was irate,

food was still a necessity. Thus,

the Baileys then ate, their

pace slow since there were

many of them here, time ticking

by as they talked and tarried.

During the meal, someone

blurted,
“How rude! John
Constance knows full well that
we’re
here, yet he doesn’t even come
and greet us.

” At this, the
atmosphere turned oppressive.
Isabelle lowered her gaze and
stared at her bowl. Actually,
she’d also thought that John
would come over since they’d
first expressed their sincerity by
going over to his room.

Besides, almost everyone here
was his elder, so he should
come over to greet them no
matter what. Since he isn’t here
yet when there are only two
people over there, and they
should be finishing by now, that
means he isn’t planning to
come over. She pursed her lips
and said nothing.

Elder Mr. Bailey was also a tad
chagrined, and he ordered Old
Mr. Bailey to open the room
door. As this private room was
near the entrance of the
corridor, John would definitely
walk

past when he left since he was further in. Knowing the reason behind it, Old Mr. Bailey went over and opened the room door.

In fact, they didn't even have to wait for long before John and Sophia's voices drifted over, seemingly having just concluded their meal as well.

Giggling, Sophia said,

"It's no

surprise

that we can't finish the food since you ordered so much.

"

The Returning Ex Chapter 148

Isabelle turned and stared in the direction of the door. The voices sounded very near, and Sophia's giggles were even laced with shyness. Everyone in the room could hear the sounds from the corridor outside, so almost everyone was looking at the door.

When Sophia and John appeared at the room door, Sophia was holding onto John's arm, her entire person leaning

against him as though she was boneless. John, on the other hand, was on the other side of the door, so his expression wasn't quite discernible. Tittering, Sophia continued, "I couldn't possibly finish everything. What a waste!"

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After John's figure had passed the door, he languidly countered, "Weren't you fond of such wastage in the past?" His voice was actually very placid without any particular emotion, but it sounded somewhat indulgent.

Pursing her lips, Isabelle heaved a long and silent sigh.

Everything Mrs. Constance told me doesn't quite fit the situation now. Beside her, Old Mr. Bailey lost his temper and snorted before he sprang up and slammed the door closed.

Isabelle retracted her gaze.
After a few seconds, she then
chuckled.

“Alright, let’s eat.

Don’t
let such trivial things ruin our
mood.

” Elder Mr. Bailey
seemed to have something to
say, but
after glancing at her, he kept
silent. A strange atmosphere
lingered in the room.

Sophia, on the other hand, was
walking on air. Only after
getting into the car did she
instantly squash the smile on
her face. She stretched lazily
before exclaiming,

“Ah, how
gratifying!” However, it wasn’t
certain whether she was
referring to the fact that she’d
stretched her muscles or
deliberately riled some people.

John said nothing, starting the
car and driving away. When
they were halfway home, his
cell

phone rang. Sophia initially
didn’t bother, but she then

glimpsed the caller ID as she watched him take his cell phone out. Thus, she tut-tutted at him.

“You’re driving, so you shouldn’t be taking phone calls. Don’t you know that it’s dangerous?”

Here, give it to me. I’ll answer it for you.

”

Without giving him a chance to react, she lunged at him and snatched his cell phone away.

Then, she swiped to unlock the screen and answered the call right away, feigning ignorance as to the caller’s identity.

“Hello?” There was a sudden silence on the other end, so she repeated the greeting before grousing,

“Why aren’t you saying anything?”

Subsequently, she put on a convincing show of looking at the caller ID and exclaiming in surprise,

“It’s a call from your mother! Hah, if I’d known that it’s her, I wouldn’t have answered it.

” These words were directed to John, but still, she placed the call on loudspeaker and handed it to him.

John truly didn’t want to take offense to such a petty trick, so he merely greeted his mother and asked what the matter was.

On the other end, Mrs. Constance was hopping mad. The disdain in Sophia’s voice was plain as day, and she heard every single word crystal clear.

However, knowing that Sophia was right beside John, she couldn’t talk smack about her, so she merely asked John whether he’d eaten and whether he’d been busy recently, all superficial questions.

After answering her briefly, John then hung up on the pretext of driving, aware that she was rather ill at ease on the other end.

Meanwhile, Sophia was

humming as she sat cross-legged on the seat, appearing incredibly content. Truthfully speaking, this look of hers was really irritating. Upon seeing that he'd hung up the phone, she snorted. "By the way, your mother is truly nice to you."
"

John glanced at her from his peripheral vision, only to see that she was still wearing a joyous expression. He pursed his lips, recalling the fact that Old Mr. Constance once said that Sophia's parents abandoned her when she was young. If it weren't for those two people, she wouldn't have had to lead such a difficult life. Nonetheless, from her expression now, she doesn't seem to have much longing for familial affection. When they arrived home, Sophia swung open the car door and checked on the flowers she'd planted before returning

to her bedroom. They both parted ways in the corridor, yet neither said a word.

Back in her room, Sophia looked at her cell phone, only to see that the singer was really coming. He said that his flight would be arriving tomorrow and asked her when she had time. Sophia was momentarily surprised before she swiftly replied to his text. At present, I have nothing but money and time.

The Returning Ex Chapter 149

The next day, Sophia woke up early in the morning. After freshening up, she even applied light makeup. There were some frozen dumplings in the freezer, so she cooked two servings. Just when she'd finished cooking, John came down.

However, he was talking on the phone as he descended the stairs, and it appeared as though something had happened to his company since his expression was rather grave. Sophia merely took a single

glance before she retracted her gaze, not at all worried about Constance Company.

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All those old and young members of the Constance Family are with the company, so if they can't manage the situation, then they really ought to retire from office. Anyway, John is probably not having breakfast judging from his predicament now. Saying nothing, she took a bowl of dumplings into the dining room.

John answered the call in the living room, but he merely ordered the person on the other end to handle the matter first while waiting for him to arrive. After hanging up the phone, he whirled around and cast his gaze at the dining room.

"I won't be having breakfast today.

I've got to leave now.

" A few

seconds later, Sophia murmured a mild acknowledgment.

John, however, added,

“I probably won’t be coming back for lunch either, but I’ll come and pick you up for the banquet tonight.

” Sophia stilled, only now remembering that the banquet he mentioned back then was tonight. She then indicated her assent, and he subsequently left.

After having breakfast alone, Sophia straightened up the house for a bit before leaving upon seeing that it was almost time. She headed to the airport since the singer had given her his flight information, and she’d promised to pick him up. As she took the highway, the entire stretch of road was clear, so it was still early when she arrived at the airport. Thus, she went into the arrival hall. Just when she’d gone in, her cell phone rang with a call from

Zack. She hadn't been taking his calls recently, not quite in the mood to do so since she didn't know what to say. After all, the Constance Family was about the sum of their common topic, and she truly didn't feel like bringing up that mess. After a moment's contemplation, she declined the call. Usually, Zack understood her meaning when she did this and would stop calling, but it was different this time. In the wake of her rejecting the call, Zack instantly called again, taking her aback. Hey, is this fella trying to challenge me? She ignored it, and his call was automatically disconnected. Immediately after, the third phone call came. Staring at her cell phone, Sophia frowned. At this time, the singer's flight hadn't yet arrived, so she pursed her lips and mulled the matter over. Zack is a sensible person, and he

should
be at work now.
Hence, she finally answered the
call.

“Miss Gwendolyn, where
are you? Come to the
company, quick!” Zack
exclaimed on the other end as
soon as the call was connected,
his
voice sounding truly panicked.
Sophia startled.

“What’s
wrong?”

“Didn’t you see what the
Internet is all abuzz about? Why
didn’t you surf the Internet
today
when you love keeping up with
gossip every day?” Zack
lowered his voice, but still, the
urgency remained.

Sophia indeed hadn’t seen
anything of the sort. Hey, I’m
not all that fond of keeping up
with
gossip, okay? Pulling a face, she
asked,

“What happened? Hurry
up and spit it out. I’ve still
got something to do over here.

”

Zack took a deep breath.

“Infinity Group went to the media. Come over quickly, and we’ll talk further.

”

Sophia scoffed,

“Wait a moment. I’ll take a look at the news first and call you back later.

”

Without waiting for him to respond, she hung up on him. Then, she went on the Internet and took a look at the news while leaning against a pillar in the arrival hall. There was no need to even search, for news reports related to John were explosive at the moment. Mainly, it was about his business trip to Tri Asel back then. From the angle of the exposé, it didn’t seem as though it was done by President McCaw of Infinity Group. Rather, it seemed to be Miss Cox’s doing.

On the whole, it was about how she was in charge of entertaining John, so the two of them

were together for several days. John then gradually treated her as more than regular business partners, but she naturally kept her distance.

However, she did admit that she had some fondness for him after several days of contact.

Subsequently, the two of them got tipsy at a banquet, upon which they had relations, something understandable yet unacceptable. That was the gist of it. There were too many news and versions, but it largely boiled down to this.

Since the news reports didn't side with Miss Cox, it appeared very much credible. The comments below were a varied mix, so Sophia didn't even bother scrolling through them.

The Returning Ex Chapter 150

Sophia was surprised, for nothing happened between John and the woman that day.

Furthermore, there were

multiple CCTVs there since it was a banquet, so once someone checks the CCTV footage, everything will come to light. It's indeed pandemonium with the public opinion now with this exposé, but the backlash when she's proven a liar later will be exceedingly severe.

Instead of calling Zack back, she called John outright. John promptly answered the call, sounding rather placid.

"Is the scandal on the Internet impacting you much?" Sophia asked.

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John even chuckled as he replied,

"Impact is inevitable since others have no idea what transpired.

" Perhaps everyone is more willing to believe such a scandalous thing.

Sophia's brows furrowed.

"There's CCTV footage, no?"

Heaving a sigh, John remarked,
“They’ve probably destroyed
the CCTV footage.

” That

President McCaw is no fool, so
he won’t possibly stand out and
accuse me boldly otherwise.

Sophia, however, found it
rather hilarious.

“All the CCTV
footage is gone?” After all,
while

I’ve been avoiding the crowd
when I was there that day, I did
make an appearance at
various events, so the CCTVs
must have captured me.

“Since they dared to have the
media publish this, they must
have made the necessary
preparations. Thus, there’ll
likely be no clues from the CCTV
footage,

” John answered.

Sophia pursed her lips. At this
precise moment, the arrival of
the singer’s flight was
announced, so she walked
toward the gate.

On the other end, John startled.
“You’re at the airport?”

Sophia hummed in assent.

“The singer has arrived, so I came to pick him up.

”

John was silent for a long while before he said,

“You go ahead, then. I can handle things here by myself.

” After saying this, he hung up on her without giving her any time to respond.

Sophia stared at her cell phone.

Then, she truly pushed him to the back of her mind and stood there waiting for some time. Spotting the singer as soon as he came out, she jumped

up and down as she waved at him. The singer was empty-handed, merely shouldering a

guitar. When he reached her, Sophia looked him up and down with a frown.

“Don’t you have any luggage?”

The singer was startled for a

moment before he explained,
“I
have a friend here, and I’ll be
staying at his place, so I don’t
need any luggage.

”

Sophia nodded slowly.

“People
like you who have traveled the
world must have friends
everywhere. My bad.

” The
singer merely chuckled and left
the arrival hall with her.

As soon as they stepped out,
however, a car drove toward
them. Although Sophia didn’t
know much about cars, she
knew that the car had to be
quite costly just from the looks
of it.

Her eyes bugged in
bewilderment when the car
came to a stop beside them,
and the driver
then alighted.

Without sparing her a single
glance, the driver went to the
singer.

“Young Master Ian, Old
Mr. Morgan asked me to come

and pick you up.

”

The singer’s usually amicable face was now devoid of expression. Taken aback, Sophia smacked her lips and looked up at him, her tone questioning as she asked,

“What’s happening here? Are you a prince who dressed as a commoner to mingle among the people?” The singer said nothing, wearing a long face. Likewise, the driver hadn’t much expression on his face either.

“Young Master Ian, please don’t make things difficult for me. Old Mr. Morgan has said that he’ll dismiss me if I fail to bring you home.

”

Sophia blinked, at a loss as to her next course of action. I seem to be superfluous, standing here in such a situation. Feeling a touch discomfited, she moved

a step to the side.

“Er...

Why don't you just...

”

Before she'd finished speaking, the singer took a step to the side as well and pulled her into his embrace. Stiffening, Sophia exclaimed in bafflement. With his arm around her, the singer walked toward the airport exit.

“Don't bother with him. Let's go.

”

However, before they'd even taken two steps forward, the door of the car behind the private car swung open, and a woman who was past her prime stepped out of the car. She had on a pair of sunglasses and dressed like a wealthy woman, standing by the car door.

“Ian, come home if you're done with your tantrum.

”

Jolting, the singer stopped short. Sophia darted her gaze

between the woman and him before asking in a whisper, “W-Who is this?” The singer didn’t answer her, and the woman didn’t say anything further, merely staring at the former. The singer pursed his lips, not making a move this time. Meanwhile, the woman’s driver hurried over to take the guitar, but the singer swung a hand and stopped him from touching the guitar. Inhaling deeply, he then steered Sophia to the side of the car at the front. Does this mean that he wants us to get into the car? Sophia didn’t hesitate much since there wasn’t any chance of getting out of this judging from the situation. She automatically climbed into the car, followed by the singer who slipped in beside her. After the driver had gotten in and started the car, she turned to look at him. “This stunt you pulled today has me feeling at a loss.

”

The singer turned and gazed at her.

“I’m sorry.

”

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An apology actually made no difference at this time, and Sophia didn’t think the singer had

anything to apologize for either.

She glanced out the window for a moment, the issue with John slipping her mind entirely.

“What’s your name? I’ve never asked you this,

” she asked in

a low voice.

Looking at her, the singer chuckled.

“Ian Morgan.

”

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“Ian Morgan,

” Sophia repeated.

“It sounds pretty nice.

” At this,

she lowered her voice again.

“Was the woman earlier your mother?”

Ian's expression froze.

"No.

"

Sophia chortled.

"I thought so.

While I didn't see her entire face, I think you two look different.

"

Having thought of something, Ian sneered,

"We're not at all alike.

"

As the car drove away from the airport, it headed straight toward the city center. Finally, it

came to a stop outside a villa.

The villa was massive, so it was apparent that someone who had the wherewithal to purchase such a huge villa here despite the exorbitant price of land

had a powerful family background.

Sophia alighted from the car with Ian. Behind them, that woman's car also came to a stop.

Standing beside the car, Sophia lowered her head and glanced at her cell phone. Zack is calling again. All of a sudden, she recalled the fact that John was still facing a problem.

Nevertheless, I don't think he needs me to help him out with the problem. I'm sure he can resolve such a fictitious matter.

Putting down the phone, she twisted her head and stared at the woman who was approaching from behind. The woman put on airs and glanced at her when she walked past.

Although the woman was wearing sunglasses, she could sense the disdain on her face when

looking at her. All at once, indignation flooded Sophia, and she harrumphed loudly when the woman passed her by.

Still, the woman's head snapped back at Sophia, but Sophia didn't even spare her a glance, keeping her gaze on Ian instead.

"Is this your house?"

Ian pursed his lips, seemingly

deliberating for a moment
before nodding.

“Yeah.

” His

hesitation had Sophia feeling a tad surprised. After shouldering the guitar, Ian circled the car and came to stand beside her.

“Let’s go.

”

Sophia actually had no idea why she followed him here. She felt that she should take her leave and only get together with Ian when he was free, but Ian raised his hand and placed it on her shoulder, applying slight force as he repeated,

“Let’s go.

”

He then steered her toward the villa ahead.

Meanwhile, the woman had already gone over and was standing by the gate. Someone

was

at the gate, and he hurriedly opened the gate upon seeing her. Ignoring Sophia and Ian, the

woman entered ahead of them.

With his arm around Sophia, Ian followed her into the yard.

There was only a single building in the yard, but it was very grand. At this time, the door on the ground floor was opened, and right opposite was a sofa facing the door. A man getting on in years was currently sitting upright on the sofa with both hands propped on a cane, staring in the direction of Ian and Sophia.

Leading Sophia into the house, Ian stopped a few steps by the door. Sophia merely stood still and said nothing, while Ian pursed his lips before greeting the man as 'Dad' after a long while. Taken aback, Sophia frowned slightly and turned her gaze on the man on the sofa.

It's rather surprising that this man could have a son like Ian considering his age.

The woman who'd entered with them earlier walked over and sat down beside the man.

**"Bryce, I brought him home."
"**

The old man stared at Ian for a while before shifting his gaze to Sophia. When he suddenly spoke, his voice sounded pleasant at that moment.

“Mrs.

Constance?” Sophia froze. Huh?

He

knows me?

Ian’s hand was still on her shoulder, so the old man smiled.

“Ian, when did the two of you get acquainted?”

While expressionless, Ian still answered his query, saying,

“A

long time ago, shortly after I left home.

”

Nodding, the old man chuckled.

“How impressive!”

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Sophia didn’t quite understand the old man’s remark.

The old man then slowly got up from the sofa and headed toward her and Ian with his cane.

He was stooped since he was in his twilight years, thus appearing an entire head

shorter than Ian who was standing ramrod straight. Nonetheless, his aura more than made up for that fact. He stared at Ian for a long time before nodding.

“You’ve lost weight.

”

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All at once, Sophia turned and looked at Ian as well, finding this interaction between father and son rather strange.

At this precise moment, the woman stood up and came over to help support the old man.

“You must have waited here all morning. Now that you’ve seen him, you can rest easy. So, let’s go upstairs and rest, okay?”

The old man’s gaze shifted to Sophia but he said nothing, merely nodding in utter satisfaction. Such an attitude had goosebumps rising all over Sophia’s body. Then, he turned around.

“Okay. I’m tired, so help me upstairs to rest.

”

The woman held the old man’s arm, but the moment she pivoted, she threw Sophia an intense look. As Sophia had a bad impression of the woman, she outright rolled her eyes at her.

Only when the two of them had left did Ian drop his arm from around her and breathed a sigh of relief.

“Take a seat. I’ll just go and put my stuff away.”

That was in reference to his guitar.

Nodding, Sophia plopped down onto the sofa unceremoniously.

Meanwhile, Ian strode up the stairs. However, he took a long time just to put his guitar away, and when he came down, he was with the woman.

The two of them came down one after another, both their expressions forbidding.

Ian got to the landing first and walked over to Sophia, upon which she stood up. Then, he declared,

“Let’s go and grab a bite.”

Just as his words reached them, the woman behind him spoke, but this time, her voice was acrid and derisive.

“You’ve just come home, yet you’re going out to eat. If your father learns about it, he might think that I’m mistreating you.”

Stiffening, Ian retorted caustically,

“Does me having a meal here prove that you’re not mistreating me?” The woman was stunned, and she stared at him in disbelief.

Ian then snorted.

“Let’s go.”

Taking Sophia by the arm, he walked out of the living room.

The

yard was very spacious, with a simple garage at the side that housed two cars, and Ian went into the garage right away.

Heading toward one of the cars,

Ian grabbed the car key and unlocked it. Sophia gave the car a once-over. This car doesn't seem cheap either. Looking back at her, Ian said, "Get in."
"

Giggling, Sophia hurried over. "You're loaded, huh? I couldn't even tell since you kept too low a profile previously.

" Ian said nothing, merely starting the car and driving out. When they left the villa, they could still see that woman standing at the entrance to the living room, staring at them with her arms crossed, the expression on her face mildly resentful.

When they were a distance away, Sophia asked, "Who was that woman?" Her relationship with that old man doesn't seem platonic, but Ian said she isn't his mother.

Ian pursed his lips. As he stepped harder on the gas pedal, the car instantly picked up speed. After a while, he

answered,
"My stepmother."
"

His stepmother? At this, understanding began to dawn upon Sophia. Smacking her lips, she nodded.

"It seems that your father is truly affluent.

" At his age, the only reason he has such a young wife can be nothing other than his money. That woman is no fool. While the old man has decent looks, his age is plain as day. If he doesn't have something enticing to offer, she couldn't possibly have just sacrificed her youth.

While they were still driving, her cell phone rang again. It's still Zack! Aggravation swamped her. John isn't even worried, yet he's exhorting me time and again. This time, she answered the call.

"Yes?"

"Miss Gwendolyn, my boss is

currently in trouble, yet you're not in the least concerned. Are you truly not worried?

"H-H-Have you forgotten your identity?" Zack's voice was filled with incredulity.

Leaning back against the seat, Sophia guffawed.

"H-H-Have you forgotten my identity? Think carefully.

" Zack paused and went silent at once. Since she'd told Ian plenty before, Sophia wasn't at all afraid to speak in front of him.

"John and I got divorced a long time ago. Now that he's in trouble, I can only do my best to help him out, but worry? Do you think that's something I should be doing?" she said into the phone.

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The Returning Ex Chapter 153

Since silence reigned on Zack's end, Sophia continued,

"Actually, you don't need to worry so

much on behalf of your boss.

Constance Company is vast, so they must have experienced all sorts of things. You should trust that your boss can resolve such a trivial matter, so calm down, young man.

"

After a few seconds, Zack changed the subject.

"Where

are you now? Are you still with that

singer?"

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Sophia blurted an assent.

"Yup.

We're going to grab a bite.

" She

turned and looked at Ian while saying into the phone,

"Alright, let's wrap this up. You must be quite busy over there, so I'll talk to you next time.

"

After saying that, she hung up the phone.

Turning his head, Ian glanced at her.

“Your ex-husband?”

“My ex-husband’s assistant. My ex-husband wouldn’t call me because of such a matter.

”

Sophia chortled. John is actually a very prideful person, so he won’t contact me over such an issue unless he needs me to make an appearance. Even so, he’ll definitely sound as calm as ever, unlike Zack who moans and groans.

Ian then drove her to a small restaurant. While it wasn’t anything luxurious, Sophia liked it

since it was such places she often patronized in the past.

They went in and sat in the lobby

before the server came over with a menu.

Ian handed the menu to her, but she wasn’t hungry since she’d eaten quite a lot of dumplings in the morning.

Besides, it wasn't even noon yet. So, she slid the menu back to him.

"You go ahead and order.

I'm actually not hungry as I had a heavy breakfast.

" Ian didn't

refuse. After all, he hadn't eaten anything in the morning, and he only took a few bites of the in-flight meal.

While he was ordering, Sophia took a look at the news on the Internet again. Owing to the fact that her and John's wedding back then was grand, news reports were pouring in at an

overwhelming rate. The scandal of John betraying his marriage vows before a year had even passed was definitely attention-grabbing news, and seemingly sensing this, the media pounced on it.

However, she didn't find any press statements from the Constance Family even after searching for a while, not even a single one. Bafflement swept

through her. What is the Constance Family doing? Don't tell me they aren't planning to address this matter? Aren't they aware that many false rumors have been taken as the truth after being circulated around, especially when this is such a huge sh*tstorm? Well, they shouldn't be keeping mum.

While Sophia was stumped, Zack was like a cat on hot bricks. However, it wasn't because of the news on the Internet. At present, Zack had paced back and forth countless times before the sofa in John's office. Then, he whirled around and stared at John.

"Boss, what do you think Miss Gwendolyn meant by that? Does she trust you that much?"

John was looking at his computer which was filled with gossip about him. Someone even dug out his wedding photos with Sophia, enlarging their

pre-wedding photo and wedding photo during the reception. Sophia was smiling in the pre-wedding photo, the corners of her eyes crinkling. However, his expression was a touch cold. Thus, they didn't quite match. Similarly, she appeared happy in the wedding photo during the reception, while he wore a long face the entire time. He actually couldn't remember the situation back then anymore. In actual fact, he wasn't all that unhappy that day, merely busy, but perhaps he neglected to adjust his expression accordingly. Thinking about that, he sighed soundlessly. Zack continued, exclaiming, "Miss Gwendolyn is truly not worried at all!" Upon hearing this, John retracted his gaze from the computer and snorted without responding. After all, he heard everything Sophia said on the phone earlier. It's not about trusting me at all. She just can't

be bothered since it's of no concern to her.

Dejected, Zack plopped onto the sofa and changed the subject.

"So, are we really not going to do anything and just allow the rumors out there to make their rounds?" He twisted around and looked at John.

"That will greatly impact both you and the company."
"

John, however, was clearly unconcerned.

"There's no hurry.

Infinity Group must be at the end of its rope to make such a move.

"It's a fictitious story, so while it could be effective when used to blackmail me privately, it could never hold up to scrutiny when it becomes known to the entire world since it's fake anyway. When it's proven fake in the end, the repercussions will definitely be severe for Infinity Group, so they're probably trying to take

us with them considering their precarious situation these days. Upon hearing this, curiosity gripped Zack.

“Boss, tell me.

How did you handle those people

from Infinity Group when they set you up back then?” he asked in a sly voice.

John raised his eyes and stared at him without saying a single word.

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After eating, Sophia and Ian went for a drive until it was time for lunch break at noon.

Sophia then asked Ian to drive her to the city center. When the car came to a stop, she unfastened her seat belt.

“Your

house isn't far from here, so you should go home and rest.

You must be tired now since you took an early morning flight.

Let's go out again when you're free,

” she suggested in an animated voice.

Meanwhile, Ian had reverted to

his usual calm expression. After staring at her for a while, he nodded.

“Sure.

” Swinging open

the car door, Sophia alighted and waved at him through the window. Ian then drove away.

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Turning around, Sophia gazed at the office building a near distance away and sighed. That was Constance Company. She actually wanted to ask Ian to drop her off in front of Constance Company earlier, but the media surrounded the entrance. Thus, she couldn't do so.

It wasn't that she was afraid of being photographed, but the thing was that Ian was there. If she were photographed sitting in another man's car with just the two of them, there would probably be another intriguing rumor on top of John's scandal. She then sauntered toward Constance Company leisurely. Just when she'd gotten close,

someone recognized her and
shouted,
“That’s Sophia
Gwendolyn, the Young Mistress
of the
Constance Family!” Upon
hearing that, Sophia stopped
short and stared at the
reporters
who’d appeared out of
nowhere, running toward her in
a mad dash. She quickly put a
smile
on her face and stood there
waiting without hurrying away.
There were too many people
swarming Sophia, making her
slightly unsteady on her feet.
“Hear, hear, calm down. Please
take your time, and if there’s
anything you’d like to ask,
please do so one by one. Don’t
rush, okay? Safety is a priority,
”

she promptly exclaimed.
Her calm and unruffled
demeanor had the paparazzi
settling as well. After all, they
were
only frenzied because they
were afraid that Sophia would

run off. Since she was now looking all willing to accept their interviews, they were no longer frantic. Someone then thrust a microphone into her face.

“Mrs. Constance, is the exposé on the Internet true?

Did

Mr. Constance truly betray you?”

The corners of Sophia’s mouth lifted.

“It’s true that he went on a business trip and had some wine during the party. However, only these two things are true.”

The paparazzo then hurriedly asked,

“Mrs. Constance, do you know of the female employee with the surname Cox mentioned in the exposé?

We’ve investigated her, and she’s indeed

an employee of Infinity Group.

Besides, she was also in charge of entertaining Mr.

Constance.

”

Sophia nodded.

**“I know her,
and we’ve even eaten at the
same table before.**

”

**Her answer stunned the
paparazzo who’d asked the
question.**

**“You’ve seen that
employee
before, Mrs. Constance? When
was that?”**

Sophia chuckled.

**“I actually
accompanied my husband on
his business trip, and we met
Miss
Cox the very night we arrived at
Tri Asel. If you’d all done your
homework, you’d know that
the hotel had a bonfire party
that night, and I even received a
complimentary custom-made
dress from the hotel just to
attend the bonfire party.**

”

**At this, the reporters looked at
each other. They’d been
focusing on John and Infinity
Group
from the very beginning itself,**

so it'd never crossed their minds that John actually brought Sophia along on his business trip.

Blinking, a smile bloomed on Sophia's face.

"If you have the means, you can even check the flight records. I was on the same flight as my husband, and we had adjacent seats. Say, I was

already there, so wouldn't I have attended Infinity Group's party?" After saying that, she chortled.

"What other questions do you have? Since you've caught me, I'll just clarify everything.

"

A reporter at the side persisted, asking,

"Are you now here for a public relations stunt on behalf of your husband, Mrs. Constance? Why isn't Mr. Constance explaining this himself?"

Pursing her lips, Sophia feigned

an expression of contemplation.

“Hmm, this is a good question. However, if your memory works, please think back to the past. When has my husband ever come forward to explain things no matter what happened?”

Indeed, John had almost never made an appearance before the media. Back then, when Old Mr. Constance passed away, there were conspiracy theorists who claimed severe internal strife within Constance Company after Old Mr. Constance’s departure and even declared that John was the biggest beneficiary in the event of his death, controlling half the Constance Family with William, and so on. At that time, he acted as though he heard none of these rumors and ignored everything. All these years, this had been his style—never explaining himself or making an appearance.

Sophia gazed at the reporters.

“Naturally, everything I said

would be an excuse in your eyes, so just go and check whether my words are true. Next! Who's next? Is there any other question?" She was truly facing the media with aplomb, turning this into a fan meeting instead.

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John, who was up in the building, actually knew about Sophia being surrounded by the media long ago. After all, it was such a huge commotion right at the company's front doors.

It would be absurd had he not noticed it.

Zack was extremely worried, wanting to rush down to protect Sophia right away.

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However, John appeared unconcerned.

"You'll only add to the chaos if you go down.

Sophia

isn't the idiot you think she is.

Since she dared come here, she must be prepared.

” He recalled how she’d riled Mrs. Constance up that day to the point that she almost passed out from anger several times. Even Mom who’s such an overbearing person lost at Sophia’s hand. While the media is slick, they might not necessarily be her match either. After all, she’s no longer the person she was in the past.

John waited in his office for a long time, but Sophia never came. Instead, William came. “Sophia is surrounded by the media downstairs. How are the two of you doing these days? Will she say anything inappropriate?” William anxiously asked as soon as he entered.

John understood his meaning. It was only a few days earlier that Sophia had a row with Mrs. Constance, so it was very likely that she hadn’t yet cooled off. If she were to go along with Infinity Group’s accusations at

this critical juncture, it wouldn't look good for the Constance Family.

Standing by the window, he gazed out, but he was too high up to see the situation below clearly. After a few seconds, he replied,

"She won't.

" If William

hadn't mentioned that, he wouldn't even have thought of it. However, he believed that Sophia wouldn't do that. There was no basis, but he just trusted her.

On the other hand, Sophia wasn't at all bothered by the fact that no one from Constance Company came out to help her. She jabbered and talked about everything under the sun.

The media had probably never seen someone as cooperative as her, so they softened toward her and didn't make things difficult for her.

In the end, Sophia even sighed.

"You all must have waited here for a long time. You should just disperse since I've already

**told you everything I know.
Even if you continue waiting
here,
the people inside won't give
you any answers. Thus, don't
make life difficult for
yourselves.**

**Go find a place to take a drink
and rest for a while. I'm sure it
hasn't been easy for any of
you.**

”

**Everyone chuckled. Indeed, it
hasn't been easy. We've been
here for the entire afternoon,
yet we didn't get anything. That
was what most of them
thought.**

Sophia waved a hand.

**“The sun
is right overhead now, so you
shouldn't continue waiting
here. If you truly need to show
your bosses something, come
back when it's cool in the
afternoon. Go back, go back.**

”

**Since they'd gotten answers
from her for most of the
questions they wanted to ask,
they didn't persist but left one**

after another.

Sophia stretched as she stood there. Then, she strutted into Constance Company. The security guard and receptionist were standing at the lobby entrance on the ground floor, and upon seeing her, they both greeted,

“Mrs. Constance,
you’re here.”

Sophia murmured an acknowledgment.

“I’m going up
to look for John.”

” She was unruffled, seemingly not at all perturbed.

These employees didn’t know what transpired during John’s business trip, so they did wonder about the truth to those rumors on the Internet.

Now that they saw Sophia’s indifferent attitude, all of them breathed a sigh of relief. Sure enough, they seem to be just baseless rumors.

Sophia then took the elevator

up. The moment she stepped out of the elevator, she saw Zack, who was so wracked with nerves that he stood guard at the elevator doors, and his eyes instantly bulged at the sight of her.

“What did you say to the media?”

Snorting, Sophia walked toward John’s office.

“I’ve said everything I ought to say. You’ll know when you see the news reports on the Internet later. Don’t expect me to repeat it to you because I’ll die of exhaustion if I do so.”

William was still in John’s office, and Sophia frowned slightly when she spotted him upon entering the room after pushing open the door. Hesitating, she didn’t know how she should address him, for she couldn’t quite bring herself to address him as she did in the past now that they were not family. She pursed her lips for a long time before finally greeting,

**“Mr.
Constance.
”**

**Probably not accustomed to
this address as well, William
paused for a moment before
asking,**

**“What did you say to
the media?”**

**When it was him now, Sophia
couldn't be as perfunctory as
she was with Zack. Thus, she
simply answered,**

**“I just
explained the events that
transpired during John's
business trip. I
didn't say much.
”**

**William nodded, seemingly
relieved. On the other hand,
John sat at his desk and gazed
at
her placidly.**

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Sophia, however, didn't notice
John's subtle action, merely
staring at him seriously.**

**“I find
it
truly strange that he knew me**

when I rarely go out.

”

Schooling his expression, John asked calmly,

“You went to his house?”

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Sophia nodded and even blurted out the location of Ian’s house outright.

“It was a rather huge house. His family must be exceedingly affluent since it’s right in the city center.

”

The moment John heard the location, he knew which family it was. Lowering his head, he put away the documents on his desk.

“It should be the Morgan Family, then.

”

Sophia blinked.

“Yes, yes, his first name is Morgan. You’re acquainted with him?”

John murmured an affirmation.

“I once saw the patriarch of the Morgan Family, Old Mr.

Morgan, when I was entertaining clients. We're not acquaintances per se since there are no business dealings between us.
”

The Morgan Family is in investment, and they seem to be doing rather well, but... He fixed his gaze on her.

“From a friend’s perspective, I’d advise you to keep your distance from this family.
”

The corners of Sophia’s mouth turned down for a moment.

“Why?” John said nothing, so she grew chagrined and muttered,

“You asked me to keep my distance from Dylan, and now Ian, but you won’t even give me a reason. John Constance, what’s the meaning of this?” Before John could respond, Zack piped up from the side, “Can’t you guess? Boss is jealous.

”

All at once, John’s head snapped up and Sophia swiveled, both staring at him in unison. The smile on his face slowly faded, and his voice became a mere whisper.

“I was just joking. Why are you two looking at me like this? Can’t I even joke?”

After that, no one spoke.

Picking up her cell phone, Sophia started reading the news reports

on the Internet. I wonder when those reporters will compile my interview earlier into an article and publish it. I think I did a good job and have explained everything perfectly.

Meanwhile, John was reclining in his chair. Shortly after, his cell phone vibrated again, and this time it was a message.

Picking it up, he took a glance, only to see that the message was

from Isabelle. She was also asking about the news reports on the Internet, inquiring

**whether
it was impacting him much.
Judging from the contents of
this message, she believes that I
didn't do anything. After
contemplating for a moment,
he replied that everything was
fine.**

**Immediately after, the second
message came in. This time, she
said that she knew some
people in the media who could
help to publish some articles to
proclaim his innocence.**

**John stared at it for a long time
before replying, saying that it
wasn't necessary and adding
a thank you at the end. He had
some acquaintances in the
media as well, but he disliked
coming forward to clarify things.**

**Rather, he preferred to speak
with evidence when the
matter had brewed sufficiently.**

**Again, another message came
in from Isabelle who said that
she didn't want to watch him
being vilified. This time, John
didn't reply anymore. Putting
down his cell phone, he took a
pack of cigarettes out of his**

pocket and lit one without any regard for the others.

Before Sophia could find the news report she wanted to see on the Internet, the food Zack ordered arrived. Even more excited than Zack, she jumped off the sofa and slipped her shoes back on, leaving her cell phone on the sofa. Zack had ordered quite a lot, and it was all at the reception desk. As it was now lunch break, the receptionist couldn't bring the food

up since she was managing the front desk alone. Thus, Sophia went down with Zack to get the food.

Just after they'd gone out, Sophia's cell phone that was on the sofa rang. At first, John didn't

pay it any mind, but when no one answered the first time, it then instantly started ringing again. Getting up slowly, he went over and picked it up. The caller ID on the screen flashed with the name 'Ian Morgan'

.

Since they'd just spoken of the Morgan Family a moment ago, he more or less knew who it was. After pondering for a moment, he took the call.

The person on the other end started,

"Sophia?"

With a hand in his pocket, John cast his gaze over at the window.

"It's me.

"

Ian was startled. After a few seconds, he asked,

"John Constance?"

John snorted.

"Yes, I'm John Constance.

"

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It didn't seem as though there was any awkwardness on Ian's part, for he outright asked,

"Where's Sophia?"

Turning partly, John glanced out the office, but he didn't see any sign of Sophia and Zack.

Thus, he answered,

"She

stepped out. Is anything the matter?”

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Is anything the matter? After thinking for a moment, Ian said, “I’ll call her back later, then.”

After saying that, he hung up right away.

Holding Sophia’s cell phone, John stared at it for a long while before snorting indifferently.

He must be aware of my relationship with Sophia, else he wouldn’t have been so composed.

Whoever places a call only to be answered by the callee’s husband will be slightly discomfited, but not him.

Besides, he felt that Sophia must have told Ian that they were divorced judging from Ian’s

interaction with her. She really trusts him, huh? He then tossed the cell phone back onto the sofa without deleting the call history.

He’d just returned to his desk

and taken his seat when Sophia and Zack came back. Zack ordered quite a lot of food, and the two of them laid out the food on the coffee table across the sofa. As Sophia laid out the tableware, she urged John, "Come and eat. Hmm, you didn't eat in the morning, so don't tell me you haven't eaten anything until now?"

Stilling briefly, Zack stole a peek at her. Then, he exclaimed, "He didn't eat breakfast? If so, he hasn't eaten anything until now. He's been busy ever since he came. Ah well, he isn't a robot, so his body won't be able to take it."
"

Startled, Sophia scoffed, "So, he truly hasn't eaten, huh? Well, is there a need to be so anxious just because of a paltry matter?"

Zack was stunned, having not expected such a reaction from her, for he'd thought that she'd

be a touch concerned at least.
After cautiously peeking at John,
he breathed a sigh of relief
upon seeing that he wasn't
affected in the least.

John waited until they'd set the
table before coming over,
taking a seat beside Zack. After
taking a bite, he said,
"A friend
of yours called earlier. He rang
twice, so I took the call for
you."
"

Sophia murmured an
acknowledgment.

"Who
called?"

John's brows furrowed.

"The
caller ID was Ian Morgan."
"

"Oh, him.

" Sophia beamed.

"I'll
call him back after eating.

" If it
were a single young lady
wearing her exuberant
expression, one would even
think that the caller was a lover.

As they began eating, no one said anything. Sophia wasn't all that hungry now since she'd eaten a bit with Ian earlier, so she was mainly picking the things she liked and taking a few bites. Then, she put down her cutlery.

"You guys eat. I'm going out to make a phone call."
"

When she'd gone out, Zack groused in displeasure, "What the hell? She has just known him for a few days, yet she's this elated by a mere phone call?" John chuckled.

"Perhaps they just get along well."
"

Zack curled his lips.

"The Morgan Family isn't comparable to the Constance Family, so it's isn't worthwhile for Miss Gwendolyn to abandon you and find someone from the Morgan Family.

”

John threw Zack a look.

“There isn’t such a concept in love. Compatibility is the key.

” After he’d said this, he paused for two seconds before adding, “I’m incompatible with Sophia.”

Pursing his lips, Zack muttered after a long while,

“What constitutes being compatible and vice versa?”

Well... John couldn’t quite answer this. At the end of the day, I’m just not compatible with Sophia in all aspects. She isn’t the type of woman I want although I’m not sure what that is.

Raising his head, he gazed out a window on this side of the corridor and saw Sophia standing in the corridor, talking on the phone.

She was rather happy, her face wreathed in a smile, and he

stared at her for a long time. If I just have to name one aspect in which we're compatible, then perhaps it's only physical compatibility we share.

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Meanwhile, Sophia

unconsciously meandered while she talked on the phone. Ian saw the

news reports on the Internet, thus he asked her whether she was affected, to which she said that it didn't really affect her much. Besides, even if she was dragged into this, she'd certainly be pitied by the public and might even garner some fans.

Ian was relieved upon seeing her optimistic attitude, but still, he asked,

“Why are you and your ex-husband keeping the divorce under wraps?” She has never explained this to me.

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Subsequently, the doors of the elevator on the other side opened. As soon as Dylan

stepped out, he spotted the lady who was in the corridor. Sophia was putting her cell phone away with a smile, the dimples on her cheeks playing peekaboo. In fact, she was leaning against the wall in the corridor, seemingly not at all affected by those rumors on the Internet. Just after Dylan had taken a few steps toward her after exiting the elevator, Sophia turned around, a smile lingering on her face.

“You’re back!”

Dylan nodded.

“Yup. Why are you standing here? Where’s John?”

Sophia jutted her chin at John’s office.

“He’s eating. I stepped out to take a call.

”

Standing still, Dylan looked at her.

“I heard that you were surrounded by the media downstairs this morning. Are you okay?”

**Sophia was momentarily taken
aback before she laughed
uproariously.**

“I’m fine, I’m fine.

**I’m
good. The media is actually
quite nice. They didn’t make
things difficult for me.**

”

Dylan nodded.

**“I’m glad to hear
that.**

**” Then, he headed to his
office.**

**Sophia, however, remained
standing in the corridor as she
looked at her cell phone. There
are now new reports about me
on the Internet! These reporters
are truly well-informed
when writing gossip, and
they’ve actually found my flight
information to Tri Asel in just a
few hours. Indeed, she was on
the same flight as John and
even stayed in the same hotel.
Moreover, a news article even
mentioned her going out to buy
contraceptives. T-T-This...
This is scary! Sophia frowned.
They can even find out such a**

thing? After a brief read-through, she quickly strode toward John's office. John was still looking at the computer, while Zack had already left. Barging in, Sophia exclaimed,

"Hey, hey, have you seen the news? Everything I explained has now been published!"

John's eyes were fixed on the computer, the screen filled with the news reports from the Internet. After scrutinizing everything and analyzing the media's perspective and opinion, he then smirked. The media is really good at digging that they managed to dig out the details of everything that happened in Tri Asel. How impressive! He'd never liked how these people invaded someone else's privacy, but this time, he somewhat looked forward to watching the show. I wonder what other tricks Infinity Group has up its sleeves now that so much evidence is popping up.

Meanwhile, Sophia promptly rushed over upon seeing that he was ignoring her. Sprawling on his desk, she turned her head and looked at his computer.

“Oh, you saw it!”

As she was sprawled out, her collar drooped, revealing an enticing sight of creamy abundance. John averted his gaze and pinned his eyes on the computer.

“Yeah, I saw it.

”

Sophia grinned.

“Look how effective I am! I’ve noticed that the tide has now turned.

” This slight gesture of seeking credit made her appear a tad childish, so John threw her a look out of the corner of his eye. To ensure that he didn’t look someplace inappropriate, he promptly retracted his gaze after a brief glance.

However, Sophia didn’t notice anything amiss. She remained

sprawled with her head turned to stare at the computer screen which so happened to show a picture of her smiling while surrounded by the media. Her dressing made her appear much younger, rendering her enchanting and alluring, while her smile was pleasant.

Gratified at this picture of hers, she smacked her lips.

“Look, I’m so photogenic! I can even be a celebrity!”

Such a shameless remark had John feeling rather perturbed, and he got to his feet right away.

“I’m going out for a while. If you don’t have anything to do, just wait here for me to get off work. Then, we’ll go and get glammed up together.”

Oh yes, there’s a banquet tonight, and it just had to be now, coinciding with John’s scandal.

He’ll definitely have the limelight on him during the

banquet tonight. Sophia
deliberated
things for a moment. I indeed
don't have anything to do this
afternoon. Thus, she nodded.
"Sure. I'll wait for you here,
then.
"

John then left, while she stayed
in his office. After waiting for a
while, boredom set in, upon
which she got up and went to
his private room. The bedsheet
has been changed. She
snorted. That mysophobic, John
Constance, must have changed
it because he found it
repulsive that I once slept here.
Well, I just want to repulse him!
Slipping off her shoes, she
flopped onto the bed and even
rolled around.

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After rolling around for a while,
drowsiness inundated Sophia
since she got up early this
morning. Hugging John's
blanket, she then closed her
eyes and dozed off groggily.
After
some time, she roused groggily

as well. She slowly sat up and perked up her ears, listening to the two people talking outside, a man and a woman, their voices distinct.

Smirking, she languidly got out of bed and padded to the small closet at the side

barefooted. A few of John's shirts hung in the closet, all of the same type—shirt, suit, and the like.

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She took a shirt out and promptly stripped before slipping on the shirt. There was a mirror

in the closet, and she unbuttoned two buttons at the collar after looking at her reflection in

the mirror. Hmm, this looks much more sultry.

Ruffling her hair, she then walked over to the door. She pushed open the door gently and

even symbolically rubbed her eyes while whining,

“John, I’m

thirsty. The food during lunch was just too salty. Do you have water here?"

All the once, the voices outside ceased. Squinting, Sophia gazed at them and stared intently.

John's expression was unruffled, but Isabelle, who was at the side, had several expressions flashing across her face.

Sounding slightly panicked, Sophia exclaimed,

"You have a guest?"

John stared at her for a few heartbeats.

"Go and get changed.

" Murmuring an acquiescence,

Sophia retreated back into the bedroom. When she'd closed the door, the panic on her face vanished in a puff of smoke. All smiles, she even hummed softly as she changed into her clothes.

When she went out again, Isabelle's expression was much more composed as she sat on the

sofa with a glass of water
before her. There was also a
glass of water on John's desk,
so

Sophia went right over and
picked it up, taking several
gulps without even asking for
permission.

This is John's glass, so he'll
probably toss it after I'd used it.
She smirked. No matter. I don't
care. I'm just vexed now,
vexation swamping me
whenever I see Isabelle Bailey.

And when
I'm vexed, no one else is
allowed to be happy!
John was still sitting in his chair
when Isabelle looked up at
Sophia.

"I never thought that
you'd be here, Miss
Gwendolyn.

"

Sophia smirked, putting on an
exasperated expression.

"Ahem,
wrong address there.

"

Startled, Isabelle then chuckled.
"Sorry, I forgot.

”

The smile on Sophia’s face was as fake as a three-dollar bill.

“It’s okay. You’ll get used to it in time.

” Asking Isabelle Bailey to address me as Mrs. Constance is probably killing her. She then went over and sat down across from Isabelle.

“You came here for a work matter, Miss Bailey?”

Isabelle murmured an assent.

“Yes, I’m here to discuss the details of the collaboration. I’ll be handling the collaboration in future, so I came over to specifically study the contract with Mr. Constance.

”

Nodding slowly, Sophia lamented,

“I truly envy capable people like you. You’re responsible for so many things, and you even manage to do a good job. I

can't do that.

”

Isabelle smiled.

**“It isn't all that
difficult.**

”

Sophia heaved a sigh.

“It's

**rather difficult for me. I'm the
kind of person who naturally
needs**

**a man to support me, and
fortunately, I really found a
man who's willing to support
me. Say,**

it's truly a rare find. Haha...

”

**She giggled with a hand over
her mouth and even cocked an
eyebrow at John.**

**Reclining in his chair, John
looked at the two of them
without much expression on his
face.**

**At this moment, Sophia was
buoyed with gratification.**

**Her remark was laden with
meaning, and she believed that
Isabelle could understand what
she meant. But so what if she
does? She can't refute it**

anyway but merely go along with me.

This feels absurdly gratifying! If it were some other women around John, she could actually accept it, but not Isabelle, perchance because of Mrs. Constance. Every single humiliation she'd ever suffered in

Constance Residence involved Isabelle's name because every single time Mrs. Constance insulted her, it was always a comparison with Isabelle. Thus, she couldn't be blamed for finding Isabelle to be an eyesore. John can be with anyone, but not Isabelle Bailey! Picking up her glass, Isabelle took a sip of water, saying nary a word. However, she could still remain composed in such an awkward situation considering her good breeding, making

Sophia appear overbearing in contrast. Nonetheless, Sophia wasn't bothered, her sole concern being her gratification. The Returning Ex Chapter 161

Isabelle came prepared with some documents about the details of the collaboration and proclamation of rights concerning the Baileys when it came to the contract. John came over and sat down beside Sophia, turning into his usual self while working.

Taking up the documents, he read all the clauses. Such a collaboration was rather simple, and the Baileys didn't demand anything over the top, so he merely picked out a few clauses and proposed his opinion.

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Sophia didn't understand a single word since she knew nothing about business. Even the

business terms John and Isabelle used went over her head. Thus, she sat at the side with

John's glass still in her hand. As she watched them getting engrossed in their discussion,

she

chuckled soundlessly.

Well, this is the difference. No wonder Mrs. Constance groused every day that I'm not Isabelle's match and I'm of no help to John. When we sit together and open our mouths, our true capabilities shine through. I'm merely glib, while she's truly capable. This realization

had her feeling chagrined.

Taking a gulp of water, she then brought the glass to John's lips.

"Have some water.

" John's

brows furrowed slightly, and he turned to look at her. She doesn't look as though she's trying to stir up trouble. Her expression's placid. Perhaps it's just a subconscious action, nothing more. He pursed his lips. After a while, he placed his lips on the rim of the glass and took a small, token sip.

Sophia pulled the glass back, suddenly finding it ridiculous.

Who am I trying to upset here?

Why does it feel as though I'm

the unhappiest person at the end of the day? She then placed the glass onto the table. Upon seeing that John and Isabelle were immersed in the discussion, she slowly got to her feet and went over to John's desk.

After searching on his computer, she found the news reports about John. There had been a countermeasure from Infinity Group in the way of a leaked video. It was a snippet of when John attended Infinity Group's bullsh*t party. There were quite a lot of people in the video, seemingly Infinity Group's higher management personnel or the like. Meanwhile, Zack stood

beside John. So, they're implying that I actually didn't attend the party that night.

Hmm... The corners of her mouth lifted. This isn't a wise move. This snippet proves the existence of CCTV surveillance that night, and Infinity Group will be on the losing end once the public calls for the entire

footage of the event. She didn't bother to read the comments underneath. They probably paid people off to write some favorable comments, but it won't help to resolve the problem when the issue gains traction and becomes a practical joke instead.

Sophia then scanned through other news reports, but nothing captured her interest. As she did that, she kept an eye on the situation between John and Isabelle. The two of them seemed very much engrossed, John's expression solemn as he talked with Isabelle about the specifics of the contract and both parties' boundaries with a document in his hand. She stared in their direction for a long while.

During a lull, however, Isabelle lifted her eyes and looked over. While her expression wasn't exactly goading, it did carry a hint of derision. She merely stared at Sophia for two seconds

before retracting her gaze to look at John with a faint smile on her face. However, John didn't notice anything, his entire focus on the document before him.

This time, Sophia didn't blow up. John is here, and there's no concrete evidence, so I'll be on the losing end if I fly into a rage as I did back at Constance Residence. Leaning back in the chair, she mulled it over for a while before taking out her cell phone and tapping the camera icon. She pretended to be looking at her cell phone, but she kept the camera on Isabelle.

After some time, she snorted nonchalantly.

Isabelle looked over reflexively, and John naturally threw her a look as well, but perhaps he knew her well, so he retracted his gaze after a single glance. However, Isabelle remained staring at her. Shifting her cell phone, Sophia smirked and arched an eyebrow at Isabelle, her expression utterly

provocative. Isabelle's face turned frosty, and the contempt in her expression deepened. Shedding all pretense, she stared at Sophia disdainfully and even sneered, the corners of her mouth curling as she shrugged slightly.

When Sophia spoke in the next moment, her voice was completely mismatched with the expression on her face, mirthful and friendly.

"You two are really serious while working, so I took a video."
"

The Returning Ex Chapter 162
Upon hearing Sophia's remark, Isabelle was stunned. At this, Sophia grinned and tapped the back of her cell phone case with a finger to remind Isabelle that she was filming her. Isabelle promptly retracted her gaze and dipped her head to stare at the document in her hand. Being of good breeding, she just

felt that her blatantly contemptuous expression earlier would ruin her image if someone else saw it. Snorting once more, Sophia placed her cell phone down.

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“I’ve got important business here, so stop messing around. If you’re bored, you can go out and stroll around, perhaps chat with Zack or something,

” John

said, his voice mild.

Leaning back in the chair, Sophia stretched. Then, something occurred to her, and she

replied,

“That’s a good idea. I can’t be of any help to you two here, so I’ll just go out and have a look around.

” She

leisurely headed toward the door, murmuring as she walked,

“Earlier, I saw that Dylan was back, and we chatted for a bit.

He said he's free in the afternoon, so I'll just go over and visit with him.

" John stilled,

yet his

gaze never left the document in his hand. With her back to them,

Sophia smirked and left

the office.

Meanwhile, Dylan was in his office. When Sophia went over,

she quietly pushed open the

door a crack and poked her

head in without knocking. Dylan

heard the noise and looked

over. Upon seeing him, Sophia

grinned and asked softly,

"Are

you busy?"

Dylan merely deliberated for a moment before saying,

"No.

"

Only then did Sophia enter his office, and Dylan straightened

the documents on his desk.

"What's the matter? Is John

busy?"

Sophia murmured an assent.

With her hands behind her back,

she leisurely sauntered

around Dylan's office before finally going over to the window and gazing out.

"Miss

Bailey is

here to discuss the collaboration. It was boring to me, so I came out.

" After saying

that, she

even chortled.

"I think your

place here is much better here.

John's office is just too boring.

"

Dylan cracked up.

"It's boring

here, too. All offices are

similar.

"

Sophia turned and looked at him.

"By the way, I'm opening a

dessert shop next month.

Come and patronize my shop

then. It'll be my treat.

"

Surprise flooded Dylan.

"You're

opening a shop?"

Sophia nodded earnestly.

**“I’m
bored. I have limited skills, so I
can only open a small shop.
There’s nothing else I can do.
”**

Dylan stared at her intently.

**“I
thought you liked to stay
home.
”**

**Jaw dropping, Sophia
vehemently denied it,
exclaiming,
“No, no! I really
detest being so idle
every day. Back when I lived
with my grandpa, I was
slammed every day.
”**

**Speaking of this, she continued
talking about her life in the past.
She didn’t bother hiding
anything, seemingly not at all
embarrassed by her
impoverished life back then.
Her voice
was normal, and she even
doubled over when speaking of
something hilarious.
Dylan smiled as well. Everything
she was saying was foreign to**

him. The Constance Family was very strict, and they had to learn many things from a young age. In addition to normal classes, there was even home tutoring, so their schedules were packed every day with no time for play.

Walking over, Sophia sat down across from him, placing her arms on his desk before resting her chin on them.

“Actually, I still miss my life back then. While my days were rather difficult, I was happy every day,” she lamented.

Dylan gazed at her. Her eyes are quite round, the black of her pupils profound. When she speaks of something happy, the corners of her eyes curve up before the corners of her mouth follow suit, her face wreathed in a perpetual smile. He then tried recalling the past. While I hadn't seen her much for any length of time in the past, I remember that she

always looked forlorn every time I saw her, giving off a depressed feeling. It discomfited me, but now, she's an entirely different person.

Sophia laughed heartily.

"I'm not fibbing. There are many small animals in the mountains where we lived. You can only see these animals at the zoo usually, but over there, it's a common sight.

" Raising her head, she scratched her chin.

"Ah, I haven't seen them in a long time. I should really go back for a look when I'm free.

"

Dylan's gaze fell on Sophia's hand. Her hands aren't smooth and delicate but slightly rough. Despite their improved condition in the past year or so, it's still obvious that these hands are used to hard work. Now, they're bare, with nothing at all adorning them. His brows

creased.

“Why aren’t you wearing your wedding ring?”

The Returning Ex Chapter 163

Sophia was startled. Since she was enthusiastically talking about herself, Dylan’s interruption

scattered her thoughts. A touch mystified at first, she asked, “Huh?”

Dylan gestured to her hand.

“Why aren’t you wearing your wedding ring?”

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Lowering her head, Sophia glanced at her finger. In reality, she’d taken off her wedding ring

when she signed the divorce agreement. There was a faint circle mark on the base of her finger initially, but after all this time, even that mark was gone. She hesitated for a moment before flashing him a helpless smile.

“That ring actually didn’t really fit my finger, so it has always been uncomfortable to

wear.

” She looked up at him and pursed her lips briefly.

“It was Mrs. Constance who chose the ring back then. It’s really not my size, but I was embarrassed to speak up in the past and just wore it reluctantly.

However, nothing can change the fact that it doesn’t fit, and I can’t just make do, else I’d only make life difficult for myself. Thus, I took it off.

” One couldn’t quite tell whether this explanation referred to the ring or Sophia herself. Nonetheless, she was telling the truth, for it was indeed Mrs. Constance who chose the ring.

At that time, John claimed that he was swamped with work, so he’d never been involved in choosing the wedding gown or wedding ring. All at once, Sophia recalled their pre-wedding photo shoot. If it weren’t for the fact that he needed to put

on a show for Old Mr. Constance, he initially wanted to have someone Photoshop the pre-wedding photos. He didn't even want a pre-wedding photo shoot. She didn't really consider this in the past, but recalling it now, she found it truly ridiculous. If possible, he probably wanted someone else to attend the wedding and get married on his behalf. How did I manage to live so pitifully in the past?

At the side, Dylan grunted in understanding before saying, "But the situation now is somewhat different. If someone notices it, it'll easily be made into a big deal."
"

A moment of clarity hit, finally reminding Sophia of this matter. Ah yes, that rat b*stard, John Constance, is currently in trouble, and I need to work with him in all things. Blinking, she mischievously declared, "That's perfect! It's my chance now to have him buy me a new

**one someday, and this time, I
want to choose the ring
myself.**

”

**Dylan merely chuckled without
commenting. After only
chatting zealously for a while,
Sophia didn't keep him for long
and left. Subsequently, Dylan
started getting busy with his
work.**

**Nevertheless, Sophia didn't feel
self-conscious. She looked
around the office alone before
plopping down on the sofa in
his office and started playing
games on her cell phone. In the
beginning, she sat decorously,
but she later couldn't quite
stand it anymore. Slipping off
her
shoes, she sat cross-legged on
the sofa in an extremely casual
manner.**

**The moment Dylan lifted his
head after glancing through a
few documents and making
annotations, he saw her smiling
at her cell phone. The
background sound was very soft,
but**

it was still faintly audible.

Massaging his temples, he put the documents away at the side.

Then, he stared at her intently. Sophia became an entirely different person after returning from that business trip with John.

He'd even heard that she hit Mrs. Constance a few days ago.

Everyone didn't believe it at first, but the servants claimed to have seen Mrs. Constance dashing off tears and complaining to Old Mrs.

Constance. Then, John and Sophia moved out, indirectly proving those rumors true. However, Mrs. Constance hadn't kicked up a fuss

after Sophia hit her.

This doesn't quite make sense.

Dylan subconsciously frowned since he knew full well the type of person his aunt was.

She can't suffer even the slightest grievance. All these years,

even William has always spoken

to her kindly.

Meanwhile, Sophia has always been the target of her harassment, so why didn't she kick up a huge fuss when Sophia suddenly hit her? Licking his posterior molars, the look in his eyes as he gazed at Sophia became increasingly curious.

Sophia, however, didn't know all this as she remained smiling at the screen of her cell phone.

When John came over, this was the picture that greeted him—Sophia sitting cross-legged on the sofa as she usually did in his office, while Dylan sat at his desk, staring at her intently.

Everyone is busy, yet he isn't even going through his documents? Instead, he has his arms crossed with a hint of a smile playing on his lips!

The Returning Ex Chapter 164

John went over and pushed open the door, standing right at

the entrance.

“Sophia.

” His

voice was a tad loud.

Startled, Sophia gave a cry and raised her head in surprise.

“Why are you here? Are you looking for Dylan?”

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John swept his gaze over Dylan, only to see him reclining in his chair while staring at him calmly, even appearing as though he was anticipating a good show. He lowered his voice

and replied,

“No. I came here to look for you. Let’s go back.”

Sophia hadn’t yet finished her game, so she continued looking down at her cell phone.

“Miss Bailey has left?”

“Yeah,

” John answered. Then, he grew impatient and went over to her before tugging her up from the sofa by the wrist.

Sophia protested vehemently,
“Wait! I haven’t worn my shoes
yet. My shoes! Hey, John
Constance, you’re such a...
”

Perhaps she’d wanted to curse
him out, but she hurriedly
ceased
talking when she realized that
this wasn’t the right place to do
so. She withdrew her hand
forcefully.

“Let me wear my
shoes. Why are you in such a
hurry?”

John’s brows furrowed. I’m not
in a hurry. I just don’t want
other people from the
Constance

Family to come over and spot
her here. While they appear all
innocent and pure, they’re
actually very much cunning.

Thus, I don’t want them to see
her and Dylan interacting so
closely. Standing stock-still, he
waited for her to put on her
shoes before declaring,

“Let’s
go.
”

Sophia followed him out of Dylan's office, but she didn't forget to turn back and look at Dylan when she reached the door.

**"I'm leaving. You must come when my new shop opens, okay? It'll be my treat."
"**

The corners of Dylan's mouth lifted.

**"Sure."
"**

With a cold expression on his face, John left Dylan's office and waited for Sophia in the corridor. When Sophia came out, she cast several looks at him. Baffled, she asked in a lowered voice,

"What was that earlier? Did something happen again?"

John said nothing, so she hazarded a blind guess.

"Are you distressed about the video that leaked onto the Internet? Ah, you don't have to worry. It's

just a video of a few seconds
that
can't prove anything. The
Constance Family is rich, so just
hire some people to demand
the
full video in the comments, and
I guarantee you that they'll
definitely be at a loss instantly.
”

Still, John's expression didn't
ease, remaining frigid as he
kept mum.

Sophia, however, didn't even
bother to look at him. Smacking
her lips, she changed the
subject.

“But why did Miss
Bailey leave so soon? That's not
quite right. I thought you two
would have talked until you get
off work at least.

” After she'd
said this, she chuckled.

“Nonetheless, the picture of
you working together with Miss
Bailey is truly... truly...

” She
then tut-tutted without
finishing her sentence.

John's strides were large, and

he wholly ignored Sophia who was jabbering at the side. Only after he'd entered his office did Sophia leisurely follow suit. As soon as she stepped into the room, she caught sight of his glass that was on the coffee table beside the sofa. It's still where I placed it earlier, but he probably won't touch it anymore. Thus, she went over to

pick up the glass before walking straight to the trash can and tossing it in.

Taken aback, John looked at her with a frown. Sophia chortled. "I've used it, and it doesn't seem appropriate for us to share. I'll buy you another one someday.

" However, John's frown didn't ease, and he seemed rather displeased. Nonetheless, Sophia wasn't bothered about his mood although she used to be very much concerned about that in the past. Now, all she cared about was her happiness. She exited the game on her cell

phone and simply threw the phone aside before addressing him again.

“There’s still some time yet before you get off work. Why did you ask me to come back? Aren’t I distracting you from your work here?”

After a long while, John declared,

“Therefore, don’t make any noise.

”

Sophia rolled her eyes.

“I’m

very much alive, so can I possibly not make any noise?”

John no longer responded to her. Sitting at his desk, he opened a document, but he just couldn’t focus.

Meanwhile, Sophia glanced around before going over to the window. She lay on the windowsill and looked down at her finger. It’s truly too plain, lacking an adornment of sorts. The diamond on the diamond ring back then was actually massive, thus inconvenient to wear, but I was stubborn then,

thinking that the person would remain mine as long as I wore it. I was truly too naïve and stupid.

The Returning Ex Chapter 165

Sophia then stayed in John's office for the rest of the day.

This time, she was obedient to the

letter and didn't make any noise at all. John, however, was discomfited. Several times, the urge to look up and ascertain whether she was still in the office gripped him since there wasn't a single sound from her.

Sophia didn't budge from her spot by the window. At first, she stared at her finger, and later, she gazed out the window although there actually wasn't much to see since she was very high above the ground.

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John looked at her twice, but she remained silent and expressionless. This somewhat feels as

though we've gone back in time. In the past, her presence didn't

quite register as well to the point that I couldn't even sense her when we were in the same room at times. Feeling a touch unsettled, he quickly took out the documents he discussed with Isabelle and scrutinized them one by one until it was time to get off work. He had to take Sophia to the banquet, so as soon as the clock struck, he left the office with her right away. Their eveningwear was in the car, so the two of them went to the designer's place.

Over there, everyone was already waiting for them. The man in monk robes was standing before the dressing table, waiting for Sophia. After she sat down, the clinking of prayer beads once again sounded in her ear. The makeup and hairdo probably came easier to him this time, for he was done in a far shorter time. After Sophia was done glamming up, she changed into her clothes and

shoes.

When she came out, the designer from back then came over with a tray that held a complete set of accessories—a necklace, ring, earrings, and bracelet—that were gleaming dazzlingly. Sophia was startled.

“What is this?”

The designer smiled.

“John picked them especially for you. Try them on.”

Oh, I almost forgot! A moment of clarity hit Sophia. While there’s a distinct theme for such an event, women who attend contend among themselves, comparing the worth of their jewelry and evening gowns. My attendance there is a reflection of John’s image, so he naturally can’t skimp. Thus, she took them and put them on by herself.

The designer nodded.

“They match this evening gown well.”

Meanwhile, John also glammed

up a bit. The process for men was much simpler than for women since it only involved hair styling and a change of clothes. At the end of the day, John was still who he was, looking all resplendent. He was on the phone when Sophia went over, but he then hung up upon seeing her.

“We should leave now. They’ve already started.”

It’s actually not late, but they unexpectedly started so early. When John and Sophia left the place, a driver was already waiting outside. Makes sense. After all, he would have to drink when making small talk at an event such as a banquet. John then steered Sophia into the backseat.

Sophia rested on the car windowsill.

“I’ve never attended a banquet. I wonder what it’s like.”

To this very day, the only

large-scale event she'd ever attended was her own wedding.

She

was stupefied the entire time, at a loss as to how she should behave. Actually, she'd merely felt that she wasn't worthy of John before the wedding and didn't consider anything else, but that wedding was like a magic mirror, finally waking her up to the gravity of familial background and status to a person, changing her horizons and adaptability accordingly. She'd never seen much of the world, so she immediately appeared timid and inferior at such an event.

John leaned back against the seat.

"Just behave as you normally do. There will be many people there, so no one will pay particular attention to you."
"

Sophia chuckled.

"That may be true in the past, but my dearest Mr. Constance, have you

**forgotten that you've now
embroiled in a scandal? Do you
think those people won't pay
attention to you and me?"**

John turned and looked at her.

"So, are you afraid?"

Sophia blinked.

"No.

" That was

**the truth. If it were back then,
I'd definitely be afraid, mainly
out of fear that I'd cause him
trouble due to some blunder or
other. Now, however, I'm no
longer afraid. Her mentality
now was extremely
matter-of-fact. My relationship
with him**

now is that of a partnership.

**Even if there's trouble, he asked
for it. In a partnership, there
must be risks. He can't possibly
just enjoy the benefits without
making any sacrifices.**

The Returning Ex Chapter 166

**The car slowly drove toward the
hotel where the banquet was
held. The hotel was rather
huge, and there were now
flower stands by the entrance.**

They'd even laid out a red

carpet, so with the exception of the media and spotlights, there wasn't much difference from celebrities walking the red carpet. When the car slowly came to

a stop beside the red carpet, the driver came over to open the car door.

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Sophia went in with a hand on John's arm. Indeed, there were already many people inside who were now gathered in small groups, and their arrival caused quite a stir although Sophia wasn't certain whether it was because of John himself or the rumors revolving around him.

Anyway, many heads turned and stared at them. Her expression was utterly calm, while the corners of her lips were curved. In fact, she was even more unruffled inwardly. Putting it bluntly, such an event is merely an occasion for everyone to bring out their best outfits and

contend with others. It's simple, so there's nothing to fear.

Subsequently, someone came over with a female companion to greet John. Sophia merely put on a smile. I don't know anybody here, so I don't need to say anything but smile. John

is a veteran in the business world, so he's more than capable of handling them.

A server came over with a tray, from which John took a glass of red wine, while Sophia took a glass of champagne after a moment's contemplation. She'd drunk almost a whole bottle of red wine back at the Constance Residence, but its taste was just meh. Hence, she wanted

to try something else. Aware that she had a low alcohol tolerance, John whispered to her,

"Don't drink so much.

" Then, he continued making small talk with the other person.

Smiling, Sophia leaned close to

him.

“I naturally know that. Did you think I’m an idiot that I’d again leave myself vulnerable to you?” When these words reached his ears, both their expressions froze for a brief moment, probably recalling the incident that night. Sophia pursed her lips, knowing that she’d misspoken. It was a bit too crazy that night, so much so I’m feeling inexplicably shy when recalling it now. After that, she kept silent, saying nothing unless she had no other choice. After making his rounds in the banquet hall, John finally led Sophia to the garden behind the hotel. The garden was incredibly vast and divided into several sections, with artificial rocks and cascades to boot. This hotel mainly catered to banquets, so the décor was quite lavish.

At this time, Sophia’s feet were hurting from the high heels, so she wanted to suggest

taking a rest, but someone again approached with a glass of red wine. Forcing a smile, she continued performing her duties as a companion. I now know that it's actually not easy to entertain people. Why, my face is going stiff from this perpetual smiling!

After John had made small talk for a while, the host made an appearance in the banquet hall, so he then took Sophia over. The host was a charitable organization that targeted educational institutions in remote mountainous areas. This time, they were urging the various companies to donate money and materials to the schools in remote mountainous areas.

As Sophia stood with John within the crowd, she remarked in a whisper, "They invited you here to eat and drink, then have you paid?"

Murmuring his agreement, John also lowered his voice to a

whisper.

**“There is no shortage
of such charity dinners every
year.**

**” Since Constance
Company had a vast business,
there
might be negative press right
away if they didn’t attend
despite having been invited.**

**After
all, it was very easy to get
criticized and boycotted if one
failed to do charity after making
money. Thus, it was an
obligation most times.**

Sophia tut-tutted.

**“It’s fine if
the money is truly used for its
intended purpose, but who
knows whether certain people
will pocket some during all the
bureaucracy and red tape
involved.**

”

**“It’s definitely not all that
transparent, but the companies
that donate merely do so for
the
sake of their reputations, so no
one cares about the flow of**

**funds after having given the money out,
” John scoffed.**

Pursing her lips, Sophia listened as the host began to talk about the deplorable conditions of those children in the remote mountainous areas as they attended school. The images projected on the screen behind him were now those of the mountainous roads and hills the children had to traverse just to attend school. The classrooms were extremely dilapidated, the tables lacking legs, and blackboards cracked; even the lectern was of dirt ground. At the sight of these pictures, even the most hard-hearted person would probably be moved for a moment.

Sophia inhaled deeply, for she couldn't quite bring herself to continue looking at the pictures as she recalled the village in which she lived back then that was of a similar state. Averting her gaze, she only managed to catch sight of

**Isabelle who was standing a
near
distance away.**

The Returning Ex Chapter 167

**Isabelle came with Old Mr.
Bailey, and the two of them
were standing together as
Isabelle**

**stared solemnly at the pictures
on the screen with a faintly
anguished expression on her
face. Even though Sophia had
looked at her for a long time
before retracting her gaze, John
didn't see Isabelle, his attention
focused on the host.**

**The host droned on and on in
explaining the pictures before
talking about the theme for
the night—a charity dinner of
sorts to help the children in
remote mountainous areas to
leave the mountains and see
the world outside.**

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**Sophia was rather moved, but
she just worried to channel help
through such charity
organizations. The host's voice
and expression are flat as he**

talks about these pictures, not even a hint of emotional resonance to be found.

So, how can he possibly put himself in these children's shoes and consider their needs?

She

exhaled heavily, a touch distressed. I wonder how much of the money donated will actually

be used to help them. These companies have made the middlemen who are taking advantage robust and prosperous instead.

After the host had finished speaking, applause and discussions reigned below the stage.

Many people lamented that these children were pitiful, thus they deserved help, but no one knew whether they were truly speaking from the heart or merely putting on a show. At this

time, Sophia shifted a fraction. Tilting his head, John looked at her.

"What's wrong? Are you

not feeling well?”

Sophia hissed.

“No, my shoes
are just pinching the heel a bit.
”

John looked down at her feet,
but he couldn't see her shoes
since the evening gown was
too long. Well, news shoes
normally do pinch the heel.
After pondering for a moment,
John
suggested,
“How about I take
you to the second floor to sit for
a while.
”

Sophia hurriedly nodded.

“Sure,
sure.

” Anyway, I really don't
feel like being a spectator to
this hypocritical scene anymore.
John then took her arm, and
they both went up to the
second floor. At present, there
was
also quite a crowd on the
second floor that was about the
same size as the first floor. The
only difference was the

presence of plenty of small rooms furnished with a sofa and coffee table on the second floor, probably for the use of those who bumped into a prospective collaboration partner during a banquet so that they could discuss the details right then and there.

Leading Sophia to a room, John closed the door behind them. Sophia then plopped onto the sofa and slipped off her shoes. The pinching was indeed rather severe, for her heel was now abraded. Men might not understand this feeling, but shoes pinching the heel was truly an unpleasant feeling. While it wasn't fatal, the pain was fairly unbearable. John came over and took a look.

"Does this need to be bandaged?"

Sophia chortled.

"Such a paltry wound doesn't require a bandage.

**” She stared at her
foot for
a long while before suggesting
tentatively,**

**“Why don’t you get
me a Band-Aid?”**

**Having never known that a
Band-Aid could be used for this
purpose, John was taken aback,
but he then nodded.**

“Okay.

Wait for me here.

”

**When he’d left, Sophia slipped
off her shoes and placed them
aside. This evening gown was
too form-fitting that she
couldn’t even cross her legs, so
she merely sat on the sofa and
swung her legs. After waiting
for a long time, however, John
still hadn’t returned. Logically
speaking, the hotel should have
Band-Aids, so he wouldn’t have
to go out and buy one. She
then waited for a while longer,
unable to call him since her cell
phone wasn’t with her.
Meanwhile, there were
constant strains of
conversations as people came**

and went outside,
making her somewhat anxious.
As she waited and waited, her
patience slowly dissipated.
In the end, she slipped on her
shoes and went out in search of
him. When she went
downstairs from the second
floor, she saw that the host had
already finished speaking on
the first floor, and everyone
had dispersed. The situation
now was just as it was earlier,
everyone making small talk
among themselves. She circled
the lobby on the first floor in
search of him, but to no avail.
At her wits' end, she finally
stopped a server and asked him
whether he had a Band-Aid. The
server promptly nodded and
took one out of his pocket right
away. Glancing at it, Sophia
asked,
"Do all of you carry this
at all times?"
The server smiled.
"Yes, we all
have it at hand."
"

Sophia nodded. So, John

probably isn't delayed because he can't find a Band-Aid.

Holding

the Band-Aid, she walked toward the backyard. She'd just reached the edge of the lawn when she spotted John.

However, he wasn't alone; Isabelle was standing beside him.

The Returning Ex Chapter 168

Sophia swept her gaze over the entire area around them, but she didn't see Old Mr. Bailey.

So, the two of them have been chatting here alone? He's so engrossed in the conversation that he forgot about my existence, huh? Great, just great. Good job, John Constance.

She stared at them for some time, noticing that they were chatting happily away. After all, Isabelle wore a perpetual smile that appeared lovely. Isabelle was wearing a bright red long dress now, the dress rendering her all the more alluring since she was naturally tall and slender. From the looks of her,

probably no man will be able to refuse her.

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Sophia rolled her eyes. Then, she turned her gaze to John.

He's smiling as well. He actually seldom smiled, and even if he did occasionally, it was just a faint smile. Thus, it was

blatantly

obvious that he was truly happy now. Snorting mildly, Sophia then turned around and left.

There were a few small trees, slightly low yet lush, and there was even a bench under one of the trees. No one was around, so Sophia went over and sat down before slipping off her shoes. Nevertheless, she wasn't in a hurry to put on the

Band-Air, merely sitting there barefooted. She sighed lightly.

Since she hadn't eaten dinner and had just taken some snacks at the buffet area earlier, her stomach felt rather unsettled.

Lifting her head, she gazed up at the sky. The sky in the city is

always foggy as though
blanketed by a layer of some
sort. She rested her arms on the
back of the bench,
resentment written all over her
face while no one was here to
see. She's just lucky enough to
be born into a family with a
good background.

Even if she doesn't have that,
we're actually no different.

Isabelle Bailey, it's not like
you've

got a head or two extra, so why
are you so conceited? As she
thought about it, the chagrin
within her grew, so she drew
her leg back and kicked the
grass at the side.

There were no other people
here, so Sophia had rare peace.

The night breeze gently blew
past, delighting her as she sat
there. Putting aside all decorum,
she leaned back against the
bench, sprawled out as she
listened to the noises that
drifted over from somewhere.

After

sitting there for a good while,
her mood slowly improved.

She hummed for a while before lifting her head and gazing up at the sky. I'm actually feeling drowsy in my contentment, perhaps because I didn't have a good nap this afternoon. She then giggled to herself. I wonder how the host will feel if he were to learn that someone hid away and dozed off during the banquet. After some time, she then heard Isabelle's voice, saying, "That isn't likely. Could she have gone in search of food?" Her voice had always been gentle, and that also applied now. John's voice, on the other hand, was slightly panicked. "I didn't see her over there."

Sophia's eyes that were closed slowly opened upon hearing them. Staring at the gray sky, she contemplated the matter for a moment. John Constance, that rat b*stard, has finally remembered me, huh? She didn't move but maintained her

posture, sprawled out as though half-dead.

Meanwhile, John stood still and swept his gaze around the entire place, but he didn't see Sophia. Worry swamped him.

She's never been to such a place, so who knows where she might have wandered off to?

Unsettled, he headed to the artificial rocks again, but she wasn't there either.

Isabelle followed him all around, yakking endlessly.

"Miss Gwendolyn isn't a child, so she can't possibly be lost. Don't panic. We'll look for her slowly.

"

From afar, Sophia spotted John and Isabelle. She smiled vindictively. He now knows how

I

felt earlier. Thrilled, the forlornness within her just now disappeared in a puff of smoke.

After

she'd waited for quite some time, John's footsteps headed

in her direction.

She actually didn't hear his footsteps but mainly Isabelle who was jabbering incessantly at

his side. Then, Isabelle's voice suddenly ceased, upon which the corners of her mouth lifted silently even as she heard John heaving a sigh of relief.

John saw Sophia leaning back against the bench, her head lifted to the sky with her eyes closed, appearing as though she'd fallen asleep. So, he slowly walked over to her.

Isabelle,

however, stopped a near distance away. When John reached the side of the bench, he

murmured,

"Sophia.

"

Slowly opening her eyes, Sophia grinned.

"You're here!"

John noticed that she was holding a Band-Aid in her hand, and he had one in his pocket as well. Opening his mouth, he

**tried to say something about it,
but in the end, he merely said,
“I’ve been looking for you for
ages.**

”

**The Returning Ex Chapter 169
Sophia didn’t mention a single
word about John having gone
for such a long time, merely
murmuring an acknowledgment
before saying,**

**“I was bored, so I
came out.**

”

**John took the Band-Aid from
her hand and crouched. Her
evening gown was very long
and
covered her feet, so he lifted
the hem before taking one of
her feet. Sophia then twitched
slightly since it tickled a little,
but John immediately ordered,
“Don’t move. Just let me put
this on.**

”

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update and Novel Query
Tilting her head, Sophia looked
at Isabelle who stood a near
distance away. However,**

Isabelle only had eyes for John. She seemed to be showing some emotion on her face, but her face was concealed in darkness since her back was to the streetlight nearby. The corners of Sophia's mouth lifted. With her gaze remaining fixed on Isabelle, she directed her words to John, saying, "Keep your touch light. It hurts."

If it were during the usual times, he probably would have ignored her, but on this day, he actually murmured an acquiescence. It's telling that he's feeling a touch guilty. But honestly speaking, while I had no way to keep track of the time, it indeed felt that he only came looking for me after an interminable time, so he must have chatted very long with Isabelle. Therefore, he should be feeling guilty. John put the Aid-Band on her.

Although only one of her heels was abraded and the other was fine, he still took out the Band-Aid in his pocket and put it on her other heel as well. Then, he carefully slipped her shoes back on her feet. Sophia's eyes never left Isabelle, so she finally saw her expression clearly when Isabelle involuntarily took two steps toward her the moment John helped her with her shoes. The incredulity and disbelief in Isabelle's eyes had her feeling instantly gratified. Nice! I think the victory is again mine this round! After helping her put her shoes on, John straightened the hem of her gown. He stood up, then he said, "Stand up and try walking for a bit to see whether it still hurts."

Lifting her hand, Sophia grabbed his arm and stood up before taking two steps. "It's much

better.

” Then, she even smiled and thanked him. His expression was rather grim, but she was elated because she knew exactly what to do to make him feel wretched. He isn’t an unconscionable person; he just doesn’t love me. Now that he’s obviously in the wrong, he’ll feel all the more remorseful the more magnanimous I am.

Sophia turned and looked at Isabelle.

“You’re here as well, Miss Bailey?”

Isabelle grunted in assent.

“I saw Mr. Constance just now, so I chatted with him for a while.”

Exclaiming in understanding, Sophia replied rather slowly,

“I see.”

**John knew that she had gastric problems, and she hadn’t had dinner, so he said,
“Let’s go.**

**I'll take you to get some food.
It'll be some time yet before the
banquet ends, so you
shouldn't be going hungry.
”**

**Sophia murmured an assent
before glancing at Isabelle.
Likewise, John looked at
Isabelle as
well. It was as though Isabelle
only came to her senses then,
momentarily taken aback
before saying,
“Go ahead. I'm
going to look for my father and
see whether he's done talking
business.
”**

**Nodding, John left with Sophia.
After they'd gone a distance
away, Sophia turned around
and looked at Isabelle, only to
see her still standing there,
staring in their direction. She
just
appears somewhat lonely
standing there alone. Turning
back around, the picture of
herself
sprawled on the bench earlier
flashed across her mind. Is**

**John's suddenly amenability
due
to the fact that I, too, looked
pitiful?**

**John took her to the banquet
hall, and the two of them had a
look at the buffet area, but it
was mostly fruits and dessert.
She'd actually tried some earlier
and found the taste of the
dessert here lacking. While John
was a tad exasperated when he
failed to find anything filling
after looking around, Sophia
merely chuckled.**

**"It's okay. I'll
just have the server bring me a
glass of warm water.
"**

**She has gastric problems, and
it's a perennial issue at that.
Besides, she hasn't eaten, yet
she
had some alcohol earlier
because she was keeping me
company as I socialized. John
sighed.**

**"Wait a moment. I'll be back in
no time.
"**

Without asking any questions,

Sophia docilely murmured an assent and stood waiting in front of the dessert table. John then left and disappeared behind a pillar around the corner

right ahead. At this, Sophia pivoted and went to a corner at the side, leaning against the wall. In John's absence, hardly anyone would notice her.

The Returning Ex Chapter 170

It had been a while since John left, during which Sophia wondered if he was playing the same trick on her again by hitting up a random woman.

However, she felt relief upon seeing

Isabelle a few minutes later, as she wouldn't care who John was with as long as he wasn't with Isabelle.

Apparently, Isabelle already saw Sophia and was coming straight for her after noticing that

John was no longer beside her.

In the meantime, Sophia leaned against the wall lazily with a half smirk on her face before

opening up,
“Hello, we meet
again.
”

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With an upright posture,
Isabelle stood while spouting
words of accusation,

“I never
knew
you have so many tricks up your
sleeve, Miss Gwendolyn.
”

“What do you mean by that?”
Sophia huffed a laugh despite
the stern look Isabelle wore.
The heels Sophia wore helped
to cut down the height
difference between her and
Isabelle
as she was slightly shorter.
There was a twinkle in her eyes
when she pressed on,
“He is my
husband, so what if I played
some tricks on my man? You
aren’t even qualified to correct
me.
”

Despite the fact that Sophia

wasn't shrieking at the top of her lungs, neither was her voice soft. Isabelle frowned as she reminded,

"You should be more wary of your surroundings."
"

"Are you seriously telling me that?" There was a look of exasperation on Sophia's face.

"Why don't you hold yourself accountable when you're the one pestering my husband?" One of the passersby who came to get some food by the buffet counter turned to look at them. It was well-known that the Constances and Baileys used to set up an engagement between John and Isabelle; even the engagement date had been well thought out.

However, no one had expected that Sophia would manage to step in and snatch him away from under their nose despite the fact that the two families had set down on a wedding date. While it wasn't a widely known story, there were still a

handful of people who knew about it. Isabelle frowned as she didn't know Sophia had such thick skin to be able to say anything as she pleased.

"Miss

Gwendolyn,

" she said by way of reminding the latter.

"It's Mrs. Constance for you.

"

Sophia's voice was much louder than Isabelle's.

"I had been

reminding you multiple times that I am his wife, and as long as I remain as his wife, you'd better keep your hands to yourself because you will always be next in line no matter how

badly you want to be with him. I don't care about being shamed, nor would such a scandal affect me in any way.

If you would like the media to report that you, a daughter of the prestigious Bailey Family, not only associated yourself with a married man but went so far as to court him, it wouldn't

take much for me to contact the media for a press conference.
”

“Sophia, you...

” Words failed

Isabelle, as she was no good at quarreling due to her education and upbringing, so she was never on equal grounds with Sophia to begin with.

Even the unreasonable Mrs. Constance was no match against Sophia, say less of Isabelle.

“Look at yourself, Isabelle. Your confidence faltered as soon as I raised my voice, so you couldn’t possibly fight against me.

” A fleeting smirk formed on Sophia’s face as she spoke before she turned to see John walking toward her, so she stood and walked over to him. However, she gave such a hard pat on Isabelle’s shoulder when she walked past the latter that her body swayed. With a low voice, Sophia said,
“You’d better not cross me, Isabelle.

Whenever I am upset with your performance would be the end of your carefree days.

”

A smile bloomed on her face as Sophia walked over to John in a hurry.

“What took you so long? I thought you went missing again.

”

“I needed to give my orders regarding matters, but it’s done now, so we can leave.

” That was his reply.

Sophia paused.

“What?”

John thought for a bit.

“They’re running out of food, so we’ll go grab a meal somewhere else as we can’t just have what we ate.

”

“Can we do that?” Sophia was surprised to hear that as she assumed that they had to wait till the banquet was over.

“We can always leave without having to wait for the banquet

to end since there's no point in staying.

” There was a smile on John's face. Relief washed over Sophia as she disliked such occasions where people wore metaphorical masks when they interacted.

Not only she had to upkeep her image when she ate, but she couldn't cross her legs when wearing a gown as well. All in all, she disliked the rules that she was required to follow during such occasions, so John led her away from the banquet. Isabelle stood behind them to watch as the both of them left. Sophia scuttled along as if having twisted her ankle, then held onto John's arm as she laughed, while John turned to look at her with a look of defeat.

The Returning Ex Chapter 171

John had the driver send them home and gave Zack a call on the way back to have him bring them some food. The gown in which Sophia was in would make it inconvenient for

her

to eat in a restaurant, so he figured it would be more comfortable for her to go home.

The fact that John and Sophia decided to come home so early came as a surprise to Zack, so he asked,

“Did the other guests bother you because of the scandals on the Internet?”

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John gave some thought to the situation before realizing that it didn't happen, as people would only talk behind their back instead of confronting him with their questions.

Whoever invited to a charity dinner would most probably own a huge business, which meant that they would also be shrewd characters who knew to uphold a sense of propriety.

The scandals were yet to be proven as true, so they wouldn't say anything that would make

an enemy out of him.

It was thus that John told Zack

that nothing happened before telling the latter to bring them their dinner as soon as possible, as both him and Sophia had yet to have dinner, and it was already way past dinner time, to which Zack replied that he would see to the task immediately.

After hanging up, John loosened his tie. Occasions like that annoyed him too, but he had to inevitably attend them from time to time. There was no congestion to the traffic as they went home, so they didn't spend much time on their journey home, and were soon back in their house.

“Nowhere compares to home.”

Sophia heaved a sigh of relief, then kicked off her shoes as soon as they stepped through the door. The accessories she wore were deftly taken off while she walked toward the sofa, which were later left on the coffee table.

**“These would
be
worth quite a lot, so I’ll return
them to you.**

”

**John took off his jacket and
changed his shoes.**

**“Consider
them as gifts from me.**

”

**“Nah, they’re flashy but
impractical at all, nor do I have
any use of them. I would be
painting
a target on my back for robbers
if I wear them on normal days,
so they’re useless to me no
matter how much they are
worth.**

**” There was disdain in
her tone of voice.**

**What she said surprised John,
as he didn’t expect her to be so
calculating. A smile bloomed
on his face, which was rare in
itself.**

**“You can always sell them,
as they’re worth quite a lot.**

”

**“It’s fine, as I do not know how
much they are worth. It’ll only**

be a bother if I wound up being cheated, so you should keep them, or give them to Isabelle if she doesn't mind."
"

Sophia stretched herself. There was a pause in John's movements as silence befell. Meanwhile, Sophia went upstairs barefooted to get changed into the pajamas she dug out from her room, which she quickly settled into comfortably. She made her way downstairs after putting her hair up in a loose bun and removing her makeup, only to see Zack having arrived at their house, whereas the items he carried were laid out on the coffee table. The rich aroma of the food he brought could be smelled before she even reached the lower level, to which she asked while walking downstairs, "Have you brought something I like?" "Of course. I picked out the

food that you would like, so you don't have to worry.

" Zack's

reply came quickly, to which John turned to look at him in response while wearing a frown.

However, Zack's attention wasn't on him as he was busy opening the packages to retrieve the food containers.

"You should eat up. Here, this is something that you would like, and it's still piping hot!"

"You're the best!" In a few strides, Sophia giggled as she took the food from Zack.

Meanwhile, John observed their interaction from aside, while he figured that they would've only known each other after he met Sophia, which meant they would only have known each other for half a year at most. Judging from the fact that Zack knew what she liked, he seemed to have put in a lot of effort to understand her.

The both of them took the food to the dining room, then Sophia giggled as they chatted away. John could hear Zack's words despite the latter having lowered his voice as he said, "Great job! You sure are the one whom I worship!"

Sophia gave Zack a pat on the shoulder before she mumbled something to him, prompting the latter to snicker.

"Really? I am curious about what happened!"

It was by then that John approached them in silence while wearing a smile.

The Returning Ex Chapter 172

"What are you talking about?" John found himself a spot by the table.

"We're talking about what happened at the banquet."
"

There was a pause in the conversation between Sophia and Zack before Sophia smiled.

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Her answer reminded John of when he left Sophia alone for a long while back then, which didn't sit well with him. When he saw her, her head was lifted while her back was leaned against the back of a chair under a tree. The fact that her eyes were closed made her seem like she was sleeping, but it looked pitiful no matter how he thought about it.

A smile bloomed across her face when she saw him, while the resignation and relief in it happened to prick his heart. John gave a noncommittal hum as he withdrew from his memories.

“What of it?”

While Zack cast a glance at Sophia, the latter chattered away,

“What else could it be other

than the promotional video for the schools in the mountains?

While a lot of them claimed to feel bad after watching it, we doubt any of it was heartfelt or

was it a ruse.

”

“While their feelings were sincere, it probably lasted only for a second and would fade from memory as soon as the video ended,

” John said while picking up his chopsticks.

In the meantime, another question popped out of Sophia’s mouth as she called for Zack to sit down with them while moving the food she liked before her.

“Where did you go just before we left the banquet? You spent a long time away.

”

“There was an upcoming session for donations, which I will still have to put some money in despite having left, so I needed to tell the host the amount that I intend to donate.

”

His tone was bland, but it

served to remind Sophia that the fact that he didn't donate anything despite having attended the event would reflect badly on him, especially when he left halfway through the event.

"Why does it feel like being robbed in an alleyway while having to put up with it happily?"

Sophia heaved a long sigh.

"That's the gist of it.

" A smile

tugged at the corner of John's lips.

While Zack wasn't hungry, he joined in out of habit and would pick on the dishes from time to time. In a low voice, Zack asked as he cast a glance at John,

"I bet the Baileys were there

as well? They must've received an invitation too since they own a company of considerable size.

"

It was Sophia who replied to Zack instead of John,

**“Yeah, the
Baileys were there too, with
Miss Bailey and her father as
the representative.**

”

**After puffing out a breath of air
from his nose, Zack said
half-jokingly,**

**“Miss Bailey sure
has**

**been showing herself
frequently. Didn't she used to
present herself as a lady? So
why would
she switch to presenting herself
as one who is independent?”**

**“Perhaps because she could,
seeing that she has the money
and the support of her family.**

”

**Sophia smacked her lips before
speaking up in a
self-deprecating manner,**

“Look

at me. I

**couldn't even become one even
if I wanted to as I do not have
the necessary skills.**

”

**Lifting a hand, Zack placed it on
her shoulder.**

“You will be just fine! Look at you! You are also on the path of becoming a business woman if you open your shop! You might even say that you’re far more successful than Isabelle, as you relied on yourself while she relied on her family!”

“Are you saying that for real? Am I not relying on you and John?” A burst of laughter escaped Sophia.

Zack was startled for a moment before laughing out loud while trying to correct himself,

“You can ignore us and see us as the paveway that will lead you to your success, but that’s beside the point anyway.

”

There seemed to be a nice atmosphere between them as Sophia responded with a laugh, but John wasn’t included. He wore an aloof expression as he didn’t see why that would be funny. Their exchange wasn’t only boring, but outright pointless.

He wondered if they used to be

that close to each other, as he never paid attention.

Although the fact that Sophia and Zack's familiarity with each other was a surprise during their trip to Tri Asel, he didn't think much about it as he was still slightly averse toward Sophia back then. However, they seemed to have gotten even closer now throughout the period when he wasn't looking.

The Returning Ex Chapter 173

Zack bid them goodbye after eating as it was getting late.

While nobody sent him off, Sophia did tell him to take care on his way back when he stood, to which he replied with a hum before greeting John more formally. He then left them alone in the house.

After taking a few more bites out of his meal, John put his chopsticks down as he observed Sophia. She was sitting crossed-legged on the chair with her sleeves rolled up while grabbing onto the seafood with her bare hands without even putting on a disposable glove,

and her mouth was oily from all the food she ate.

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It was a sight which John could hardly bear to watch as he was a bit of a clean freak. Can't she be more graceful and clean when she eats? Meanwhile, Sophia was enjoying her food so much that she missed out on his expression, but she did formulate a question as she ate.

"By the way, what were you talking about with Miss Bailey back then?"

There was a pause in John's movements when he realized she was referring to when he left

her alone. He then replied,

"We were talking about a possible collaboration, and I told her about the details that I thought needed to be amended in the documents she handed me today.

"

There were no further reactions from Sophia as soon as she

noticed that he wasn't about to mention what happened in the past. Meanwhile, John could no longer bear to watch her eat, thus stood to excuse himself.

"Carry on with your meal. I'll be upstairs.

"

"Alright.

" A nonchalant reply was given.

After he stepped past a few flights of stairs, he looked back at the dining table when Sophia's phone rang to see her wiping her hands in a flurry of panic before picking up. The phone was left on the table and switched to loudspeaker as she ate on, in which a man's voice could be heard uttering her name.

A laugh escaped her as she said, "Hey, why'd you think of calling me?"

After staring at her for a while on the spot, John walked upstairs with his hands in his pockets. Her laughter could be heard from the stairway on the

**second floor as she chatted
away,**

**“Tomorrow? Sure, I’ve
got time. In fact, I have all the
time in the world, so we can
meet tomorrow.**

”

**He remained expressionless as
he retired to his room and took
out his pajamas. Despite his
initial plans to shower, he
stopped after giving it some
thought and went on to light a
cigarette by the window instead.
However, he didn’t actually
have the desire to smoke, so
he stood there until the
cigarette burned out before
snubbing it out on the window
sill.**

**Then, into the shower he went.
He spent more time in the
shower than usual, probably
due
to having drunk some alcohol
and the saltier than usual
dinner. He put on his pajamas
after
that, then decided to go
downstairs to get himself a
bottle of water to quench his**

thirst,

only to find that Sophia was nowhere to be found.

Upon arriving at the kitchen, he checked on the dining room to see it cleaned up, which was a relief to him. When going upstairs with a bottle of water in hand, he saw the accessories on the coffee table. They were handpicked by him and were worth quite a lot, so he was expecting Sophia to take them after putting them on, judging from how miserly she was, but she wound up not taking any of them.

Thus he retrieved them before heading upstairs to chuck the accessories into the drawer of the nightstand in his room. In the meantime, something else could be seen in the drawer, which he realized to be his divorce certificate after pausing to check.

Memories of the process itself were hazy at best perhaps due to his sullen mood. The only thing that stood out to him was that Sophia was smiling when

they took the photo for the cert. It was one of sincerity that differed from the usual fake smiles that she plastered onto her face, as there were curves at the corner of her eyes that used to be absent.

He flipped the cert in his hands while sitting on his bed to check on it. Amidst his muddled thoughts was a heavy feeling weighed upon his heart, so much so that it was suffocating.

The Returning Ex Chapter 174

The next day, John was already off to work when Sophia woke up, as she woke up late. She scratched her head while sitting on the bed before washing up at a leisurely pace, but she was very aware that she had an appointment with Ian.

Last night's meal was a whole feast, so she wasn't hungry yet. She put on some light makeup after washing up, then went to the mall to shop for some new clothes. The outfit she picked was a skirt and a pair of sandals decorated with diamond chips. Her hair was

tucked into a bun, which finished up the refreshing look before she left.

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First of all, she went to check on the dessert shop, only to see that Robin had yet to open up for the day. It did seem like her lazy *ss had no plans to work on the business.

While lingering around the shop, Sophia noticed that there were quite a lot of office workers around the area during mornings, which meant that she would have sufficient customers if things worked out. She gave Ian a call when it was about time, which he picked up fairly quickly before asking where she was, then offered to fetch her. Upon telling him her location, Ian arrived swiftly in that very same car, which Sophia entered without hesitation.

She noticed that Ian looked different upon entering the car, as he was in a suit, which was starkly different from his casual

wear. The formal attire was very becoming of his handsome features, which helped him to blend in among the society's elites.

“Does this mean you have found a job?” While buckling up, Sophia threw him a question with a cheerful disposition.

“I'll start working in my family's company starting tomorrow.”

Ian's reply was short but serious.

It was followed by a pause on Sophia's part as she recalled John telling her that the Morgan

Family was one of prestige, and also one with an expansive business. She gave him a nod after giving it some thought.

“It's nice to work in a family business, as you can be less restrained while working in your own domain.”

“That's an oversimplification of things.

” A smile tugged at Ian's lips.

“Why would you say so?”

Sophia sounded surprised.

“Let’s go visit my family’s company.

” The smile on his lips never faded. He then drove her to his family’s company.

The car was parked outside as they weren’t allowed to go in, while Sophia rested by the car window as she stared at the office building outside the car.

“Does the whole building belong to your family?”

While resting on his seat, Ian hummed in assent as he observed the building.

Meanwhile, Sophia chuckled before saying, “It doesn’t look bad at all, as business seems to be booming.

”

The office building they owned was almost as huge as the one owned by the Constance Family, and both were located in the city center. However, Ian asked after a few seconds,

“What do you think the internal affairs would be like with such a big company?”

A sudden recollection of Ian indicating that the woman they met yesterday was his stepmother hit Sophia when she turned to look at Ian, which would make things a little awkward. The presence of a stepmother would almost always guarantee an estrangement between the child and the father figure.

“Do you have siblings?” Sophia twirled her gaze as she threw him a curveball.

Ian let slip a chuckle.

“Yes. I have an older brother, a younger brother, and a younger sister.

”

A mental image of Old Mr. Morgan popped into mind as she was amazed by his reproductive abilities, which prompted her to ask,

“Do they all work in the company?”

Ian gave her a nod.

“Yeah, all of them.

”

“It must be a complicated situation.

” Sophia smacked her lips, but she figured it wouldn’t necessarily compare to the situation in the Constance Family. All four brothers and their families were all gathered under a single company, which would guarantee a lot of ensuing schemes.

“Yeah, it’s super complicated.

”

The gaze in Ian’s eyes darkened, which made Sophia realize that the situation was far more complicated than she’d imagined. He switched the topic abruptly by that point.

“Have you read the online news article?”

“What news article? I haven’t had time to read it.

” Sophia was

startled by his question.
The Returning Ex Chapter 175
“The employee from Infinity
Group agreed to an interview.
”

A smile tugged at the corner of
Ian’s lips as he spoke. Miss Cox
who worked under Infinity
Group contacted the media last
night, thus the media arranged
for an interview with her early
in the morning.

It was said that a lot of
journalists from within the city
gathered over the night to
attend the
press conference. They sure
worked their *ss off for news
content.

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Sophia quickly fumbled for her
phone, in which news about
John could be found with ease
on the tabloids. The interview
with Miss Cox was on the top of
the search list, with a photo
of her included. She wasn’t
wearing any makeup, which
showed just how haggard she
was,

but Sophia wondered if she was trying to earn the sympathy of the public.

The interview was short, as Miss Cox was reportedly too ill to carry on with it halfway through it. Sophia checked on what Miss Cox revealed, which told of how she had had a good chat with John when she received him. Meanwhile, Miss Cox also confirmed that she hadn't seen Sophia, as John did not bring her along, which was the truth because Sophia did not join the reception.

It was revealed in the interview that Miss Cox had always admired John, and she also put him on a pedestal due to his family business. The interview took a turn to touch on the incident that went a little out of hand during the banquet after everybody was a little drunk.

Aside from that, she also announced that she wasn't trying to persecute John, as her plans were to apologize to Sophia through the media for hurting

her, which stirred a deep sense of regret.

In order to make up for it, she had already resigned from her position, as well as leaving the industry altogether. While she didn't expect forgiveness from Sophia, she extended a heartfelt apology to Sophia nonetheless.

Upon reading through the article, Sophia's mouth hung agape as she realized how good Miss Cox was at putting up a facade. She was literally spouting nonsense in the face of the public, which made Sophia seem almost like an imbecile in comparison.

There were no responses whatsoever on John's part, or rather, he seemed totally unfazed by the whole incident. His inaction somehow helped to calm Sophia down as she realized she wouldn't in fact be affected by the ruckus, and she would be safe no matter what happened. "It seems like there's still a long

way to go before the incident would conclude itself.

” Sophia

heaved a sigh after putting her phone away.

“So did John... You know... That employee...

” The question was

to the point, as Ian wasn't privy to the key components of the incident.

“No, he didn't. I attended the banquet with him, during which he was by my side the whole time.

” A smile bloomed on Sophia's face as she looked toward Ian. It would require a long

explanation to clarify everything, but Sophia wasn't about to reveal her own thoughts from

back then, thus smacked her lips before concluding,

“Please

don't go around announcing our divorce, as there were some complications between me and John that we have yet to settle.

”

There was a smile on Ian’s face.

“Worry not, as I am great at keeping secrets.

”

Sophia giggled.

“Are you planning to show me around the company today?”

Ian heaved a long sigh.

“I need to settle my admission procedures, but I didn’t want to come alone, so I called on you because I don’t have friends.

”

“That won’t be a problem for me, so come on.

” There was a sense of pride in Sophia’s tone as she got out of the car. Ian followed suit to stand behind her while staring at her petite figure with a frown on his face. What transpired was unbeknownst to her, thus walked into the Morgan Group’s office building alongside him. Nobody at the reception

seemed to recognize Ian, but one of the receptionists did know

Sophia, which happened to be a shock for the former when she saw Sophia, all the while addressing her,

“Mrs.

Constance.

”

The title sent a shiver down Sophia’s spine as she totally forgot that the media had just intercepted her last night at the entrance of the Constance Company’s office building for a long interview. It ended up being a news article with a photo of hers to go with it, so she

had in fact garnered a bit of fame, which was to John’s credit.

“Erm, he...

” While pointing at Ian, her mouth hung agape as she was suddenly at a loss for words. She wondered what the heck did Ian do to reach such a point that the employees in his own family’s company

would fail to recognize him.

The Returning Ex Chapter 176

**“President Morgan requested for my presence, so you can give him a call to get a confirmation from him,
” Ian**

explained upon approaching the reception. A call was swiftly made as soon as the president’s title was mentioned, which didn’t last for long before the receptionist hung up. While the receptionist didn’t tell Ian to go upstairs, she told him to wait for a moment.

The situation confused Sophia as she observed Ian from the sidelines while wondering if Ian never showed himself in the company prior to that moment.

She thus approached the receptionist to ask,

“How long have you been working here?”

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“Almost five years.

” There was

panic in the receptionist’s response when faced with

Sophia.

She nodded as she figured that Ian wasn't doing that great a job as the young master of his family, judging from the fact that the receptionist failed to recognize him despite having worked with the company for five years.

**After the two of them waited for a while, a man who appeared to be many years Ian's senior exited the elevator. He gave a noncommittal response upon seeing Ian,
"You're here."
"**

However, the man was startled by Sophia's presence, which led her to sigh inwardly as she struggled to get accustomed to her new found fame.

Meanwhile, Ian turned to look at

Sophia as he introduced,

"He is

Sean Morgan, and he... is my elder brother.

" The final part of the sentence sounded rather

forced, if nothing else.

“Hello.

” Sophia nodded toward Sean.

“Hello, Mrs. Constance.

” Sean

was polite toward her.

“My name is Sophia, so you can call me just that. Addressing me as Mrs. Constance actually sounds a little awkward.

”

Sophia chuckled.

Silence befell as Sean smiled at her out of courtesy before leading them to the elevator.

Most of the companies had a similar structure to their offices, and the same could be said of the Morgan Group.

They went through the administrative procedures to admit Ian into the company at the HR

department, and Sean told the staff to assign Ian the position of vice president, working alongside Mr. Zimmel, who would double as Ian’s mentor.

“Okay, I understand.

” Despite

the staff's astonishment, he nodded in agreement, while Ian wore an imperceptible smirk on his face, which Sophia missed out on as she was busy examining her surroundings with her hands behind her.

After filling in a form for appearance's sake, Ian was led to and instructed to wait in a nearby

meeting room. The door to the tiny room was opened as soon as Ian and Sophia sat down, through which a man about Ian's age entered. There was a sense of impudence in how he addressed Ian upon laying eyes on the latter.

"Why are you here?"

Ian didn't even spare him a glance during the ensuing silence, which seemed to displease

the man as he walked over to slam a hand on the table top in front of Ian.

"I'm talking to you!"

The look of indifference

retained as Ian rested his back against the chair, but Sophia was slightly unhappy about the situation.

“What are you doing?
You gave me a fright.”

“You damn—” The man turned toward Sophia rather impatiently, but managed to bite his tongue before he could finish his sentence as he stared at Sophia with much seriousness.

“Go on, what were you going to say?” The frown she wore was even more solemn than the one the man wore.

“Are you John Constance’s wife?” The man frowned slowly.

“Do you know my husband?” A scoff escaped her throat. Such a reaction from her had the man’s expression contorted even further as he turned to glance at Ian with a nod.

“I was wondering why the position you are offered was suddenly

changed, and I see the reason now. I sure underestimated you, Ian, as I never expected you to have ties with the Constances. A fine job you've done there.

”

“Hey Ian, does your family's company hire just about anyone? Didn't you set the bar a little too low?” Sophia smirked while casting Ian a glance, which prompted the man to shoot her a glare, but said nothing else. The door of the room was once again opened within that short span of time to reveal a woman by the entrance as she looked at the arrogant man.

“Simon, what are you doing here? Get your *ss out of that room to help with matters out here instead of speaking to some inconsequential brat.

”

Dazed, Simon looked over his shoulder at the woman by the entrance.

“Sally, Ian's here, and he's claimed the title of vice

president for himself!”

“Come here right this instance.
”

The woman didn’t even spare Ian a glance. Upon shooting him one final glare, Simon turned to leave them.

After the door to the meeting room closed, Sophia turned to meet Ian’s gaze.

“These two—
are they perhaps your...
”

He wore a smile as he said,
“Yeah, they’re all from the Morgan Family.
”

They were his siblings.

The Returning Ex Chapter 177

“They seemed to be rather impudent.

” A sigh escaped

Sophia. She had a feeling that the

Constances also disliked John, but they were smart enough to keep their thoughts to themselves instead of showing them.

On the flip side, things seemed worse with the Morgans, as

they wouldn't even pretend to get along with Ian. It was proof that they were less tolerant toward people, and it would affect their business in the long run.

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Meanwhile, silence befell as Ian wore a smile on his face. It wasn't long before the procedure

was dealt with, which meant he would begin working by the next day. Ian stood as he planned to meet Mr. Zimmel, while Sophia was unsure if she should go with him, thus asked,

"Should I wait here?"

"Sure, I'll be right back.

" Ian

gave her a nod. The staff from HR came in and handed her a glass of water after he left, while Sean followed behind the staff.

"President Morgan, he's out, if you're here for Ian.

" It wasn't

hard for Sophia to surmise his

intentions as she held the glass between her palms.

Sean cut to the chase and didn't seem to mind laying his cards out.

"No, I'm here for you.

"

It was by then that Sophia realized the benefits of being John's wife, as she was treated with

courtesy even in enemy territory, while she wouldn't even be able to step through the doors

of the company on her own.

"How'd you come to meet Ian, Mrs. Constance?" While seated across from Sophia, Sean asked his first question.

"What's your plan, President Morgan? Are you trying to filter through the company your brother keeps?" The ambiguous answer was due to Sophia's doubt in whether she should be honest.

A smile bloomed on Sean's face.

"That's not the case, so please don't overthink this, Mrs.

Constance. I am merely

curious.

”

“I would say we are fated to meet each other. John and I met Ian when we were on a business trip, and we kept in touch after that since we find each other to be pleasant company.

”

As she set the cup down on the table, Sophia spoke with a smile on her face,

“John is a businessman, so his willingness to befriend Ian meant that he might’ve seen something in him.

”

The reason she mentioned John was because she didn’t want anybody to focus on her relationship with Ian, but Sean was focused on something else as he nodded.

“Does Mr. Constance get along with Ian?”

“Yeah, as they share similar hobbies. As you might have known, my husband hasn’t the best

personality, so Ian is one of the rare people to be able to get along with him,

” Sophia gave a curt reply.

Silence befell as Sean averted his gaze, while Sophia did the same as she held her gaze.

What she said was a lie, so she couldn't reveal too much information in order to avoid making mistakes that would jeopardize herself. Sean gave a curt response before ending the conversation altogether, but Sophia was unsure if he believed in her lie.

Ian entered the room once again after Sean left a few minutes later, to which Sophia stood

to greet him,

“Can we leave now?”

“Sure, as I've already explained everything to Mr. Zimmel. All I have to do is to arrive on time tomorrow,

” Ian said with a nod.

The two of them then walked over to the elevator. There

were two types of elevators, one which was open for public use, while the other was exclusive to certain individuals. Sophia didn't hesitate to press the button for the exclusive one, while Ian wore a smile as they entered the elevator.

By that point, she couldn't care less about it as she was close to figuring out Ian's intentions for asking to meet her when he called last night. He was trying to take advantage of her identity by bringing her along to the company.

Judging from what Simon said, Ian's position was decided prior to that day, but her presence prompted Sean to make a last minute decision to change Ian's position.

While Sophia being an individual wouldn't have been able to alter the situation, the fact that she was backed by John did. Her sharing an amicable relationship with Ian would almost

mean that the latter shared a similar bond with John. The decision to be more partial toward

Ian on Sean's part was most likely due to certain underlying concerns he had.

Upon figuring everything out, Sophia wasn't about to blame Ian, as she knew he had it hard. He would never even consider such a method if he had other means to improve his circumstances.

The Returning Ex Chapter 178
Sophia and Ian boarded the car together, while she threw him a question just when he was starting the car engine.

"You and your brother don't share the same mother, do you?"

Upon recollection, the relationship between Sean and Ian didn't seem particularly amicable.

Sean even tried to inquire about Ian's relationship with John, which seemed to be out of caution rather than concern,

nor did they give off a vibe that they shared the same mother. However, their age difference made it hard to believe that Sean was born from Ian's stepmother.

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Ian didn't try to hide it from her, and opened up to her while he drove,

"Sean was mothered by my father's first wife, while my stepmother gave birth to Simon and Sally.

"

The statement was followed by a self-deprecating laugh, while Sophia need not ask as he continued on,

"Whereas I bring shame to the family, for my mother isn't among the officially recognized wives of my father.

"

Such a revelation startled Sophia, which caused her to inhale sharply as she thought to herself, Did he mean he is an illegitimate child?

The birth of an illegitimate child was commonplace among prestigious families, as it was far too easy for men—especially men of status—to cheat on their wives.

Even men of poor birth would think of having an affair, say less of rich men who would have women chasing after them.

They had far more opportunities to have an affair even if they had no intention to, which made it highly probable for them to go for one.

Back when Sophia married into the Constance Family, she assumed that men in a family like theirs would have a hard time maintaining their fidelity.

However, William seemed to be an exception. While the other members of the Constance Family were no concern of hers, William set a good example, which made her gradually

forget about the truth of the matter.

Her heart skipped a beat upon hearing what Ian told her, and she was suddenly being reminded of the risks of marrying rich. It was fortunate of her that John seemed to have inherited qualities of his father, so he hadn't stepped out of line by then.

"So your mother, she... Now..."

Sophia licked her lips nervously as she tried to ask with much uncertainty, but Ian seemed to have caught on.

"She married into another family, so she had since left the household.

"Such was his reply.

Sophia's mouth hung agape as she was at a loss for words.

However, as if having no need for consolation from a third party, Ian smiled before explaining,

"I'm already used to such things. I felt happy that she had found herself a new

life, as she could never integrate into the Morgan Family, so it was unfair if she were to be held up like that. The fact that she could start anew meant that she had gotten over the hurdle, which is something that I am happy about.

”

Sophia gave him a pat on the shoulder while consoling him, “You will also have a new life, so I wish you all the best.

”

A smile tugged at the corner of Sophia’s lips when Ian turned to look at her. Her facial expression wasn’t one of contempt nor pity, and she looked the same as back when they just got to know each other, which was a relief to him. He then switched the topic.

“Let’s

go

grab a meal. What would you like to eat?”

Upon figuring that she should be preparing for her driving test,

Sophia decided that she didn't mind about the food since she wouldn't be leaving the house for some time. It was thus she said,

"Let's have some hot pot. It's got a merry atmosphere to it.

"

"Sure, I happen to know of a restaurant that serves nice hot pot, but I am unsure if it's still up and running, so we'll have to check it out.

" Ian wasn't picky about food.

"Alright.

" Sophia let slip a chuckle as she took off her shoes to sit cross-legged, while Ian said nothing as he cast a glance at her with a smile on his face. The hot pot restaurant Ian mentioned was located beside a residential building, but there weren't a lot of customers during the day. They found a table beside the window upon entering it, and the waiter handed them the menu, from

which Sophia brazenly ordered a ton of food before Ian added two more side dishes to settle their order.

After the waiter left, Ian inquired, "Isn't Mr. Constance going to deal with the online scandals? The Constances didn't respond to the situation at all."

Sophia wound up being the one having to explain things upon being surrounded by the media, which was why a lot of people assumed she was in charge of resolving the situation.

Their approach made it seem as if the Constance Family dared not face Miss Cox head on.

The Returning Ex Chapter 179 Neither was Sophia certain of John's plans. She turned to look out of the window as she smacked her lips.

"John is the type of person who would choose to ignore certain things, which could be frustrating. I just

don't understand him.

”

That was how the two of them differed from each other, as Sophia would most certainly charge head on to confront whoever that slandered her. She could hardly tolerate being defamed, so she would fight back tooth and nail till the perpetrator was condemned for eternity.

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“Mr. Constance might have his own concerns and plans. I was never involved in business dealings, so I don't know much about it,

” Ian said after a moment's silence.

“You sing well, so I think it would be a pity if you gave up on that.

” Upon glancing at Ian, Sophia changed the topic, only to garner a smile from him. The waiter served them their soup after some time before the other dishes arrived. It was then that Sophia took out her

phone to take a photo of the food on the table before posting it on Facebook.

Considering the fact that she didn't have friends, she wasn't sure why she did that. Perhaps it was out of a desire to put it up somewhere, but she dared not think of who could and would see her photo.

They dug in after she was done posting, during which Sophia inquired about Ian's plans while working with his family, only to find out that he never had any, as he never wanted to work there but was forced to do so by his father, who was perhaps feeling guilty.

Ian had been wandering for a few years when the rest of his siblings had found their place in the company. A drifter he was, who never went home for two years. Old Mr. Morgan was becoming more sentimental as his age caught up with him, which was why he wished for a familial reunion, but it was torturous for Ian.

The meal went on for a while

before Sophia began scrolling through Facebook. Sure enough, Zack's comment could be found underneath her photo, in which he jokingly chided Sophia for enjoying hot pot instead of resolving the scandal. A fleeting smile crossed her face before she set her phone aside.

Ian sent her home after the meal, while Sophia reminded him to get a change of clothes as the both of them smelled like hot pot. It was after he waved at Sophia through a lowered window that he drove away in his car, then she turned to enter the house, only to see that the door was unlocked upon reaching the entrance.

She blinked her eyes while trying her best to recall what happened when she left the house, which she recalled having locked the door.

Standing by the french windows, she looked into the house, but there was no one in the

living room, so she wondered if a thievery had happened in broad daylight.

Sophia took a deep breath before entering the living room, which was the same as before, without any signs of having been searched through. There were sounds of people walking on the second stairway on the second floor when she scanned her surroundings carefully, and John was soon to be seen emerging beside the stairs while looking at her from higher ground.

“Why are you here? Shouldn’t you be in the office during this time of day?” She stared at him wide eyed as his presence came as a shock to her. By that point, it was already afternoon and well past lunch time.

Silence ensued as John walked down at a leisurely pace while holding his gaze, whereas Sophia quickly walked up to him after changing her shoes.

“What’s the matter? Did something happen in the

company? Are you fired?"

"Can't you see me in a better light?" So was his response while looking at her.

"Why else would you be at home? For a second I thought there was a thievery going on!"

A

frown formed on Sophia's face as she complained.

John drank the mineral water he retrieved from the fridge by the kitchen entrance while Sophia looked on from aside.

His silent treatment displeased her, thus she pressed on,

"I'm

asking you, so tell me the reason!"

It took him a few seconds before he gave a reply,

"I took

leave as I am not feeling well.

"

The Returning Ex Chapter 180

"Where does it hurt?" Sophia blinked as she stood on her toes to touch John's forehead.

There was nothing abnormal about his temperature, but

John took a step back to avoid

her touch. He had a hard time pinpointing where in his body exactly felt uncomfortable, as his entire body just didn't feel right.

Sophia realized upon him backing away that her gesture had crossed a line, so she giggled to relieve the awkward atmosphere while taking a few steps back.

"Have you gone to a doctor?"

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"That won't be necessary, as all I need is to get some rest."
"

Upon holding the bottle in hand, he walked toward the stairs. Sophia gave a hum in response without saying much else. However, John stopped in his tracks after taking a few steps on the stairs before lowering his gaze to look at Sophia.
"You

seem to be on good terms with the second young master of the Morgan Family.

”

“Yeah, that much is true.

” There

was a pause in Sophia’s movements before she nodded with much seriousness, as she figured the fact that she went to his company to support him meant that they were on good terms. Ever since she met him, she had regarded him as a friend, while their relationship would definitely have improved after what happened back in his family’s company, so she would say that they were on good terms.

“You only knew him for a brief time, so I don’t think you know how complicated his family is,

” John scoffed as he said.

While maintaining a serious expression, Sophia nodded in response.

“I know about that,

as

Ian told me everything. He has a

few half siblings, and he is an illegitimate child. I know everything.

” A sigh escaped her lips after saying so.

“His situation is complicated indeed. I used to think your family is complicated enough, but it doesn’t compare at all to the Morgans. Even though you have an extensive family, they could at least get along, while that’s not the case at all for the Morgans...

”

“I never expected him to tell you all this.

” There was amusement in his gaze as he stared at Sophia in surprise.

“Huh?” Sophia didn’t even register the ridicule in his tone.

“Yeah, we don’t keep things from each other.

”

He continued to walk upstairs as he spoke,

“Sophia, I realized

**by now that I underestimated
you.
”**

**“Huh? What do you mean?” A
frown could be seen on her face,
but John headed straight for
his room instead of answering
her question. Moreover, he
locked the door behind him,
which confused her, as Sophia
wouldn't go check on him
regardless if he locked it.**

**Sophia watered the plants after
spacing out for a moment, then
retreated to her room. After
taking a shower and drying her
hair, she lay in bed for a nap
with a full stomach. Such was
the luxurious life she only ever
dreamed of.**

**She dozed off after a while,
whereas John got out of his
room to go into the yard. There
were flower pots that were
arranged in two rows, in which
planted all kinds of flowers. A
frown formed on his face upon
checking his surroundings, but
he wasn't actually worried
about the scandal despite it
gaining momentum.**

What concerned him was the fact that he would be reminded of what happened after he was drugged whenever he came across those articles.

He would then recall what happened between him and Sophia in the lounge, and the memory grew even more vivid the more he thought about it, which wasn't helping his anxiety at all.

Upon retrieving a cigarette from his case, he left it dangling between his lips without lighting it. He wasn't in fact addicted to cigarettes, nor did he like the smell of cigarettes, as

it was more out of necessity that he smoked to blend in when he was socializing.

In the courtyard he stood while gazing upon the entrance of the house, as the sight of when Ian sent Sophia home was all he could think of.

The Returning Ex Chapter 181
John recalled when he saw Ian's face through the lowered car window, and he had to admit

that Ian was quite handsome, or at least he looked better than his younger half brother who was around his age, so it wouldn't surprise him if Sophia fell for him.

However, it was almost a given that Sophia would suffer if she were to marry into the Morgan Family, as none of the Morgans would be easy to get along with. She might be able to live a more carefree life if she would let things slide like how she used to, but neither her nor the Morgans would be able to get some peace and quiet if she were to adopt her current feisty attitude.

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He maintained the same position for a few moments before throwing the cigarette away, then turned to enter the house. He couldn't help but try to listen in on what Sophia might be doing when he walked past her room while heading toward

his.

Silence hung in the air before he realized he'd chosen a more soundproof material when renovating the house, so he wouldn't be able to hear anything even if Sophia did make

some noise in her room.

He thus waved his hand dismissively before returning to his room. The curtains were drawn

as soon as he entered before he lay down on bed. While he wasn't tired, he didn't know what to do, so he allowed himself to toss and turn on the bed. The phone he left beside him

rang as he did with a call from Zack, which he picked up.

The report Zack gave was about his company having contacted the hotel in Tri Asel to access the surveillance records outside of John's room that the hotel possessed, as well as their check-in details, which would suffice in dealing with the scandal.

Despite the good news, John didn't seem happy at all as he gave an almost insipid response. Zack went on to ask if he was still feeling unwell, to which he denied. However, he wasn't actually sure, as his heart space was filled with a well of turbulent and inexplicable emotions.

Zack hummed in response before going on, "The second young master dropped by just now as he wanted to hand you some documents, but left upon noticing you weren't in."

By that, he was referring to Dylan. John knew Dylan's visit wasn't anything particularly important, so he wasn't sure why Zack would make mention of it. Time passed as silence ensued, and the lack of a favorable response from John prompted Zack to go on with much reluctance, "Dylan said

something along the lines of not having seen Sophia around before he left your office. I don't really know what he meant.

”

“Alright, I know what to do, so you can work on your other tasks.

” John let slip a sneer as soon as he hung up, then flipped himself over to face the door while mumbling to himself,

“Sophia, I have most certainly underestimated you.

”

The fact that she was able to attract both Ian and Dylan was proof that Sophia was a cut above the rest. Mrs. Constance only took into consideration her familial background when she determined that nobody would want to marry Sophia if Old Mr. Constance hadn't forced him to. However, Dylan chose to go after her despite knowing her familial background, so John figured that one shouldn't be so

arbitrary in their opinions.

After lying down for some time, John was feeling a little drowsy, so he closed his eyes as he allowed himself to drift into sleep while figuring that the obnoxious thoughts that intruded

his mind would fade away after he woke up.

His slumber lasted for quite some time, as he woke up to a darkened sky. Upon leaving the room and reaching the stairway, he lowered his gaze to see the lights in the kitchen switched on, and noises could be heard coming from within it, which probably meant that Sophia was cooking.

As soon as he got down the stairs, he walked over to the sofa, only to see Sophia frying some vegetables in the kitchen while wearing an apron, with her hair bunched up, like a proper chef. The doorbell rang when he was about to approach her, which startled him as he turned around to check the entrance.

From the window beside him, he could see that someone was standing outside the door, who turned out to be his parents, thus quickly opened the door. William wore a look of indifference, while his wife was visibly unhappy.

The Returning Ex Chapter 182

“Mom, Dad, what brings you?”

Their visit was a surprise to John.

“Your dad told me you took a day off because you’re feeling unwell, so I came to visit you as I worry about you.

” Mrs.

Constance looked at him. The doorbell also alerted Sophia of the

arrival of guests, but she retreated into the kitchen as soon as she saw the couple.

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The house reminded Mrs. Constance of things that had gone awry, and a glance at Sophia’s direction triggered feelings of

discomfort. While standing by the door, Mrs. Constance was reminded of when Sophia humiliated her in front of the maids, which she held a grudge against.

Mrs. Constance scanned her surroundings after sitting down on the sofa alongside William. The decor on the first floor was not to John's taste at all, so she asked him in a low voice,

"Is this the house you gave her after your divorce?"

Upon seeing him give a nod, she harrumphed as she thought, Sophia's money situation sure took off after divorcing him! She made such a huge profit out of it! Even legal businesses wouldn't make so much profit! William looked at John as he spoke.

"Is the scandal the cause of your illness?"

John wore a smile on his face.

"No, it will take much more than that to falter me.

"

William nodded.

**“That’s fine,
then. The incident shouldn’t
have happened in the first
place,
and it will never brew into
anything of consequence as
long as you’re innocent.
”**

**“Yeah. Infinity Group should be
actively trying to create more
havoc, but they have only a
few more days to do so.**

” Such

was John’s reply.

**William understood what John
meant and said,**

**“I got news
that an auditing team was
established, so I believe we will
soon get results.
”**

**There was a smile on John’s
face while he switched the topic.**

**“Does Grandma have anything
to say upon being told that
you’re coming over?”**

**Upon hearing what her son said,
Mrs. Constance’s expression
froze. She recalled Old Mrs.
Constance having told her to
not provoke Sophia in any way**

so as to not create more burdens for John when the scandal was still a hot issue. While Mrs. Constance agreed to it, she did it with much reluctance. Meanwhile, Sophia was laying the dishes she prepared out on the table without a care in the ongoing conversation between the Constances, nor did she want to entertain them. The only exception would be William, whom she had no beef with as he never tried to humiliate her, which would consequently paint her in a negative light if she were to sulk at him. It was thus Sophia decided to walk over to the dining room after some mental strife.

“Dinner’s ready, so you can eat now.” She wasn’t going to specify who she was addressing. The manner in which Sophia carried herself came as a surprise to John, who recognized that

she was doing it for his sake. He stood up before extending an invitation to his parents,

“I’m

guessing you haven’t eaten, so why don’t we dine together?

Sophia cooks well.

”

“No, I’m not hungry.

” Mrs.

Constance sulked. While she had wanted to spout even more vile

words, she changed her mind

last minute due to Old Mrs.

Constance’s advice.

William didn’t wish for his wife to make a scene, thus gave her

a tug while trying to

persuade her,

”Come on, let’s

have some food. Do it for John

if nothing else.

”

“You can go on your own, as I

am not hungry at all. My

presence might just be a

nuisance to

everybody.

” The sulk on Mrs.

Constance’s face remained.

It was well-known among them that Mrs. Constance was ill-tempered and rash, so a meal with Sophia might very well trigger something, as Sophia was no longer the woman she used to be. She had become a cynic and rebel whom Mrs. Constance would never be able to tolerate, and William knew that as well. Thus, he cast John a glance as he said, "It's alright.

You should go eat if you have nothing else to do, while me and your mom will be taking our leave."
"

As soon as William made his intentions clear, Sophia approached him without hesitation, all the while wearing a smile on her face.

"Mr. Constance, have some food before you leave since I already spent the time to prepare them. You don't need to be in such a hurry, seeing that night has fallen.

”

Her attitude came as a relief for William, but he waved his hand nonetheless.

“It’s okay, as we do have matters to settle at home, so we will have to leave anyway. I’m sure there will be plenty of chances in the future for a meal together.

”

A giggle could be heard as Sophia went full on into people-pleasing mode.

“Alright, I’ll take that as a promise, and will make sure to prepare the food you like when you do visit.

”

As if making a promise, William hummed in response before leaving alongside his wife. The both of them left after he reminded John to take good care of his health. The smile on Sophia’s face collapsed as soon as they were out of sight as she left for the kitchen, while John turned to look at her, letting out a low chuckle before

following suit.

The Returning Ex Chapter 183

Both Sophia and John ate in silence. After the meal, she went upstairs when John was cleaning up, only to return in a while in a fancy outfit and makeup. Her appearance came

as

a surprise to John, who was watching TV on the sofa.

“Are you going out?”

“Yeah, I’ll be back after having some fun,

” Sophia replied.

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A frown sprang onto his face uncontrollably.

“During such a late time?”

“This is when the fun happens!”

Sophia didn’t care about his opinion of her when she replied. Besides, that was the time when night life began.

“Will you be with Ian?” It was an unnecessary question on his part.

She answered yes, then smiled.

“I’m going to hear him sing, as he has a nice voice.

” With a small handbag in hand, she turned around and left, her figure vanishing into the distance, while John had his eyes on her throughout the process. He flipped the TV channel upon averting his gaze to go through the various dramas that were being broadcasted at that time of night, but none of them caught his attention as he wasn’t up to date with the plot. He settled on a program on technology, but the scientific jargon was even more boring. While he had his eyes on the TV, one would notice upon close inspection that his gaze was in fact stuck on one point, and he was actually distracted. On the other hand, Sophia arrived at an underground bar on a cab. It was a small bar with only one public area, but it was rather crowded. Sitting on a high stool on the small stage was Ian, whom Sophia could

see as soon as she entered the bar. He had a guitar in hand as he sang softly to the mellow tune of the music.

Soft music wouldn't normally fit into the atmosphere of a bar, as people who tried to seek out excitement would prefer rock music. However, Ian's soothing voice made him sound as

if he was telling a story when he sang, so the customers were in fact enthralled by his performance.

Sophia found herself an empty spot in the corner as the tables around Ian were fully seated.

When she entered the bar, Ian smiled at her when he saw her.

Ordering some juice would make her seem out of place, so she asked for two bottles of beer after finding herself a seat.

After a while, a few men tried to strike up a conversation with her, but she didn't want to entertain them at all, thus pointed toward the stage while telling them,

"He's my friend, so

I'm not alone.

" The men

retreated as soon as they realized Ian was her friend.

The song ended after a while, after which Ian approached her as the audience applauded him. He seemed to have gotten used to the attention as he merely nodded at the crowd to show his appreciation.

Sophia did the same upon him settling down beside her while saying,

"I think you have the talent to become a star! You sing well, and you look handsome, so you will definitely become famous with some marketing.

"

A smile formed on his face.

"Forget about it. I wouldn't be able to lead such a life even if what you said was right, for I'm an illegitimate child.

" He

figured that he would receive a lot of negative criticism if that facet

of his life was uncovered.

“It was never your fault, so people shouldn’t be blaming you.

” Sophia heaved a sigh.

“It would be great if everybody thinks like you.

” Ian stared at Sophia.

The idea was dismissed with a wave of her hand.

“Forget about it. Let’s not think too hard.

Did you drive here? Can you drink?”

Ian shook his head.

“I have to sing, so I’d better not.

”

There was a plate of fruit on the table which Sophia pushed toward him.

“Have some fruit then to moisten your throat.

”

It led Ian to observe her curiously before asking,

“I don’t understand why John would divorce a woman like you.

”

The question startled her, but she quickly covered up her helplessness with a laugh.

“Perhaps everybody has their own perspective on things. All my merits would amount to nothing as long as he holds no love for me.

” No matter the merits one held, it wouldn’t matter in the eyes of someone who didn’t love them.

The Returning Ex Chapter 184
Ian sang another love song after spending some time with Sophia. The volume of the music

was so soft that he was almost singing a cappella. Silence befell the bar all of a sudden, and all of the noise had died down.

The lights were dimmed while Ian was almost shining as he sat under the spotlight. Sophia rested her chin on her hands that were in turn rested on the table as she observed Ian intently. When he reached the middle of his song, he cast a glance at her, and the both of

them exchanged a smile while holding their gazes.

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Sophia opened the beer after ordering some side dishes, which, in her opinion, would go well with the beer. While it was her intention to only drink a little, the beer was so weak that she felt nothing but bloated after a bottle of it, thus proceeded to open the second bottle.

Some bold audience had the waiter buy some flowers to be given to Ian on stage, throughout which Sophia watched while smiling like a fool. Such a sight had to be commonplace for Ian as he thanked that person after stopping the song. He then left the flower on the ground beside him before continuing with his song.

However, Sophia's gaze was fixated on the bunch of flowers when she realized she never received a single bunch of it

despite her age. Not only did she never receive flowers, but she also never got to pursue a romantic relationship, thus never knew of the embarrassment while holding a boy's hand. Instead, she stepped into a marriage with John without even getting the chance to hold his hand. While she used to be shy around him in the beginning, her love was unknown to him, or rather, he knew of her love but never cared enough to recognize it.

Despite the smile on her face, her heart was feeling numb, but she figured her situation was for the best now that she was divorced. Although her heart was cold, she had the opportunity then to find someone who would warm it up again, while John could have fun with Isabelle for all she cared. Even after the second bottle of beer, her mind was still very

much intact. She had the waiter bring two more bottles, only to have him respond,

“Since

you’re here with a friend, two bottles might not be enough, so why don’t I bring you a dozen more? You can ask for a refund for any unfinished beer.
”

After checking the items she had on the table, Sophia nodded in agreement.

“Sure,

why

not.

” She wasn’t in dire need of money, so it didn’t matter to her.

The waiter left before coming back deftly with a dozen bottles of beer, then opening two of them for her. There was a seductiveness in her gaze as she thanked the waiter, to which the

latter responded with a professional smile as he replied,

“My pleasure.

”

Sophia filled her own glass

while listening to the rest of Ian's song, but a woman approached him before he was able to leave the stage. It was apparent from her wobbly steps that she was drunk while she stood before Ian to tell him something. The smile on Ian's face never faltered throughout the process.

On the other hand, Sophia nearly lost her cool as she sat crossed-legged on the chair while

leaning against it. Upon closer observation, she figured that a lot of women would like Ian for his handsome features and nice voice.

His identity wouldn't have mattered if it was true love, especially when it was never his fault

to begin with. His father was the one who couldn't restrain himself.

Upon the woman saying something, Sophia could see Ian giving her a smile before pointing at herself, which led the drunk

woman to look toward her when he was talking. Sophia responded by putting up a tough front, while the drunk woman turned to leave with a sullen expression after looking at her. It was only then that Ian came over with his guitar in hand.

“What’s up? Is she trying to flirt with you?” Sophia asked after he settled down, to which he gave a hum in response while placing his guitar on the chair beside him. Curiosity ate at Sophia as she asked, “What did you tell her at the end? She seemed a little displeased.”

Ian lifted his gaze to look at Sophia as he spoke, “I told her my girlfriend is right over there.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 185
Sophia had a hearty laugh upon listening to what Ian said, all the while seeming unperturbed by it. She even

said,
“No wonder she was
looking at me in such an
awkward
manner. You shouldn’t be using
me as an excuse to turn people
down, as you’re only
making more enemies for me!”
A smile bloomed on his face as
he argued,
“I have no other
choice, as you’re my only
friend,
so I couldn’t possibly shift the
blame to anybody else.
”

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The chair that Ian sat on was
moved away from the stage to
make space for a rock singer,
who brought the atmosphere to
a high. While pouring some
beer for him, Sophia asked,
“Can you drink now?”
“I drove here.
” Such was his
reply as he shook his head.
“I’ll drink on my own, then.
”

Sophia clicked her tongue as

she took the glass from him,
then
downed the contents in it
before asking Ian if he would be
living at the Morgan Residence
from then on.

“The residence is huge, with a
lot of spare rooms, so I don’t
really have a reason to not
move back in.

” He gave her a
nod while recalling that Old Mr.
Morgan had had the maids
clean his room, which probably
meant he would like Ian to stay
with them.

After mulling over the situation,
Sophia said,

“To be frank, it
might be good to live together
with someone as they could be
of help whenever you
encountered some problems.

The
only catch would be your half
siblings, who annoyed the hell
out of me, especially the
brother and sister duo who
came in later today. Who do
they think they are anyway?”
Ian laughed.

“They were spoiled growing up, which explains their volatile temper.

”

“Precisely.

” Sophia snorted before going on,

“They fear nothing as they know they would be backed, and they decided they would be capricious and arrogant due to the fact that they were cared for.

” The same could be said of Mrs. Constance, who took advantage of William’s tolerant nature.

The alcohol was beginning to show its effects on her, which made her blabber more than she normally would. She began talking about her life with the Constances, including being despised by the household members, which was an awful experience. She even guffawed.

“You know what? Even the maids think I’m useless. They

thought I didn't know that, but I heard and knew everything.
”

Ian pursed his lip while observing Sophia, while the latter would maintain a cheerful disposition as she spoke, “I was at the bottom of the food chain, so everyone in the household could trample over me. Everyone could give me an attitude, especially John's mom. She would scold me anytime she wished to, no matter the occasion, which was why she was dumbfounded when I kicked her that day.

” Her story ended with a scoff from her. Recollections of that fateful day made her burst out in laughter before she finally let out a sigh.

“You won't know how much satisfaction it brought me. I really wanted to give her another kick—no, I should've beaten the crap out of her.

**I don't care if she scolded me,
but she was scolding my
parents! She had no right to do
so**

**even though my parents are
scums!" The rim of her eyes
turned red as she repeated,
"Those
two scums might be dawdling
somewhere out there as we
speak.**

"

**The smile of resignation on her
face brought a frown to Ian's
face. She took another swig
and let out a hiss before
continuing,**

**"I have now
divorced John, so I will have you
know that**

**I will let loose from now on! I
will not fear anyone anymore,
and I'll scratch whoever that
crosses me!" She made a
scratching motion as she spoke,
then chuckled absentmindedly.
Ian smiled.**

**"I never knew you
led such a harsh life in the
Constance Family.**

"

Sophia chuckled again.

“Nor did

I know I would. I wouldn't have married John even if I liked him if I knew back then that he and his family would look down on me.

” She was a human

being in her own right, so she shouldn't have been trampled over by them.

Her naivety led her to believe that John just didn't love her, and she could still work on building a relationship with him as time passed, which was extremely conceited.

The Returning Ex Chapter 186

Eventually, Sophia realized she had had too much to drink, so she waved her hand to stop herself from drinking.

“Hold on,

I think I had too much to drink.

”

“Indeed.

” Ian nodded, for it was never a good thing to have drunk too much while not at home.

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Sophia was struggling to get up on her feet.

“I have to go home now, as it’s not safe for me to stay here after drinking so much.

”

“Let me send you home.

” Up he stood to help support Sophia while wearing a smile. Sophia lifted her gaze to look at Ian while she nodded.

“Alright, but you have to be quick, as it would be troublesome if I run into some bad guys.

”

She’s quite careful despite her wobbly steps, Ian figured as he helped her out with his guitar in hand.

Upon boarding his car, Sophia fell asleep while leaning against the back of her seat with her face flushed. Ian was a little baffled by how she trusted him with her secrets and having drunk so much in his presence. Never once did it cross her mind

that he might be up to no good, or what she should do if he happened to have bad intentions.

After starting the car engine, Ian drove to her house. They arrived at their destination in the dark of night, but John had yet to go to bed as he sat on the sofa while flipping through the channels. Upset as he was, John was constantly checking the time. As time passed, his patience wore thin. Finally, he heard the sounds of a car and saw a flash of light outside the house, which prompted him to shoot up from his seat. Ian's car was parked in front of the yard, whereas Sophia was sleeping so soundly that Ian failed to wake her even after repeatedly calling out to her. The situation left him without an option other than to carry her out of the car.

It was his first time holding a woman, and her body felt as light as a feather to him. Ian

lowered his gaze to look at Sophia as he figured that she would be in so much trouble if someone sneaky saw her while in such an unguarded state.

As soon as Ian stepped into the yard with Sophia in his hand, John stepped out of the house while wearing a gloomy expression and said immediately,

“Let me hold her.

”

“After we get inside.

” Ian didn’t

let go as he bypassed John to enter the house. It was his first time in her house, and he had to admit that the decor exuded a sense of warmth.

Meanwhile, John approached him to take over the task of carrying Sophia without as much

a word, then said while walking upstairs,

“Please lock the doors for me when you leave, the front gates as well.

”

Before he left, Ian remained at

his spot as he watched John's figure vanish into the corner with Sophia in his arms, whereas John would drop her onto the bed as soon as he entered her room.

Amazingly, the drop didn't wake Sophia as her body bounced on the bed. Uttering some murmur, she then flipped herself over in her sleep while still reeking of alcohol. John wanted to leave, but stopped in his tracks after taking a few steps, as he was a clean freak who had a hard time bearing such a sight.

After some inner strife, he turned around to prop her up on the bed while trying to wake her.

"Wake up. Take off your clothes."
"

It would take a miracle to wake her, as she continued to sleep soundly. He thus took a deep breath before removing her

clothes by himself, then walked up to the cabinet to retrieve her pajamas, only to be confronted by the sight of her spreading out on the bed when he returned. Feelings of resignation stirred within him as he turned to fill up the bathtub with water.

He stood by the tub to watch the water level rise while pondering on his reason for doing that. Logically, he knew he should've left her for dead, but regardless of what he thought he ought to do, he filled up the tub before putting her into the tub just like that without even removing her underwear. After entering the water, Sophia finally came to her senses as she opened her eyes groggily.

"It's you... Does this mean I'm home?"

At least she managed to recognize me, John thought in frustration before replying,

**“Yes,
you’re home, and I will once
again be at your service.
”**

**Sophia closed her eyes as she
smiled absentmindedly.**

**“That
would be great.
”**

The Returning Ex Chapter 187

**“Sophia, just tell me the truth.
Do you like Ian?” John let slip a
sigh before mumbling, while
Sophia seemed to be sound
asleep as she didn’t give him a
reply, but neither was he intent
on getting a reply as he rambled
on,**

**“It’s okay if you like him,
but you should spend more
time knowing his character
before going out with him. How
dare you get drunk while with
him despite not having known
him for long? Do you have sh*t
for brains?”**

**Meanwhile, Sophia slept with
her head leaned to a side, with
no signs indicating that she
would wake up. It was thus
John continued on,**

“The Morgans are hard to deal with, so you and Ian won’t be a compatible match. He has no power within his family because of his identity as an illegitimate son, so you have to know that your life would be even harsher than while you were with my family if you marry him.

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I made a promise with my grandfather to take care of you and that I will be nice to you, so

I have to hand you over to someone dependable. You will also have to be more wary of your surroundings, so find someone who you could trust, do you understand me?”

However, Sophia heard none of what he said, as she was in a deep, dreamless slumber. After washing her limbs, John tried to move her out of the tub, but his movements made her uncomfortable.

Besides, her clothes were also glued to her body after being drenched by water, which she tried to pry off, only to have her bra strap fall off her shoulder as she moved her hands to her back.

“This feels so uncomfortable.”

“Just hold on and bear with it until I leave.”

John held her hand down while exhaling, but Sophia wasn't about to comply with what he said as she cast his hand away before removing her bra. The sight of it had John go retrieve a towel with gritted teeth, but she was even faster than him, as she had taken off her underwear. He gritted even harder on his teeth while wrapping her up in a towel before lifting her out of the tub. In the meantime, Sophia kept on mumbling about how uncomfortable she was, “It's hot in here... I feel nauseous and dizzy...”

It's one thing after another with this woman.

Upon carrying her to the bed, he tried to put on the pajamas he got for her, while Sophia seemed to have gotten slightly sober after creating such a commotion. She shot up from bed while staring at John with an innocent look on her face, yet she didn't seem to register at all that something was off. On the other hand, John dared not even look her way, as the sight of her reminded him of their wedding night.

She wore a similar expression during their first night together while looking just as ignorant. With his back facing her, John said,

**"Here's your pajamas. I believe you can put them on yourself."
"**

**While she hummed a response before getting out of bed, instead of reaching for the pajamas, she reached out to John as she grumbled,
"John,**

I'm cold.

”

Not a surprise when you're still dripping wet and had no clothes on, John figured while willing himself to not listen to her voice, as his mind kept on wandering to very inappropriate scenes.

Sophia hugged him from behind after getting out of bed.

**“John,
I'm scared.**

”

His throat bobbed as he lifted his head.

“Lie down on your bed and go to sleep. You'll feel better when you wake up the next day.

”

“Please don't blame me, as I also wish for Grandpa's recovery.

” A muddled mind had jumbled up her sense of space and time as she spoke in a low voice, to which John responded with a frown in silence. She thus went on,

“I

never told you about it, but I believed that our marriage could bring good luck to the family.

”

Upon noticing his silence, Sophia let go of him, going around to stand in front of him.

“Are you mad at me?”

Sophia was standing there stark naked, and John was no dead man. He thus turned away from her as he said,

“You get some rest, while I’ll be taking my leave.

”

While bypassing her in an attempt to reach for the door, Sophia rushed into his arms as she

cried out,
“No, no, no! You’re going to sleep in the study again! We’re a married couple, yet you always sleep in the study!”

The Returning Ex Chapter 188

It was apparent that Sophia was still under the influence of alcohol, as her sense of time

was muddled, which made her think that they were still bound to each other in a marriage that ate away at their patience. Anxiety kicked in while she was still immersed in her own world, thus she looped her arms around his neck before kissing him.

If there was ever a reason that rich individuals had a higher probability of cheating on their partners compared to those who were poor, whomever that decided to step in between the married couple would be to blame. Besides, those who stepped in tended to have good looks, which made it hard for men to resist the temptation. Join Telegram Group For Fast update and Novel Query Such was John's predicament. Logically, he knew he should push her away, as he should stop associating himself with her. The fact that they were still living under the same roof was already inappropriate in itself,

while physical intimacy would only further complicate matters.

However, thoughts were merely thoughts, as he had a hard time restraining himself, which led him to fall onto the bed with Sophia in his arms while she begged in a low voice,

“John, can you not dislike me?”

Her words came as a shock to him while he was overwhelmed by uncomfortable feelings.

“I never did.

” Which was the truth, as he merely thought that they were incompatible. In fact, they were only ever in sync when it came to sex and nothing else, for she was never his type from the very beginning.

Sophia seemed so happy about it, as if having gotten his promise, so she was being cooperative. That wasn't their first time having sex. John reached out to turn off the lights

before opening up in the dark,
“Please don’t blame me.
”

“It’s okay. I never did blame
you.

” Unwary of what he truly
meant, she let slip a chuckle
before kissing him again.
The dark was where dark
desires bred, in which mumbles
and sounds of tangled limbs
could
be heard even from outside the
room. It was the only way for
John to let loose his desires of
wanting her.

Meanwhile, Sophia kept on
telling him she liked him while
in a muddled state of mind,
which John didn’t take seriously,
as he figured she was but a
drunken woman who couldn’t
tell where and when she was,
so she could only ever spout
nonsense.

After a prolonged period of
movement, they finally fell
asleep, with Sophia holding
onto his
arm as she slept soundly. On
the other hand, John woke up

after a short nap before checking the time to realize that he needed to go to work.

She had her arms around his waist, while her legs were tangled with his, and her face was

snuggled against his chest as she slept soundly. It was thus he had to push her away slowly to get out of bed and reach for his clothes. After that, he returned to his room for a shower.

They seemed to get more chances for physical contact after their divorce, which John was

beginning to get used to, thus didn't have much thoughts about it. After tidying himself, he

went downstairs and drove himself to the company.

While Sophia was still deep in slumber, she began dreaming after he left. The dream itself was chaotic, as it presented her with scenes of John pressing on top of her while doing all sorts of embarrassing things to

her.

He even went against his seemingly aloof nature to tell her some sweet nothings, which pleased her enough for her to smile in her dreams.

Hunger awakened her when noon came, while her sleep-addled brain failed to recognize

where she was when she woke to the chandelier in the room.

She was lying in bed with the blanket kicked aside, while a frown formed on her face when she slowly moved her hands across her body to realize that she was stark naked.

This shouldn't be, as I have a habit of sleeping with my clothes on, Sophia figured as she

scanned her surroundings while lying in bed before sitting up on it.

She was in her room, that much she knew, but she couldn't recall how she got in there.

Something felt off about her body when she lowered her gaze to check on herself, which

caused her to hiss in disappointment as she wondered if something had happened while she was drunk.

The Returning Ex Chapter 189

I should quit drinking, as all it ever does is put me into a compromising situation. That totally sucks. After spending some time just sitting on the bed, she got off it deftly to check

on her body in a mirror in the bathroom, and much to her delight, she noticed there were less marks on her body this time.

She then saw the cold water in the tub from last night, so she drained it while wearing a frown before filling it up with water again.

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While the tub was filling up, she retrieved her phone from the nightstand to give John a call, which connected after a moment. His voice came through as being calm while he

asked,

“Are you up?”

“You’re the one I had sex with last night, am I right?” She drew a deep breath before questioning him in a tone which he could hardly decipher, and he wondered if she was disappointed.

“Who else then?” His reply was brusque.

“Alright, got it.

” The call was hung up after she nodded. She then went into the bathroom after mulling over the situation. As she lay in the tub, she went on trying her hardest to recall what happened last night, but her memory failed her, as she couldn’t recall anything aside from a few details when she was having sex.

A soft wail escaped her while she covered her face, as the fact that she had sex with John again weighed on her heavily. It didn’t make sense as she wanted to wipe the slate clean between them. After spending a long while soaking in the tub,

she had a change of clothes before taking the soiled bed sheets off to be washed, all the while averting her gaze from the sheet.

She cooked herself a meal after cleaning the bathtub. Then, there was a message in her phone from Ian which asked if she was up. While it came early in the morning, Sophia never replied to it.

Although she wanted to ask him what happened last night—especially how she got home—that led up to her having sex with John, it was an impossible task no matter how shameless she was.

After boiling herself some noodles, she sat down for a meal while staring at her phone as she wondered from whom she should ask for answers regarding what happened last night.

The noodles were finished before she went back up to lie down on bed.

She figured that John didn't get down too hard on her, as her body wasn't sore despite her fatigue. While staring at the lights on the ceiling due to her having a hard time falling asleep, Sophia decided she would quit drinking, which would hopefully help her to abstain from sex.

**In the meantime, John was sitting in his office with his phone on the table, all the while spacing out as he leaned back in his seat. He was so engrossed in his own thoughts that he didn't notice Zack's arrival with a stack of documents in hand. When he saw the state his boss was in, he was in turn surprised. "Boss, we managed to suppress further online discussion regarding the matter, and the scandal concerning Infinity Group would soon break. You can consider the matter settled."
"**

“Alright.

” John returned to his senses before looking at Zack. The latter blinked in confusion, as he assumed John was pondering about the matter which he had just reported on, but that didn’t seem to be the case. The documents were handed to John while Zack explained, “These are drafts of the contract prepared by the Baileys which you should look over before the public relations team releases the news regarding our collaboration with the Baileys. ”

The Baileys owned a big company, so their collaboration could very much help to redeem the Constance’s image that was affected by the scandal. Upon taking the documents from Zack, John went through it roughly before replying, “I understand. I’ll inform you after I’ve

confirmed that everything is fine.

”

“Is something bothering you, Boss? Why do you look a little distracted?” Zack stared at John even after his report ended.

“It’s nothing... Nothing happened at all...

” There was a

few moments’ pause before John

replied, to which Zack grunted in response as he glanced at John. Then, he turned to leave.

Meanwhile, John only managed to go through two pages of the document before he closed it back, as he had a hard time taking in what was written on it with his addled state of mind.

The Returning Ex Chapter 190

Sophia didn’t leave the house for the day, spending the afternoon preparing for her driving

test. There were a lot of questions that she had a hard time understanding, so she took to

the Internet for help.

An entire afternoon was spent in the study before she stood to stretch herself. In fact, she did a good job to upkeep her mentality, so she was now without the chagrin she used to feel.

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What happened last night wasn't a big deal, as she merely slept with someone whom she had slept with for many times, but ultimately, the number of times she did it was inconsequential.

When it was about time, she went downstairs to cook a meal. The door opened as soon as dinner was ready, while Sophia could see from the corner of her eyes that John was back.

The time of day indicated that he must have returned from work, but it was in fact rare for him to be this punctual.

He already saw Sophia in the kitchen as soon as he entered, but the sight of her didn't deter him. After taking his shoes off, he toured around the living

room for a bit before arriving at the kitchen. He was wearing a calm expression, as well as maintaining his usual tone as he asked,

“Do you need help?”

“No, dinner will soon be ready.”

She didn't even look his way while giving her response, but when he left to wash his hands, she gave a sigh.

To pretend that nothing happened seemed to be the right way to go about things, and

Sophia felt like they had found a middleground to deal with the incident. Neither of them spoke during dinner, which was how they treated each other on a daily basis, as they never communicated outside of important matters.

The phone which John left on the table while dining lit up when he was almost finished with his meal. John cast a glance at it without actively reaching out to read what was on the

screen, nor did he say a word, allowing the screen to dim out again gradually.

It wasn't until he finished his meal leisurely did he take his phone.

"Leave the dishes after you're done. I'll come get them in a bit."
"

After that, John went into the yard with his phone in hand to make a call while Sophia watched the back of his figure in silence. He had one hand shoved in his pocket as he held an upright posture throughout the call.

Aside from not loving me, John is the perfect man. Sophia sighed as she finished her food. Instead of waiting for John to clean up, as it was merely a process of putting the dishes away into the dishwasher, she simply did it herself. It wasn't something undoable anyway. After she cleaned up, she went into the living room to see John in the yard while still on the phone call. Although she used

to eavesdrop on him, she lost interest in doing so, thus she left for upstairs upon glancing at him.

Back in her room where her phone lay, displaying the reading materials pertaining to the driving test, she didn't intend on reading them as she spread out on her bed. There was a knock on the door after a while, which prompted her to sit up hastily.

"Come in."
"

Instead of coming in, John left a crack open while he stood there looking at Sophia.

"I'll be out, but I don't know when I will be back, so remember to lock the doors and windows."
"

Sophia cast him a glance.

"What for?" His choice of words were already a telltale sign of him not wanting to reveal anything else, so she nodded after a moment.

“Alright, I get it.

”

After he left, Sophia got out of the bed to stand by the window, a snort escaping her upon watching his car driving away from home.

The question back then was entirely unnecessary, as she wasn't that interested in knowing

what he was up to. She went back to bed only to find herself unable to focus on revising for her test, so she went downstairs to lock the doors and windows before taking a bath and going to bed.

When he returned was unbeknownst to her, as all she did was take a peek out of the window when she jolted awake during midnight. The yard was empty, and his car was nowhere in sight, which meant he hadn't returned. She couldn't help but wonder if he still had the strength to have sex with another woman after last

night.

The Returning Ex Chapter 191

John's car was nowhere in sight when she woke up the next morning despite how late she woke up. It was thus she couldn't determine if John left after coming home, or if he spent his night elsewhere.

She turned to leave her spot by the window with a scoff to enter the bathroom to wash up, then she left the house for breakfast as she didn't want to cook.

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In the restaurant, she took out her phone to check on the news, only to realize things had undergone a huge transformation after a mere day of her not checking up on it.

There was a plot twist to the scandal of John's infidelity as his company released footage retrieved from the hotel in Tri Asel.

The footage revealed that Sophia had indeed been with

John, and both of them shared a room. It was also revealed that Miss Cox came to knock on the door of their room while in sexy attire, but John didn't let her in.

Judging from the available material, they didn't seem to reach an agreement at all. A few security personnel arrived at the scene after a while to seemingly take Miss Cox away, so

there were conjectures of John having filed a complaint to the hotel management, which prompted them to send the security personnel. All in all, there seemed to be a discrepancy between what Miss Cox said and what actually transpired. Well well, John had his company handle everything while he kept his silence, which would guarantee his own peace of mind no matter how awry things might get. Sophia clicked

her
tongue upon deciphering his
modus operandi. He sure is one
hell of a businessman who
knows how to strategize.

Before leaving for the sweets
shop, she made sure to put her
phone away to finish her meal.

Robin had finally opened shop,
but she was cleaning up as
there were no customers. A

smile

bloomed on Robin's face when
she saw Sophia.

"You're finally here! I was about
to contact you, as I got in touch
with the landlord last night.

He will drop by today as he has
some time to spare, so you two
can meet up to talk about
the specifics regarding the
rent.

”

There was a pause on Sophia's
part before she asked,

"When
will he arrive?"

Robin thought about it for a
moment.

"He should be here
this afternoon. I'll give you a

call
by then.
”

While she nodded, Sophia was in fact thinking about something else. It was her first time conducting business, so she didn't know anything about rent, nor was she certain of the terms she would have to set when meeting the landlord, so she had to ask for help from someone.

Although her first candidate was John, she quickly dismissed the idea while deciding to ask Zack for help instead. Thus, that was what she did after spending some time in the shop to tell him of the situation at hand.

“Are you meeting the landlord today?” Zack let out a cry of surprise.

“Yeah!” The excitement in her tone seemed to have popped out from nowhere.

“But I don't know what should I do in

regards to the terms, so please come help me out.

”

“Of course I will!” A laughter escaped him as he said,

“Give

me a call, and I’ll be right there!”

She was about to hang up after grunting in assent, but she was somehow prompted to ask,

“Does John not have to go socialize as of late? He came home early last night.

”

There was a momentary pause before Zack replied,

“Yeah, he

hasn’t been doing much of those as of late due to the scandal with Infinity Group. He pushed all of those to other people, so he had been quite relaxed lately to be able to get off work on time.

”

“I see... Alright, I understand.

”

She let out a chuckle, but she then clicked her tongue as soon as she hung up. So it seemed

that John left the house last night due to personal matters, but she didn't know what it could be. He never allowed her a glimpse of his private life even when they were married, so she didn't know who he was friends with.

The image of Isabelle came to her mind uncontrollably, but Sophia quickly dismissed it as she figured John could very well know other women. Look on the bright side, girl! What if he went to meet Miss Allen? See, isn't she much better than Isabelle?

The Returning Ex Chapter 192

Sophia went on a trip in the mall out of boredom despite not having anything in mind that

she wanted to buy, as she merely wanted to be in a crowd.

There weren't a lot of people in the mall since it was office hours, which meant a lot of people were at work. She headed to a jewelry shop after some thought, as she figured

she
needed a ring around her
finger.

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There were even lesser people
in the shop when Sophia made
her way into it. She told the
attendant who came up to her
with much enthusiasm in a
blunt manner that she needed a
ring, so the attendant motioned
for her to follow her into the
shop.

“Over here please,
Madam.
”

They just arrived at the display
counter for rings when her
phone rang with a call from Ian,
which she picked up
immediately.

“Aren’t you busy?
Why’d you have time for me?”
“It’s almost noon now, so I’d
like to know where you are, and
if you would like to have lunch
with me.

” Ian was chuckling
over the call.

When Sophia checked the time,

it was exactly like what he said, for it was indeed noon time, so she grunted in assent before telling him her location.

“I seem to be around where your office is, so do you want to come over here?”

What she said was true, so Ian agreed to it while telling her to wait for him. She checked out the ring she had after hanging up, only to decide that she would prefer a plain one rather than a flamboyant one since she needed to do her own cooking and cleaning.

After that, she tried out a few rings, but she still had a hard time coming to a final decision, as the more she looked, the more indecisive she was getting.

It was fortunate for her that the shop attendant was extremely patient as she allowed her to try on almost every single ring in the shop.

Ian arrived before she could decide on one. Upon pushing the door open, he scanned his

surroundings to see Sophia at the innermost section of the shop, then he approached her while asking,

“Are you planning to buy some jewelry?”

Sophia nodded after glancing at him.

“Yeah, as someone noted that I wasn’t wearing a ring a few days ago, so I figured I needed one.

”

Being privy of her situation, Ian understood why she would need to do so. He glanced at the counter while asking,

“Did you not see one that you like?”

A sigh escaped her.

“There are a lot that I like, so I’m getting indecisive.

”

“How about we give this a try?”

He wore a smile as he glanced at the rings displayed in the counter before pointing at one of them. As if turned out, she had already tried that on, which sported a moderate

design that was not too plain nor flamboyant, with a surface covered in tiny diamonds.

She tried it on again before lifting her hand to check on it.

“It does look pretty, and the size

is just right. What do you think?” She looked at Ian.

“It looks great.

” Ian gave her a nod before fishing for his wallet to retrieve a card from within that he handed to the attendant.

“We’ll have this one.

This looks great at first glance.”

“Hold on, I can buy it myself!”

The suddenness of his gesture shocked her as she quickly took out her own card from her wallet.

Regardless of her request, Ian handed his card to the attendant before turning to meet

Sophia’s gaze.

“Nobody buys rings for themselves. Take this as a token of my appreciation

for helping me out at my family's company. Thanks to you, nobody had the guts to talk behind my back during the past few days.

”

Something felt off nonetheless when Sophia observed the ring on her finger.

“We're friends, so it's normal that I helped you, but buying me a ring isn't.

”

Ian disregarded her concern while telling the attendant to pay using that card, and that Sophia would be wearing the ring right away. The attendant seemed to have misunderstood their relationship as she took his card before she headed to the register.

“Ian, I don't think this is right. You can always buy me a meal if you would like to thank me,

”

Sophia said with pursed lips.

“It's nothing. Just take it as a thank you gift. It won't amount to anything if we don't feed it

thoughts.

” While Ian seemed relaxed, he noticed the frown Sophia wore, thus he gave her a pat on the shoulder.

“I presented it as a gift to someone else as well, so it’s not a problem. I think nothing of it, so it would be best if you would think the same.

”

While lowering her gaze to observe the ring once again, she said hesitantly,

“Let me buy you a meal later if that’s the case.

”

However, she knew a meal would never compare to a diamond ring. What Ian did was unexpected, which made her wonder if people of the upper class society never cared about things like that, or if a ring was just another common commodity to them.

The Returning Ex Chapter 193

They headed to a Thai restaurant which didn’t have a

lot of customers even during lunch time after paying for the ring. Ian seemed to be a regular, as he would explain the dishes that Sophia didn't know to her when they were ordering their meal.

A smile bloomed on Sophia's face.

"You had always lived away from home, so do festive occasions bring about unpleasant feelings?"

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There was a pause on Ian's part before he went on,

"It's alright.

I used to live with my family, which wasn't the best of experiences, so I left. Although life after breaking away from them

was a little lonely, I had a lot more freedom compared to when I was with them.

"

Sophia seemed to think of something as she tilted her head while looking at Ian.

“Have you never thought of finding yourself a girlfriend throughout your life? Having someone by your side would make things easier.”

Ian stared at her for a few seconds before averting his gaze.

“I gave up on the idea after giving it some thought.

” Finding himself a girlfriend wasn’t something he could do willy-nilly due to his own concerns.

Two people coming together meant the merging of both their futures, so he would one day have to tell his other half about his past, which was something that intimidated him.

His identity wasn’t only something that he was never able to escape; it was also the source of his misery while living with the Morgan Family. It was thus he decided that he need not

drag someone else into the pithole he was in just because he was feeling lonely. However, he could tell none of those to Sophia.

Upon observing him closely, Sophia chuckled.

“You are good-looking and have a nice voice, so a lot of girls must like you.”

She was comparing him to John, who managed to attract a woman of Isabelle’s calibre—who sought him out despite the fact that he was married—by utilizing his looks alone, so she figured someone like Ian had to be able to attract even more women.

Ian chuckled by way of a response.

“That’s not how it works, as most women have a practical mindset.

” He didn’t have a place to call his own, nor did he have a high-paying job. Both

factors were of no help in terms of providing a sense of security, which was why not a lot of women liked him.

Even if there were, those women tend to be younger and less experienced in terms of worldly matters, whom Ian wouldn't be interested in, as dating those women tend to make him feel as if he was playing with children.

After the waiter served their meal, Sophia switched the topic while holding a spoon. She opted to talk about matters regarding his work, to which he told her he was still getting used to it, as he literally knew nothing about the job. Despite his title as the vice president, he was extremely humble, while Mr. Zimmel was pleasant enough to teach him about the smallest of things.

“Do the rest of the employees know of your background?”

Sophia was blinking as she spoke.

After mulling over the situation,

Ian replied,
“They might not know much about it. I think they assume that Sean and I share the same mother.

” Not a lot of people would imagine that Bryce managed to hook up with a third woman between his marriage with his two wives, who bore him another son.

What he said lifted some of her worries.

“The presence of Sean might make your life easier. How is Sean’s relationship with Sally and Simon anyway? I bet they don’t have the best relationship.

” Sophia was curious about the subject. A laughter escaped him as soon as he heard the question, as both Sally and Simon were afraid of Sean. Rumor had it that their mother, Leah Zimmerman, made use of unscrupulous means in her attempt to become Old Mr. Morgan’s wife,

**which infuriated the old man,
while**

Sean knew the details of it.

**That was the reason why Sally
and Simon constantly felt
ashamed while in the face of
Sean,**

**as if they were confronted
about their wrongdoings.**

**Besides, after a few days'
observation,**

**Ian gathered that even Leah
wasn't able to assert herself
over Sean, as Sean's status was
almost on par with Bryce, or
Old Mr. Morgan himself within
the family.**

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wasn't able to assert herself over Sean, as Sean's status was almost on par with Bryce, or Old Mr. Morgan himself within the family.

The Returning Ex Chapter 194

Both of them shopped in the mall for a while after their meal before Ian left upon noticing that time was almost up. While he offered to send Sophia home, she shook her head as she turned him down.

"I have matters to settle, so I won't be going home for now."
"

He thus gave her a nod.

"Alright, be careful while you are alone outside."
"

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A smile bloomed on her face.

"Alright, I understand.

" What could happen under broad daylight anyway? she thought. After Ian left, she followed suit to step out from the mall

while raising her hand to the sun, which allowed the sun to shine on the ring on her finger. She couldn't help but wonder if it was really okay to have someone else give this to her. With her understanding of societal norms, she always assumed that it was only appropriate to present someone else with a ring when they were a couple. However, she recalled that Mrs. Constance was the one who bought her that wedding ring, so it wasn't technically gifted by John, which was a little underwhelming. Sophia heaved a sigh while trying to not overthink things before hailing a cab to head to the dessert shop, in which Robin was making a call when she arrived. Upon noticing Sophia's presence, Robin pointed to the phone she held while mouthing at Sophia to indicate that the call was from the landlord, who said

he would be arriving shortly. Sophia quickly backed out of the shop to give Zack a call, who as promised, told her he would go to her right away. Relief washed over her upon hearing his words.

“I feel more reassured by your presence.”

Zack told her to remain calm, and that he would arrive shortly, so she could leave everything up to him. The call thus ended, while Sophia walked into the shop to sit down on a chair on the side.

Robin wore a smile as she said, “The landlord told me he is on his way, and will arrive at any given moment. You should consider ways to haggle for a lower rent, as business isn’t doing great, so it wouldn’t be worth paying too much rent.”

She even told Sophia her ideal price, and had her try to haggle for one that was lower than that, to which Sophia

responded with a nod.

“Alright,
I get what you mean.
”

Zack’s car arrived before the landlord did, and Sophia walked over to the car before Zack even came out. However, it was revealed that Zack wasn’t alone when John stepped out of the car, which came as a surprise to her.

John’s expression was as calm as ever when he approached Sophia upon seeing her.

“When will the landlord arrive?”
Sounding surprised, Sophia replied,
“Why are you here?
You can leave this up to Zack.
”

I’m only trying to haggle for a lower rent, so I don’t actually need someone of John’s calibre. Meanwhile, John scanned the surroundings within the shop before saying,
“I figured I should lend a helping hand

since it's your first time
conducting business.

”

John, you're such a... Sophia
heaved a sigh as she felt a sense
of warmth, but a certain
discomfort squirmed within her.
All these had her wondering
what she should make of his
kindness now that they were
divorced, especially after they
had sex again.

After all, women were
sentimental beings. It also
made her wonder if the sex was
so good
that it rekindled his feelings
toward her.

Eventually she decided that line
of thought was as absurd as
things could get, as it wouldn't
amount to anything. However,
she wasn't able to fully
dissuade herself, as her heart
didn't

have control over her mind.
Zack arrived soon after with a
more serious expression on his
face, which was unlike his
usual demeanor.

“Your landlord

might just cut your rent out of fear upon noticing our presence.

”

Sophia clicked her tongue at his words.

“Get your head out of the clouds.

”

After a few minutes, the landlord arrived in his car while parking it at where Zack’s car was at

the front of the shop. Then, he began observing the car upon getting out of his own car.

While Sophia didn’t know much about cars, she knew Zack’s car was quite expensive. Her thought was further supported by the shock on the landlord’s face as he turned to look at Sophia and the rest of her company.

The Returning Ex Chapter 195

By that point, Robin came out from behind the counter to greet the landlord,

“Mr. Reyes,

she is Sophia, the one who is interested in renting the place.

”

The landlord turned to look at Sophia as he nodded.

“Nice to meet you.

”

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Sophia responded with a smile.

“Likewise.

”

Meanwhile, John maintained an aloof expression as he turned to enter the shop as if he were at his own territory.

“Let’s talk inside.

”

Sophia knew nothing of renting a shop lot, so she left the negotiations up to John and Zack.

The four of them sat by one of the tables, while Sophia was focused on reading the contract the landlord brought with him, which was for her perusal later on. After going through the entire contract, Sophia didn’t seem to find anything she felt needed amendments.

In the meantime, John waited until she finished reading the contract before saying,

“Let me go through that.”

While she passed the contract to him, John laid eyes on the ring on her finger, which he felt was a little too dazzling on her. He spent a few seconds staring at the ring before looking toward her, but she was so focused on the meeting that she didn't notice his expression.

On the other hand, Zack requested for the basic info about the shop lot from the landlord, such as the usable areas within the shop, as well as permission regarding renovation. The professional manner in which Zack stated his questions seemed to have startled the landlord.

Upon reading through the contract, John pointed out two of the points he found questionable.

“Your contract

only laid out the obligations of the tenant without mentioning their rights, so that is unacceptable. Aside from that, shouldn't we pay our own utility bills?

Why are you in charge of that, and why do you get to decide the rates?"

Sophia let out a cry of surprise as she read through the contract again, during which she

found out that it was indeed listed in the contract that she would have to pay the bills to the

landlord alongside the rent.

Moreover, she realized that the rates would go according to the market rate of the shop's rental, and she had no idea of what it meant. She never realized any of those problems earlier.

An awkward expression crept onto the landlord's face while he replied,

"I had always been doing it like this, as do the rest of the landowners on this street. You can ask around if you

wish to.

”

A snigger escaped John.

“If

that’s the case, can you tell me what are your rates for water and electricity bills?”

The smile on Mr. Reyes’ face faltered a little as he said,

“On

this street, electricity costs five for each unit, while each tonne of water would cost five. As soon as usage exceeds three tonnes, the rates will be raised to seven per tonne.

”

“If that’s the case, I don’t see the point in working on this anymore.

” John put down the contract before looking toward Sophia.

“I can help you find a shop lot at a better location, which would charge you according to the rates stipulated by the government.

”

With her mouth hung agape,

Sophia was dumbfounded by how things turned out. John stood up as soon as he said, “I

know someone from around the area, so I know how the bills are charged.

” He then turned to look at Robin, but the latter stared at him with a confused expression while standing behind the counter.

“Was your contract the same as this?” John asked.

Sounding surprised, she answered,

“I think so...

” She

took over her shop from someone else without giving much thought to it, and she even thought it convenient to pay the bills to the landlord alongside the rent.

Upon observing her response, John let out a smirk.

Meanwhile, Zack stood from his seat and called for Sophia to come along,

“Let’s go. Why

didn't you tell Boss that you wanted to rent a shop lot? He has a lot of property under his name, so could easily give you one of them.

”

Sophia shot up from her seat.

“I

don't want his help! I want to do this on my own!”

The landlord followed suit as he called out to them, which caused Zack, John and Sophia to turn to meet him. While feeling a little awkward, he managed to put forth a negotiation by telling them,

“How long are you planning to rent the place for? We can come to an agreement if you will be spending a long time here.

” He

was obviously trying to rationalize his actions.

“I used to have tenants who ran away after a short amount of time without paying for the utility bills, so I had to pay for them on my own. These terms

serve to protect my interests,
or else I would suffer huge
losses if all of my tenants were
to do that.

”

He sure asked for a heck of a lot
of security by setting such high
rates.

The Returning Ex Chapter 197

Sophia took a nap during the
afternoon before going on a
grocery trip in a nearby mall
when it was about time, for she
was running out of food

ingredients. As a token of her
appreciation, she planned to
cook him a lavish meal, so she
didn't only buy poultry and fish,
but other types of seafood too.

She set down to work as soon
as she arrived home without
checking the time, while she
worked on until the skies
turned dark. After the soup was
ready, she stretched out her
limbs

to relieve herself of the
exhaustion from all the labor.

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Upon checking the time, she

figured that John should be done with work by then, so she served everything on the table before sitting down to wait for him. She even rehearsed her thank you speech for when he got home.

Sophia prided herself in being a fair person, so she would repay him after he helped her out despite having some unhappy memories with him. Half an hour was spent with her leaning against the back of her chair, but John was nowhere to be seen.

If her memory served her well, she recalled Zack having told her that John had quite a lot of free time recently. She wondered if he was getting busy again since the scandal with Infinity

Group was almost settled. After licking her lips, she spent more time waiting, but John didn't return home.

Eventually, she lost all patience, thus she gave Zack a call, which he picked up almost instantaneously. Judging from

the background noise, he was watching TV when she called. John would usually have Zack come along if he had matters to tend to, but it sounded like Zack was at home.

The call came as a surprise to Zack.

“What’s up, Sophia? Do you have more instructions for me?”

There was a pause on Sophia’s part before she asked,

“You sound like you have quite some time to spare tonight. Do you not need to work overtime?”

“What do you mean by that?”

Zack was taken aback, but he soon began chuckling.

“Thanks to Mr. Constance, I haven’t needed to work overtime recently, so I can kick back and relax.

”

Sophia gave a grunt before replying,

“That sounds great.

”

Zack questioned immediately,

“What’s up? Why did you call me anyway?”

After denying his claim, she said a little shyly,

“I called to thank you for helping me out today. I would’ve been swindled by the landlord if I was on my own.

”

Zack heaved a sigh before telling her,

“The landlord had swindled a lot of other people, and

with how he charged for the bills, I bet he would’ve earned quite a lot of money.

” He

pondered on the situation before continuing,

“We

wouldn’t have decided to rent the shop

lot if it wasn’t for the location, as well as the fact that there were no other similar shops in the area, as the landlord’s attitude was enough to

dissuade us.

”

Sophia grunted in agreement, as the landlord was extremely cunning; even Robin was totally unmotivated to work that afternoon. Later, she even sent Sophia a text to complain about the sadness that thoughts of it triggered. Even so, she figured it was within reason that Robin would feel like that, as business wasn't good, yet the landlord would keep on swindling her hard-earned money like that. Robin's mood only seemed to improve after Sophia consoled her that the old contract would expire after that month, and she wouldn't mind giving Robin a commission if they managed to earn more profit through their hard work. Meanwhile, Zack told her that he was looking for someone to draw a blueprint for the renovation, as well as having the contractor visit the shop in a few days, all so that they would be able to begin the renovation as soon as the

contract was signed.

His explanation startled her, but she quickly thanked him for his quick work, which was unexpected. A sigh escaped him as he continued,

“You don’t have to thank me. Your ex-husband was the one who told me to handle the matters. He also offered to come along when he knew that I was going to help with the contract, so it really was nothing that I did.”

Silence befell as Sophia pursed her lips, all the while wondering why hasn’t John returned when he wasn’t out socializing nor working overtime. He might as well have gone loitering somewhere.

After a while, Sophia told Zack that she got his message, thus she would get an opportunity to thank him. They ended the call there as Zack had nothing else to say, after which she put her phone down to look at the food on the table. While she wanted to thank him, he

seemed to never give her the chance to do so, especially during such critical times.

198

After eating some of the food she made, she chucked the rest into the fridge, then she settled down in the living room to watch TV. However, John didn't come home, nor did he give her a call or text, which led her to figure that he didn't see that house as his home.

She flipped through a few channels, but none of them were appealing enough, so she turned off the TV before making her way upstairs. Upon reaching the stairway of the second floor, she turned to look outside with a sliver of hope, only to see that it was dead quiet outside, without a single person on the road.

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After switching off the lights downstairs, she returned to her room for a quick wash up

before locking the door and lying down on the bed. The curtains weren't drawn, so lights

from outside the house that shone through the window illuminated the room.

It wasn't until after spending some time staring at the ceiling that Sophia closed her eyes.

Now that we're no longer legally bound to each other, I should give no f*cks as to where he

went. He deserves his freedom to do whatever he wants. That reminds me... I am also a free person to roam the world since I am now without that marriage certificate. How could I have forgotten about that?

She came to a decision as she fixed her posture, then she coaxed herself to sleep, figuring that she would wake up the next day fully rested. However, she had a hard time falling asleep, and the more she tried, the more she found herself to be wide awake.

Eventually, she wound up

tossing and turning on the bed until the sounds of a car could be heard, as well as when lights shone through the window. She shot up from bed to look out of the window, only to see that John was back, while his car was driving through the entrance.

Sophia shrunk away before quickly drawing the curtains, then she observed through a gap in between the curtains while hidden behind the fabric. While John parked his car within the compound of the house, he didn't get out of the car immediately. Instead, he sat motionlessly in the car for a long while.

If it wasn't for the fact that he was alone in the car, and the car engine was turned off, Sophia would have suspected that he was doing something immoral in the car with someone else. She waited patiently by the window until a while later when her phone

chimed with an incoming message.

Upon retrieving her phone, she discovered to her surprise that the message was from John, in which the b*stard had the audacity to ask her if she was asleep. Isn't the whole setup obvious enough? The lights are off, and my curtains are drawn, so doesn't it look like to you that I'm sleeping?

Thus, Sophia did not reply to his message; instead, she continued to observe him through

the window. John got out of the car after a minute or so after sending his message, but he didn't enter before retrieving something from the passenger seat that was put in a bag. As soon as she saw him entering the living room, she lay back down on bed with a harrumph.

Meanwhile, John switched on the lights in the living room, then he put away the stuff he held at the dining room after scanning the living room. He spaced out while sitting on the

chair by the dining table. In his phone was a message from Isabelle indicating that she had arrived at home, but he didn't reply to it.

He stood to go get some water from the fridge, only to see a few dishes in it, ranging from seafood to poultry. It was unusual for Sophia to cook this much food even with the two of them, which meant...

John turned to chuck the item he bought into the fridge while figuring that Sophia must've made those as she wanted to eat with him. A half smirk crossed his face before he drank from the bottle of water, then he shut the fridge with a loud thud.

While passing by her room, he stopped while still holding onto the bottle. He heaved a sigh before lifting his hand in an attempt to knock on the door, but he stopped himself at the last moment. It didn't matter if she was sound asleep, as even if he managed to wake her up, he wouldn't know what to

say to her.

The Returning Ex Chapter 199

Sophia was trying her best to listen in on what was going on outside of her room, but the house had great soundproof mechanics. It was thus she gave up on waiting, instead opting to flip over and shut her eyes. She quickly fell into a slumber that lasted till the next morning.

Her first reaction upon waking up was to check the view outside the window. The car

was

still parked at the entrance, which meant John was still in the house. After washing up, she

headed downstairs with plans of boiling herself some noodles, but she changed her mind as she didn't want to waste the food she cooked last night.

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She opened the fridge, only to be startled by the extra item she found in it. Upon taking it out, she figured it was a

lunchbox in a plastic bag, which she found out to be true after opening it. The content within was revealed to be pork leg soup as she took off the lid, which had a frown form on Sophia's face as she wondered if John brought it back last night.

Is this for me? Ha, he seemed to have somehow become more considerate! What a surprise! she thought to herself.

However, she put it back into the fridge, instead opting to heat up the dishes she made to eat them as breakfast in the dining room. John wasn't up until a while later, and there was a

momentary pause in his movements when he saw Sophia in the dining room, but he soon proceeded to approach her.

**"You slept early last night."
"**

Sophia wore a calm expression as she looked toward him.

"I only saw your message just

now. I slept early last night, so I didn't see it till then. Was there something you needed?"

"Not really,
" he said while sitting down, so Sophia didn't pry any further. She also prepared his portion for breakfast, but he didn't seem to have an appetite.

Upon noticing that John was only sitting by the table, she asked directly,

"Don't you have work today?"

He responded by shaking his head.

"It's Saturday, so I don't have to work.

"

Sophia chuckled, but it was hard to tell if it was sincere.

"You used to work even during the weekends back then.

"

Her words startled John, which had him lifting his gaze to look at her. However, she didn't meet his gaze, so he wasn't able

to determine her intentions in saying what she did. She ate quickly, and was in the process of cleaning up when John finally said,

“The ring looks nice on you.

”

There was a pause in her movements when she lowered her gaze to look at the ring, before letting out a grunt.

“Ian picked it out for me.

”

“Did he?” There was a flicker of emotion in his eyes. Sophia grunted in the affirmative, as it was true that Ian had given her the ring despite her initial protest.

He wore a smile before saying, “So that’s how it is.

”

She wasn’t about to guess what he meant by that as she cleaned up before going upstairs.

After putting on some makeup and getting a change of clothes, she descended the stairs

slowly to see him watching TV on the sofa, seemingly without eating anything. He asked as soon as he saw her walking down the stairs,

“Are you going out with Ian?”

Without realizing what her thoughts really were, Sophia grunted in the affirmative despite

that fact that she was planning on walking around alone. John kept his silence, during which she left the house swiftly.

She wondered where she should be going while waiting for a cab, and she had nobody to

go to when she needed company, as she was without friends or family. The realization was a huge blow to her ego.

After getting on the cab, she told the driver to bring her to a mall she thought of randomly. It would be lively over there, so she decided to go there before dwelling on anything else.

The roads were packed with

cars and pedestrians as it was a weekend. Sophia leaned against the seat of the cab as she observed the people outside. They seemed to not possess the same level of wealth as she did, but all of them seemed to be leading a better life than her.

She arrived at the mall after a short while as it wasn't far away from her home. There was a plaza in front of the mall, to which families brought their kids to play at. After paying the cab, she got out of the car to step onto the plaza. The hustle and bustle of the plaza made her feel empty inside.

She walked over to sit down on the bench beside her. It was breezy, so the weather wasn't hot, which made it pleasant to sit there. She observed a child not far away from her while leaning against the bench. The child was rather young, so his steps were a little wobbly, but he was so eager to rush

forward as he tried to run off into the distance. The child's mother kept him safe from behind, while the father watched over them from aside. The sight of such a happy family reminded Sophia that she used to want to bear John's child. Sophia was trying her best to listen in on what was going on outside of her room, but the house had great soundproof mechanics. It was thus she gave up on waiting, instead opting to flip over and shut her eyes. She quickly fell into a slumber that lasted till the next morning.

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The Returning Ex Chapter 200

Sophia stared intently at the family of three, all the while being reminded of the fact that she used to want a life like the one they led. Unfortunately, nobody was there to fend for her in the past, nor did she have someone whom she wanted to fend for. The child chuckled, while the mother followed suit. Despite his stoic expression, the father's eyes were

gleaming with joy.

Sophia quickly averted her gaze, but as soon as she did, a man

standing not too far away from her came into view. The scene reminded her of back when she wanted to scale the walls, only to see him watching her while standing under a tree.

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Dylan approached her upon noticing that Sophia had seen him.

“Why are you here alone?”

Sophia examined him before saying,

“I could ask the same of you.

”

Dylan sat down beside her before saying,

“My dad’s birthday is coming soon, so I came to buy him a present.

”

His reply startled her, which made her stammer,

“Your dad—Hold on, you mean, Uncle Owen will be celebrating his birthday?”

A chuckle escaped Dylan.

**“Yeah,
did John not tell you? His
birthday is one week away, so
the
household might be hosting a
celebration.**

”

**Sophia pursed her lips before
trying to find excuses to cover
for herself.**

**“I was so focused
on working toward opening my
own shop, so I might’ve missed
out on it when he told me.**

”

**She recalled that Owen never
celebrated his birthday
throughout the time she spent
living
with the Constances, so she
wasn’t sure when his birthday
was.**

**Upon hearing what she said,
Dylan grunted in response.**

**“Now that I’ve told you about
it,
you will have to come.**

”

**Sophia nodded as she replied,
“Yeah, I’ll try to make time.**

”

However, she wasn't sure if the Constances celebrated their elders' birthdays together with the entire household during a banquet, as they weren't on the best terms with each other, so if they happened to decide to not speak to each other during gatherings, things would turn out to be very awkward. Before embarking on his quest in the mall, Dylan looked toward Sophia while asking, "Can you provide some suggestions for me if you have time?" She was startled by his sudden request. What kind of suggestion does he want from me? Does it have to do with Uncle Owen's birthday present? She wanted to dismiss the idea, as she assumed that whatever a country girl like her picked out wouldn't suit Owen's taste anyway, but Dylan seemed to think it was a great idea. Thus, he stood while saying, "Come on, let's take a look inside since

you're alone anyway.

”

Without giving her a chance to turn him down, Dylan headed straight for the mall.

Meanwhile, Sophia cried out in an attempt to stop him, but to no avail. A frown formed on Sophia's face as she mumbled, "Where I come from, we need only bring a few kilograms of pork to the birthday boy or girl's house, so who the heck knows what you would want?"

However, she followed behind him despite her complaints.

Picking out birthday presents was no laughing matter, so the both of them entered the gift section as if they were ready for a tough battle. Not even Dylan knew what to choose

despite having made a round in the section, say less of Sophia.

All of the gifts seemed pointless in her eyes, and buying them would be a waste of money.

Dylan looked toward her as he asked,

"Do you have any

suggestions?”

“Nope.

” Sophia gave him a shrug before telling him the truth as she perceived, as she liked

nothing in the gifts section.

While casting a glance at Dylan, she said,

“I suppose Uncle Owen isn’t in need of anything, is he?”

Dylan pondered on her words, which he realized to hold some truth. A family like his wasn’t lacking anything in the material sense, as they would buy anything that they set their sights on.

Sophia let out a laughter seemingly out of the blue.

“You’re slightly younger than John, so I think your parents would be delighted if you brought with you a girlfriend.

” She went on to

laugh at her own joke.

Upon hearing what she said,

Dylan followed suit after glancing her way.

“I don’t think

I

would be able to achieve that within such a short period of time.

”

His answer came as a surprise to her, so much so that she had to arch a brow.

“Why is that so? You have great assets, so you should be able to do so quick enough.

”

In the ensuing silence, Sophia rambled on,

“However, a family like yours pride themselves in finding a matching partner, but it is difficult to find someone whom you deem to fit all the prerequisites.

” She then turned to look at him.

“Did nobody ever introduce you to anyone?”

After a moment’s pause while staring at the faraway shelf, Dylan replied,

**“I guess there
used
to be one.
”**

Sophia let out a chuckle.

**“What
does that even mean? You
should be able to give a definite
'yes' or 'no'
, so why such an
ambiguous answer?”**

**After pondering about his
answer, he replied,**

**“While
someone tried to introduce a
girl to
me, my parents turned down
the girl before I even got the
chance to meet her, as she
didn't
meet the necessary
requirements.
”**

Sophia let out a snort.

**“So that
was what happened... But why
would someone introduce
you to a girl who didn't meet
the requirements? Doesn't your
family emphasize those
before anything else?”**

After scanning his surroundings in the mall, Dylan's gaze landed on Sophia once again.

**"I seemed to be a promise made by the previous generations. I didn't ask about the specifics, and all I know is that my parents turned the girl down."
"**

The Returning Ex Chapter 201

Sophia pursed her lips before mocking him,

"That's such a shame! I mean, you never even got to meet that girl, but what if you happened to like her?"

Her remarks brought a smile to Dylan's face, which made him look like he was flirting.

"Yeah, what if I happened to like her?" The topic then ended on that note. The both of them failed to pick out a gift even after they went through the entire gift section. After giving the situation some

thought, Dylan suggested,
“Why
don’t we go
look around in the shops
outside? They might
have better merchandise
compared to here.
”

Upon checking the time, Sophia
noticed it
was almost noon. She figured
she could
excuse herself by telling him
she would be
leaving for lunch at home, so
she followed
him into the two other shops
outside of the
mall.

Birthday gifts were hard to pick
out, and the
level of difficulty seemed to
multiply
especially when it came to
picking a birthday
gift for a rich old man. After
going through
the two shops, Sophia smiled
before asking,
“Why don’t you give Uncle
Owen a call to ask

him what would he want?"

Dylan shook his head while checking out the shop next to him.

"We'll go look around some more. You don't know my father. He's the kind of person who would think you're being insincere and was doing a wishy-washy job if you ask him. In that case, it would be better if you'd just randomly pick one for him.

"

In the ensuing silence, Sophia pursed her lips while following him into another shop. She checked out the cufflinks at the counter, which she never saw the point of it being made, but she knew it was something exuberant that rich people seemed to like. Upon checking them out, Sophia pointed

toward a pair of the cufflinks
while saying,

“Dylan, what do you think
about this one?”

He came over to take a look at
them before
having the attendant take them
out. It was a
pair of silver cufflinks with an
ornate design,
which despite its antique look,
seemed stylish
at the same time. Dylan took it
in his hands.

“It does look nice when you
take a closer
look.

”

The attendant quickly explained
with a smile,

“Your girlfriend has good tastes!

This is the
newest pair of cufflinks in our
shop, which
arrived just this morning. Our
HQ only allows
one pair of it to be displayed in
each area, so
it’s not that easy to happen on
it.

”

Sophia took a deep breath.
“You got it wrong,
as we’
re—” However, she quickly
changed her
mind, as there was no point in
explaining it.

On the other hand, Dylan
seemed to not mind
about what the attendant said
while he
examined the cufflinks. He then
turned to
look at Sophia.

“Do you think
they look nice?”
She gave him a nod.

“They’re
alright, or at
least better than whatever we
saw before
this, as it’s got some sort of
practical use to
it.
”

Dylan nodded in response.

“We’ll have these
then.

” The attendant deftly
packed the
cufflinks, while Dylan paid for

them. As soon
as they left the shop, Sophia
said,
“It’s
getting late now, so I have to go.
John is still
at home and perhaps waiting
for me to cook.
”

A smile tugged at the corner of
Dylan’s lips.
“I wanted to buy you a meal to
thank you for
helping me choose these.
”

She dismissed his concern with
a wave of her
hands.
“There will be no need
for that, as it’s
not a difficult task. Besides, I
bet you would
be busy, so I won’t be taking
more of your
time.
”

In response, he gave her a nod.
“Alright, I’ll
buy you a meal when I get the
chance.
”

Sophia smiled as she agreed to it, then she boarded a cab by the road, only to have the driver stop the car after driving for a short while. The cab was parked at the earlier plaza before the mall, which she observed through the window. There were two women on the plaza who seemed to have just gotten out of a car, and intended to have a walk around there. After paying the driver, Sophia got out of the car as well to observe the two of them from some distance away. Neither women—who seemed to be a mother and her daughter—saw Sophia, as they smiled happily. There was once when Sophia met the Baileys when she was dining outside with John. She

looked into the private room
that the Baileys
were in, but she could only
catch a glimpse of
Mrs. Bailey's face. After taking a
good look
at her while on the plaza, she
couldn't help
but figure that Mrs. Bailey sure
was plump.

The Returning Ex Chapter 202
Mrs. Bailey and Isabelle made a
round in the
shops around the plaza, but
aside from being
able to see that Isabelle had
two bags in her
hand before the both of them
entered the
mall, Sophia wasn't sure what
they bought.

Why would I even tail these two?

Sophia
realized what she did was
totally pointless,
but she never stopped herself
from following
them into the mall despite her
thoughts.

They went to the women's
clothes

department, and it didn't take long for them to end up buying a lot of stuff, while Sophia observed them from the empty space in front of the lifts. It was then that Isabelle came out from one of the shops to make a call on her phone. She was facing Sophia sideways, so Sophia could see that Isabelle was all smiles, while Mrs. Bailey watched from the side with a look of resignation and happiness. It was a curious sight to behold.

The phone call didn't last long before Isabelle hung up, then she followed her mother into a nearby coffee shop. Because it was a weekend, the shop was quite crowded and people were constantly walking in and out of the shop.

Upon entering the shop, the two women sat down in a corner, while Sophia followed suit and found herself a seat by them when they weren't paying attention. She was wearing a hat which she bought a little while ago, and had let her hair down, so she figured her cover wouldn't be blown that easily.

After the waiter left with the two women's orders, Mrs. Bailey said, "You take those two with you, while the driver and I will take the rest."
"

Isabelle agreed to it before saying, "I might arrange for dinner with you tonight, so wait for my call."
"

A sigh escaped Mrs. Bailey
before she chided
softly,
“You’re such a stubborn
kid ever since
you
’re young. I don’t understand
why you are
doing this.
”

“Perhaps it’s because of love.
”

Isabelle’s tone
sounded lighthearted, while
Mrs. Bailey
smiled in resignation.
Despite having ordered a cup of
hot cocoa,
Sophia wasn’t actually inclined
to drink it as
she listened on. Mrs. Bailey
made mention of
Matilda, otherwise known as
Mrs. Constance,
before telling Isabelle of
Matilda’s personal
preferences and personality.
A smile tugged at the corner of
Sophia’s lips
as she realized Mrs. Bailey was
trying to pave

the way for her daughter. Both of them seemed to be immoral beings. How dare they even talk about undermining John's marriage! They're utterly shameless! Do all rich people act like they do? It didn't take long for Sophia to feel tired of the conversation they had. On the other hand, Mrs. Bailey sure knew Matilda well, as she was able to list out even the most minute details while giving her daughter advice. With someone like Mrs. Bailey behind her, it wouldn't make sense if Isabelle wasn't able to claim John as hers by the end of it. Sophia stood to pay for her bills, all the while figuring she must be nuts to have decided to tail the two women, as it was not

only a waste of time, but it also showed her just how twisted their morals were.

Upon hailing a cab, Sophia headed straight for home, only to see that the doors were opened, and that John's car was in the yard, which meant John spent his morning in the house. It was a surprising discovery, as John was never someone to linger around at home.

He would normally have tons of things to do even during weekends, which was why Sophia didn't get to see him a lot. She looked at the car upon entering the yard, then she walked over to the flower stand to find that the flowers were watered and the soil was loosened. John was sitting on the sofa when she entered the living room.

With a laptop on his crossed legs, he was dressed in a dark blue casual outfit and a pair of glasses that protected his eyes from radiation as he stared at the documents displayed on the screen intently.

The Returning Ex Chapter 203

It was rare for Sophia to see him in such a casual outfit, as he was always in a hurry while in her presence. As she entered the living room, Sophia asked while taking off her shoes,

“You have not eaten, have you?”

John turned to stare at her momentarily before grunting in the affirmative, while the reflection on his glasses obscured the expression in his eyes. Thus, into the kitchen she went to retrieve some

veggies from the
fridge. The soup he brought
home last night
was gone, so he had either
consumed it or
poured it down the drain. She
turned around
to begin cooking after retrieving
all that she
needed.

Meanwhile, John put his laptop
away before
taking off his glasses, then he
pinched the
space in between his brows as
he walked
toward the kitchen to stand by
the entrance.

“I’ll be leaving for the
Constance Residence
in a bit, so you won’t have to
cook my portion
of the meal.

”

“Alright, got it.

” Her hands were
in constant
movement even as she gave
him an answer.
John then turned to pack up his
stuff on the

sofa, and it wasn't long before
Sophia heard
the sounds of his car leaving
when she was
halfway through preparing her
meal. All she
did was let out a snicker as she
went on with
cooking.

It was never her plan to cook a
lavish meal,
as John's presence made no
difference. She
ate her meal after preparing it,
then cleaned
everything up before lying
down in bed. A
quick scroll through the online
news revealed
the constant fluctuation of
information, as
the scandal regarding the
Constances were
no longer a hot topic.
She let out another sneer
before heaving a
long sigh. Being rich sure has its
benefits. It
means you can always either
hire a bunch of
ghostwriters, or remove your

search results
from the option bar, so you can
easily
manipulate information
regarding you.

After doing some reading for
her driving
test, she planned on taking a
nap, but her
phone rang before she fell
asleep. A string of
numbers appeared without its
caller ID,
which she recognized to belong
to Mrs.

Constance. It was an odd
incident, as Mrs.
Constance never called her.
Sophia picked up
nonetheless, but she chose to
remain silent.

Neither did Mrs. Constance
speak, but she
could hear voices from the
other side of the
line, which sounded like the
chatter of a man
and a woman.

Sophia chuckled as she realized
what was
happening. After tailing the

Baileys and eavesdropping on them, she knew Isabelle would be going to the Constance Residence later on. John was also travelling back to the place, which was indicative of what would happen, so Sophia wondered how she did not see that coming. However, she didn't hang up; instead, she simply listened on as she left the phone by her pillow. Mrs. Constance must have tucked the phone in some secluded place, as aside from Isabelle's occasional chuckles, she couldn't actually hear what was said through the call, but it was proof enough that conversation seemed to flow easily. John's voice would join in once in a while, which also sounded light-hearted. Using the noises from the call as

a lullaby,
Sophia shut her eyes and soon
dozed off.
She didn't know if Mrs.
Constance said
anything afterward, nor did she
know when
the call ended. She slept for a
whole two
hours, only to wake up to a
darkening sky
that indicated an upcoming
downpour.
Sophia went into the yard to
move her plants
around before settling down in
the living
room. There was a message
from Mr. Reyes
on her phone which asked to
meet her when
she would be free in order to
sign the
contract.
Upon checking the weather,
Sophia told him
that she could do that
immediately. The
landlord seemed to be in a
hurry as he
replied that he would drive over

to the shop,
so they could sign the contract
over there.

After replying in the affirmative,
Sophia
hailed a cab with an umbrella in
hand after
locking the door. Sure enough,
rain began
pouring when she was on her
way to the shop.

The cab pulled over by the
dessert shop,
wherein the landlord was
already there.

Sophia walked into it under her
umbrella to
meet up with the landlord, who
had the
contract ready. Upon thinking
about it,
Sophia snapped a photo of the
contract,
which she then sent to Zack, as
she was
afraid that Mr. Reyes might
have dug
another trap for her.

The Returning Ex Chapter 204
Upon reading through the
contract once

again, Zack reassured Sophia that all was well, as everything that needed to be amended was amended. Thus, Sophia signed it without hesitation. Meanwhile, Robin sat behind the counter silently without even acknowledging Mr. Reyes. The latter knew why she was behaving like that, as he swindled a lot of her money. There were two copies of the contract, which would belong to the respective parties after both of them signed and put down their thumbprint. The landlord left after all was done, but Sophia wasn't able to leave due to the heavy downpour, thus she sat in the shop. She was feeling more relieved after the contract was signed, but Robin had a hard

time staying still. After a while,
she
suggested to Sophia,
“Let’s go
have some fun
after the rain stops. Seeing the
landlord just
kills my mood, so I don’t feel
like doing any
shopkeeping today at all. I want
to go on a
stroll outside.
”

Sophia was sitting by the
window while
staring into the distance when
she replied,

“Sure.

” Her phone buzzed as
soon as she said
so, a call coming in from Ian,
which she
picked up immediately.

His voice sounded a little
languid through the
call as he asked,

“Where are
you?”

After a pause, she replied,

“I’m
outside.

”

A chuckle could be heard
through the call.

“Alone?”

“Nope.

” Sophia turned to look
at Robin.

“I’m
with a friend.

”

Ian heaved a sigh before asking,

“Would you
like to meet up? I’m with a
friend as well, so
we can get to know each
other.

”

Did he just say he’s with a
friend? He used
to tell me he had none! Such
were her
thoughts as she turned to look
at Robin while
asking for her opinion by
mouthing at her.

The latter quickly got out from
behind the
counter as she nodded.

“Sure,
let’s go.

”

After Sophia gave a reply in the affirmative, the two of them closed the shop before hailing a cab to go to the location designated by Ian without even waiting for the rain to stop. It was a clubhouse, which was practically empty during the day. Ian was waiting for them at the entrance when they arrived, then he greeted Robin politely before saying, "Come on, let's go inside."
"

It was Sophia's first time visiting a place like that, so she questioned curiously while they walked, "What brings you here?" Ian responded with a smile. "A friend of mine owns this place. It's been a

while since I last
dropped by, so I decided to visit
this place
today.

”

With an arched brow, Sophia
asked,

“Who is
this rich friend of yours?”

Ian’s response was one of
resignation.

“He’s
the only friend I know.

”

Aside from a number of
attendants walking
around, there weren’t a lot of
guests in the
clubhouse. Ian led them to the
second floor,
which consisted of a lounging
area and an
entertainment zone.

They entered one of the rooms
which was
slightly larger than the others,
with a gaming
machine located on one side of
the room,
while a table for playing poker
was set on the

other side. The table was occupied by a few people, including a man in pajamas and slippers who was tidying up the scattered cards on the table.

Ian greeted the man as soon as he entered.

“Logan, my friends are here.”

Upon lifting his head, Logan Jefferson examined Sophia with a shrewd gaze as he waved his hand at them.

“I was in a predicament, but it seems your timely arrival has solved the problem for me! Come on, let’s have a go!”

Ian knew that Logan was addicted to gambling, especially with poker. With much resignation, he turned to look at Sophia and Robin.

“Do you two know how

to play?”

Sophia was a little hesitant.

“Not really. I

have only ever watched people play.

”

Robin was very much the same as she

mumbled,

“Me too. I only know a little.

”

However, Logan seemed to not be affected

by their attitude as he motioned for them to come over.

“Come on over. It’s alright if you

don’t know how to play the game. I can teach you!”

The Returning Ex Chapter 205

After exchanging glances,

Sophia and Robin

walked over to the table. None of them

showed a fear of losing money as they sat

down in an upright posture.

While Logan was sitting idly just

a few
moments ago, he was suddenly
full of vitality
as he pushed all the cards into
the auto card
dispenser.

“Come, I’ll be
distributing the
poker chips. Don’t worry. I’m
not looking to
win your money over. All I
wanted is the fun
of it. I’ll even treat you to a
lavish meal later
on!”

Sophia tried to suppress a
laughter as she
figured that Logan should have
been pitted
against Mrs. Constance, as the
latter was
also addicted to the game.
There were times when Mrs.
Constance would
gather her friends in the house
to have a go
at the game, but Old Mrs.
Constance didn’t
like gambling, so she could only
either play it
once in a while, or find an

excuse to leave the house so that she could meet up with her friends outside to play. In fact, Sophia would bet all her money that it would be a fun show to watch if Logan and Mrs. Constance ever got to play together in a game.

The four of them began the game after the chips were distributed. Sophia and Robin were total rookies who didn't know much about the game. Not only did they not realize when they won the game, they would even actively provide their opponents with a winning card. Meanwhile, Ian seemed to be able to hold himself in the game, which contributed to his multiple wins.

Logan was the biggest winner of them all, but

he had a hard time sitting still throughout the game, and would go through multiple postures in one round, looking like a fidgety monkey. As he was sitting across from Sophia and next to Robin, he conversed more with Robin.

Despite casting a glance at Sophia, he was speaking to Robin.

“Don’t you feel like a third wheel whenever you’re with those two?”

There was a pause in Sophia’s motion while Ian lifted his head to look at Logan, but Logan didn’t seem to care as he shifted his pose in his chair with a giggle.

“I have to commend his taste to have found himself such a beautiful girl.”

Ian replied after a momentary pause,
“Quit spouting nonsense and focus on the game.”

A snort escaped Logan as he assumed that Ian was feeling embarrassed, whereas Sophia furrowed her brows as she said,
“You should just tell my friend if you fancy her. That pick up line of yours was just vulgar.”

Logan hissed in amusement.
“You sure don’t like being taken advantage of, huh?” His comment only garnered him a noncommittal grunt from Sophia, which made him pay more attention to her, as it had been a while since he last saw such a hot-tempered girl. The game continued on until night fell. Both

Robin and Sophia had not only lost all their chips, they even owed Logan quite an amount of those, which turned out to be a huge source of satisfaction for Logan. The four of them left for dinner after the game was over, but they didn't dine in the clubhouse. There was a restaurant just opposite the clubhouse, to which Logan pointed toward while standing in the hall of the clubhouse.

"I won a lot of money today, so I will be buying you all a meal!"

Sophia and Robin couldn't help but laugh at his antics, as they only ever used chips. No money was involved throughout the game, yet Logan was so elated nonetheless by his wins. A car wasn't needed, as they

only had to
cross the road to arrive at the
restaurant.

There was a row of parking lots
in front of
the restaurant. Upon nearing
the rows of
cars there, Sophia stopped in
her tracks to
check out the license plate of
one of the
cars. While she knew next to
nothing about
automobiles, she knew for a
fact that license
plate numbers were unique,
and that a copy
of it couldn't exist.

Ian approached her while
asking,

"Is there
something wrong with the car?"

"Nope, the car's fine.

" Sophia
shook her
head. It's the owner of the car
that's the
problem.

"Come on, let's go eat!" Logan
was crying out
to them while standing at the

entrance of
the restaurant. He was still in
his pajamas
and slippers, completely
oblivious to the fact
that his attire was
inappropriate.

Both Sophia and Ian walked
over to him to
follow him into the hall. Logan
seemed to be a
regular, as all of the waiters
knew him. Upon
setting sight on him, the waiters
greeted
him.

“Young Master Jefferson,
please follow
our lead.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 206

There was a small private room
specifically
reserved for Logan to dine in.
Following the
lead of the waiter, Sophia
examined the
rooms one by one when she
passed by them,
but luck wasn't on her side, as
she didn't

encounter any instances during which a waiter would open the doors to any of the rooms. The doors to the rooms remained sealed even as they arrived at the room reserved for Logan, into which Sophia entered while pouting.

When they were ordering their food, Logan was restless throughout the entire process.

He held the menu in his hands while introducing each dish to Sophia and Robin with much attentiveness, which made for even better service than the waiters.

Sophia was amused by his antics as she replied,

“You can order whatever you want. You will be paying for the meal anyway.”

**There was a pause as Logan
glanced at Sophia
before wearing a smile on his
face.**

**“You sure
cut to the chase!” He then
ordered a few
dishes straight away without
even looking at
the menu, then he stood up
while he said,
“I
would prefer to pick out the
seafood that we
will be served.
”**

**The waiter quickly opened the
door for him.**

**“This way, Young Master
Jefferson.
”**

**It was after Logan had left the
room in his
pajamas that Sophia pursed her
lips.**

**“Ilan,
your friend seems like a nice
person.
”**

**Her remark was met by a smile
on Ian’s face.**

“That’s just how Logan is. He sure is nice.”

It had been a while since Logan left, but he had yet to return, which was getting on Sophia’s nerves.

“What’s going on? Did he run away? Did he just leave us here after ordering all those dishes?”

While Sophia was joking, Ian went along with it,

“That might very well be the case.”

Thus, she stood up.

“I’ll go get him.”

Ian nodded.

“Go on.

” Then, she was gone by the next instant.

There was an area for which the customers could pick out the live seafood

that they
wished to be served. Sophia
spotted Logan as
soon as she arrived at the area,
whom she
approached while wearing a
frown.

“Logan, it’s
been quite some time since you
left, so are
you planning to wait until they
grow any
bigger before you pick them
out?”

After she had said that, Sophia
noticed that
someone was standing in front
of Logan, and
that person was none other
than John
Constance. Despite the slight
pause in her
movements, she wasn’t all that
surprised by
his presence, as she had already
seen his car
outside. Thus, she approached
him openly
while greeting him.

“Fancy
seeing you here.

”

On the other hand, John was visibly surprised while he looked toward her with a frown.

“Why are you here? Do you and Logan know each other?”

A cry of surprise could be heard from Logan.

“What? Do you know President Constance?”

Sophia blinked as she questioned Logan,

“I’

ve

been meaning to ask if you ever read the tabloids?”

To that, Logan shook his head in response

rather proudly.

“I would rather

play a few

more rounds of poker than read those if I

have the time.

”

Sophia was suppressing a laughter as she

pressed on,
“Do you not know
about John’s
wedding? It was such a grand
event.

”

“Yeah, I was one of the guests
he invited,

”

said Logan. However, there
were a lot of
guests during the occasion, so
he drank even
more alcohol than the newly
wed couple did.

In the end, he was so drunk that
he had to
be carried away. By the time he
came to, he
didn’t seem to remember
anything of the
banquet.

Sophia pursed her lips before
asking,

“The
wedding dress I wore was said
to be sent to
us by flight, while the diamonds
and
gemstones on it were
embroidered onto the

dress by hand. Did such an extravagant outfit not manage to catch your attention?"

Upon reaching that point, Logan began taking a closer look at Sophia, which resulted in immense shock as he pointed his finger at her.

"Y-Y-You—"

Sophia moved his hand away while imitating him.

"I-I-I—yeah, your guess is correct!"

It was then that Logan cast a glance in the direction of the room that they were in.

"I assumed you are Ian's girlfriend! So are you telling me you aren't?"

Sophia blinked before replying to him,

"Of course I'm not."
"

The Returning Ex Chapter 207

The expression on John's face soured as he repeated his question while looking at Sophia,
"Why are you here?"
Sophia arched her brow while returning the question,
"I could ask the same of you."
"

John pulled his lips into a thin line before saying,
"I'm here for a business meeting."
"

A chuckle escaped her as she replied in a placid manner,
"It's rare to see someone at a business meeting during weekends."
" Not only did you spend the whole day being idle, you didn't even bring Zack with you now that you're here.

**“John?” The voice of a woman
came through
before John could speak. Sophia
didn’t even
need to turn around to know
who the voice
belonged to, as it was unique to
Isabelle.**

**John looked toward her upon
turning around,
while the latter seemed to not
have noticed**

**Sophia as she rambled on,
“I**

**came to check
on you. What took you so
long?”**

**Meanwhile, Logan wore a
frown as he
observed Isabelle with a
puzzled look on his
face.**

“Who would this be?”

**There was a pause on Isabelle’s
part, as if
she had just noticed Sophia.**

“Oh, aren’t you

Miss Gwendolyn?”

**Well, well, have I not reminded
you about my
title? Such was her thought**

when she turned
to look at Isabelle.

“Oh, aren’t
you Miss
Bailey? It seems like you have a
bad memory,
since you failed to remember
my title even
after multiple reminders. You
should be
careful if you can’t remember
such details,
as it wouldn’t do to make any
major mistakes
while on your job.
”

Isabelle kept her silence while
retaining her
smile, whereas Logan repeated
himself,

“Who
is she?”

Then, Sophia explained,

“Ah,
right. She is the
daughter of the Bailey Family,
who will soon
be working with the
Constances.

” She then
checked on the fish tank beside

her before
swiftly changing the topic.

“This
one! Logan,
let’s have this, I like it!”
“Sure, as long as you like it!”

Logan didn’t
even look at what she was
pointing at.

Right after that, Sophia checked
on the huge
crabs beside it, then she
pointed at them
despite not knowing their
species.

“This one
too.
”

“Sure, one of these as well,
please,
” Logan

told the waiter who was
waiting beside him.
Sophia seemed to be enjoying
what she did

as she went on,
“Ian likes this
fish, so let’s
have one of these too.
”

Logan began sulking while he

asked,
“Why
aren
't you asking me what I want to
have
instead?”

Upon turning to look at Logan,
Sophia burst
into laughter.

“You can have
some leftovers
since we ordered this much! It
won't do if we
are to waste food!”

Logan was waving his hands
around while
complaining,

“Sophia, you've
crossed a line! I
will make a complaint to Ian!”

The fact that they were having
so much fun
roused feelings of envy within
both John and
Isabelle, who both wore a
gloomy expression
while they stood there. Isabelle
knew Logan
as an eccentric who was
selective of the
company he kept.

Judging from the manner in which they conversed, Sophia and Logan seemed to be close friends. Not only that Logan wasn't angry at all when Sophia barked orders at him, he was even actively going along with it happily. Isabelle sulked upon thinking about it.

Meanwhile, Sophia ordered anything that she fancied, but Logan didn't seem to care about how much he would have to pay later on. She clapped her hands with much satisfaction after making all of her orders.

"Okay, that will be all!"

Logan nodded in response before telling the waiter,

"That will be all. Please make these two into sashimi, and these should be

steamed. As for the rest, make them into a seafood platter.

” After that, he proceeded to usher Sophia away.

“Come on, they are still waiting in the room!”

Sophia arched her brows at John before leaving joyfully with Logan, while Logan waved at John as he passed by him.

“You should come join us later when you have time! It’s been a while since we last met!”

With a short grunt, John accepted the invitation extended to him.

After they left, Isabelle mumbled, all the while staring at

Sophia’s retreating figure,

“How

did Miss

Gwendolyn and Young Master Jefferson know

each other? From what I gather,

his
clubhouse is...
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 208

When she said this, she stopped
all of a
sudden. Her expression was a
little
restrained, as if she knew she
had said
something wrong.

John was still looking at the
direction where
Sophia disappeared, and he
took a breath.

“Come here and pick the one
you want.
”

Isabelle muttered an okay and
hurried over,
looking really adorable and
obedient.

When Sophia left the hall, her
face
darkened. That douchebag. As
expected, he
couldn't wait to make a move.
And he still
said something about going
back to the
Constance Residence. Did he

really think I'm
that clueless?

Back in the private room, Ian
and Robin were
both looking at their mobile
phones. They
were probably not familiar with
each other,
so the atmosphere was a little
awkward
between them.

When Ian saw the two of them
coming, he
teased,

“What took so long? Did
you guys go
to the farming pond to catch
the fish
yourselves?”

It was rare that Ian would joke
around, so

Logan laughed and said,
“Hehehe, you guys
want to guess who we just saw
in the lobby?”

After saying this, he looked at
Sophia.

“No, I
was really surprised. Sophia, so
you are...
Uhm...

”

Sophia gave him a glare.

“I’m
what?”

Logan immediately changed
what he was
about to say when she glared at
him.

“So you
are the Sophia Gwendolyn that
John is head
over heels with.

”

When Sofia heard him say this,
her
expression improved a bit.

Logan then looked at Ian and
answered his
own question.

“We saw John
Constance in the
lobby just now. John Constance!
My god, it
turns out that Sophia is actually
his wife!”

Ian looked at Sophia, who
remained silent
while schooling her expression.

After two seconds, Ian said,

“Oh,
I thought

you knew about it. I heard that
the wedding
at the time was very grand.
Didn't you attend
it?"

At the time, he felt it was the
same whether
he attended the wedding or not.

Logan
usually liked to join in the fun,
so before the
banquet had started, he had
drunk so much
that he was already hammered.
By the time
the marrying couple had walked
down the
aisle, Logan was so drunk he
couldn't
differentiate between the
groom and the
bride. Not long after the food
was served, he
was already lying on the ground,
dead drunk.

Logan looked at Sophia with a
look of
admiration on his face.

"Wow, I
have always
admired the woman who cut in

halfway. I
didn't expect it was you.
”

Sophia smiled and sat next to
Robin before
changing the subject.

“We
haven't ordered
any drinks yet. What would you
like to
drink?”

Robin had never been in this
position before;
she could distinctly feel that the
people
around her were all of
significant status.

After hesitating shortly, she
answered,

“I'm
fine with anything.
”

Logan immediately rang a bell
for the waiter
and ordered some mangosteen
juice. Then, he
tutted and switched the topic
back again.

“That woman just now was
Isabelle Bailey? I
vaguely remember her. Wasn't

she the one
who was going to marry John
before?”

Sophia sounded nonchalant as
she replied,

“Yes, she was the one I
snatched John from.

”

Logan sucked in a breath.

“I say,

the

conversation between the two
of you just

now sounded a bit off.

”

“Off?” Sophia smiled.

“It’s

nothing. Just look

at us. The conversations I have
with you all

are also weird.

”

“They’re not the same; not at
all.

” Logan

waved his hand.

“Your attitude

and

expressions are different. I can
still see

that much.

”

Logan was not a good-tempered person. Even though he would usually act in a less serious manner, everyone knew that he was not someone to mess with. Logan could tell that Sophia was just being casual when she talked with them. If it weren't because of that, he would have given her a piece of his mind a long time ago.

Pretending to sigh, Sophia said, “Then tell me; did John and Isabelle hear anything out of it?”

Logan let out a laugh.

“Those two are very shrewd. It's impossible that they couldn't pick up on it.

”

Leaning back in her chair, Sophia replied, “You're right, but see, if even

Isabelle could
tell and still be so calm, don't
you think this
kind of person is actually pretty
impressive?"

The Returning Ex Chapter 209

Logan snorted.

"I don't think so.

I hate

people who are scheming yet

pretend to be

innocent on the surface. When I

see such a

woman, I want to hurl...

"

Sophia burst into laughter; her

impression of

Logan had improved a lot.

While waiting for the food to be

served,

Sophia asked Logan if he knew

what was

going on with the Baileys. She

had never

come across them, so she didn't

know much

about them. It was only

recently that she

met Isabelle Bailey a few times.

Logan didn't know their faces,

but he knew

their reputation very well, for he would play poker often, which was where he would often hear a lot of gossip.

“Elder Mr. Bailey is actually someone very impressive,” he said.

“He’s the head of the Baileys right now, and he’s the one who calls all the shots. I heard that he holds John in high regards. He had once wanted to work together with the Constance Family, but...”

Logan pursed his lips for a moment.

“This old man is very cautious. My guess is that he wanted to wait for John and Isabelle to get married, then talk about working together. If they didn’t have this relationship to protect them,

**the Baileys
wouldn't trust the Constances.
”**

**They were all old foxes in the
business world,
so they would naturally be
cautious. However,
it was just that Elder Mr. Bailey
didn't
expect just when he was close
to his goal, an
unpredictable factor kicked in,
changing the
whole outcome. No one had
expected that a
figure like Sophia would
suddenly appear
halfway.**

Sophia thought for a while.

**“But
I think
Elder Mr. Bailey seems very
interested in
working with the Constances.
”**

Logan nodded his head.

**“He's
indeed very
interested. I heard that the old
man went to
the Constance Company some**

time ago.

”

That’s unusual, Sophia thought.

Elder Mr.

Bailey was someone who wanted nothing more than for everyone to kneel to him when they saw him, so this would probably be the first time that he had taken the initiative to go to someone else’s company on his own.

Logan crossed his legs and shook the slipper on his foot.

“My guess is that it’s either the Bailey Corporation is having problems, or the Baileys themselves are having an internal problem, and the old man must be looking for a reliable partner. Naturally, the Constances, who owe the Baileys, are the best choice.

”

Sophia nodded, but she hadn’t

actually understood the twists and turns of the matter. Nevertheless, it was fine even if she didn't understand, for she only needed to butt heads with Isabelle if she saw her.

As they talked, the waiter opened the door and came in.

The first dishes served were sashimi and steamed seafood, as well as the fish ordered specially for Ian. They would have to wait a bit longer for the platter.

However, because Sophia had ordered a lot, these dishes were enough for them to eat for a while.

Logan stood up and pushed the fish to Ian.

“Come, this is what Sophia picked specially for you. Come on, eat up. We'll just look.

”

Sophia was smiling, but when the waiter left the door after serving the dishes, another person had appeared at the door.

Since Logan's back was to the door, he didn't notice it as he continued to tease Ian.

"Sophia remembers what you like to eat. I'm really jealous."
"

John stood at the door, simply staring into the private room and the obvious smiles on Sophia and Ian's face as they sat next to each other.

Logan was still oblivious, and he continued to tease Ian while smiling.

"If Sophia wasn't already taken, I really would have thought the two of you were... Erhem..."
"

John's face was emotionless,

and he didn't go
inside.

After a few seconds, there were
footsteps
behind him. Then, Isabelle's
voice came with
the footsteps.

"John, why aren't
you going
inside?"

John didn't look back, but when
Isabelle said
this, she succeeded in stopping
Logan's
actions in the private room.

Looking back at
the person at the door with an
unabated
smile on his face, he said,

"Oh,
come in, come
in. The food was only just
served. Let's have
some food together.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 210
Isabelle was the first to come
inside.

"Since
we had met just now, I wanted
to come over

here to say hello.

”

Looking up and down at Isabelle appraisingly,

Logan didn't show an obviously upset look, but

he clearly didn't look

welcoming as he

chuckled and replied,

“Miss

Bailey, why are

you with John today? Were you

two

discussing business?”

Isabelle remained unperturbed.

“Yes, there

were some work matters we

needed to talk

about.

”

Nodding slowly, Logan said,

“No

wonder you

two got together.

”

Meanwhile, Sophia simply sat

there without

moving or talking.

Ian stared at Isabelle for a while,

then he

smiled.

“Mr. Constance, I didn’t expect to meet you here. Sophia is here as well. How about you come in? It would be weird if a married couple like yourselves are separated into two different rooms.”

When he said this, Isabelle felt a little awkward at the side. She wasn’t stupid, and she could see things clearly. Although the few people inside the room didn’t say anything blatantly, it was obvious that they didn’t welcome her. So, she simply stood at the side with her lips pursed, the gentle smile on her face still in place. Sophia glanced at Isabelle, who had a pseudo-smile on her face, an annoying expression that she was an expert in making.

John came over and greeted Logan first.

“I saw Old Mr. Jefferson a few days ago and asked about you. He said that you have been at the clubhouse recently.

”

“Oh, it’s nothing. I was just hanging out over there,

” Logan said.

Isabelle gave an unnoticeable frown; she

didn’t know that Logan and John were so

familiar with each other.

Growing a little

anxious, she wondered if John would take it

to heart since she had said something she

shouldn’t have said earlier in the hall.

John grunted.

“Old Mr.

Jefferson also

wanted me to talk to you if I

met you. He

wanted me to persuade you to

go out for a
walk around instead of staying
at the
clubhouse all the time.

”

Glanced at Sophia, Logan then
suddenly
smiled.

“Ah, I was just bored
before. Now
that I’ve found something
interesting, I am
naturally willing to come out.

”

Sophia gave him a look of slight
disgust.

Looking at Ian, John then said,
“We’ve met in
Tri Asel, but I didn’t know you
were Ian
Morgan. Please forgive my
rudeness.

”

Ian stood up.

“It’s okay. I’m
abroad all year
round. In fact, it’s better for me
that you
didn’t know who I am.

”

Nevertheless, Ian knew that

John knew of his identity, so naturally, there was no need to hide it.

John looked at Sophia at last.

“Why didn’t you tell me you came out? I would have brought you here if I knew you wanted to come.

” His tone eased a lot, and the gentleness in it was audible. Sophia knew that it was time to start acting again, so she stretched out her hand at John, and he came directly and took her hand.

Looking up at him, she said, “I didn’t want to disturb your business. I knew that you had something to do, so it didn’t feel right if I followed along.”

Looking down at Sophia, John noted that she

seemed to be different from her usual fierce self; she was putting on an act of being demure and well-behaved again right now.

John raised his other hand and placed it on top of Sophia's head, gently rubbing it.

"You silly girl."
"

Sophia looked at Isabelle from the corner of her eyes, and Isabelle also just happened to look over. As their eyes met, Sophia raised her brow. Everytime she butted heads with Isabelle like this without anyone else noticing, Isabelle had always lost to her.

Had it not been for Infinity Group that came up with such a play, John would not have needed her cooperation, so Sophia was

actually a little grateful to
President McCaw
of the company, as well as the
oblivious Miss
Cox; otherwise, she never
would have gotten
the opportunity to compete
with Isabelle.

Thus, she felt pretty good with
how things
were right now.

However, John also had people
he needed to
socialize with at his side. There
weren't just
people from the Baileys in his
private room,
for William and Matilda were
also there.

The Returning Ex Chapter 211
The Returning Ex Chapter 211
He couldn't stay here, so after
John had
greeted everyone here in the
private room,
he went over to his own private
room with
Isabelle.

As Sophia stared at Isabelle's
back when she
left, she let out a laugh, which

caused
Isabelle to turn halfway and
looked at Sophia
when she had just reached the
doorway.
Sophia pointed her middle
finger right at
her, causing Isabelle to be taken
aback, her
expression turning ugly. Then,
she turned
around and left, looking quite
angry. She
probably never would have
imagined that
Sophia would be so blatant by
making such an
unseemly gesture.
Everyone in the room saw this
action of
Sophia's clearly. When
Isabelle's figure was
completely out of their sight,
Sophia burst
into laughter. Logan also
laughed, and he was
laughing even harder than
Sophia. Ian, who
was at the side, shook his head
helplessly,
while Robin seemed a little

confused; she
couldn't tell what was going on.
After a few laughs, Logan gave
Sophia a
thumbs up.

“Sophia, I like your
style. You are
very much like me.
”

Sophia snorted at him, as if she
was looking
down on him.

Ian said next to him,
“I have to
admit; you
two really are alike
sometimes.
”

The Young Master of the
Jeffersons was a
deviant himself. Back then
when Ian was
wronged, Logan had come to
his defense and
butted heads with Sean Morgan
and Leah
Zimmerman. If it hadn't been
for Old Mr.
Jefferson giving him a look from
the side, he
probably would have gotten

into a fight with
Bryce Morgan as well. Although
he wouldn't
give anyone a middle finger like
Sophia did,
he also had quite the attitude.
Sophia looked at Logan, then
she poured
some mangosteen juice into a
cup before
raising it, seeming like she was
admitting to
it herself.

"You have a good
relationship with
Ian,

" Sophia said.

"I will believe
that you are
different from those who
pretend to be high
and mighty. Come, let's be
friends.

"

Logan was a little unhappy.

"Let's be friends?
Aren't we already friends?"

Sophia snorted.

"We weren't
before, but
after drinking this glass, we will

be.

”

Hearing that, Logan hissed.

**“You didn’t think
of me as a friend before, and I
had ordered
so much expensive seafood...**

”

**Ian and Robin both laughed
beside them.**

**Being unable to hold it in
herself, Sophia
laughed out loud as well,
livening up the
atmosphere once more as the
few of them
sat down and began stuffing
themselves.**

**Logan was obviously very happy
on this day;
he was like a monkey, squatting
on his chair
as he acted like a good host by
passing food
and filling up their glasses with
juice for
them from time to time.**

Sophia looked at him.

**“You can
be a good host
if you want, but can you sit**

**down properly? I
keep feeling like there's an
animal squatting
in front of me.
”**

**Logan's face instantly darkened.
“And I had
just peeled a crab leg for you
just now. Give
it to me. Give it back to me.
”**

**Yelling and hurriedly stuffing
everything into
her mouth, Sophia then said
with her mouth
full,
“Do you want it? I can spit
it out for
you.
”**

**The room was filled with
laughter.
As for John and Isabelle, when
they
returned to their private room
they saw Mrs.
Constance and Mrs. Bailey
holding hands and
acting close as if they were
sisters who had
been separated for many years.**

John glanced at William and frowned subconsciously. Then, William gave a cough.

Mrs. Constance was good at picking up signs, so she quickly caught on to the situation.

After saying something else, she took her hand back and sat upright.

John went over and sat next to William, his expression unfathomable. On the other side,

Old Mr. Bailey looked at John, then at Isabelle. He laughed first before asking,

“What’s the matter? What did that kid from the Jeffersons say that made you upset?”

Isabelle paused before looking up at Old Mr.

Bailey, then she quickly said, “Nothing. Logan and I are not very familiar with each other. I haven’t said much when we went over. John

**was the one who chatted with him.
”**

The Returning Ex Chapter 212

They didn't say that Sophia was there as well. The reason John didn't tell them that was because he didn't want his mother to go looking for trouble.

At the Constance Residence earlier, she had spent the whole afternoon making disparaging remarks about Sophia. She had been endless with her remarks, but actually, he didn't like to hear about them.

Also, the reason Isabelle didn't tell them Sophia was here was because she was worried people would talk when they knew that the married couple were in separate rooms. If she let Sophia come over here, she

would definitely lose her
appetite.

Old Mr. Bailey nodded his head.

“That

Jefferson brat is indeed a bit
unruly when he

acts and speaks, but youngsters
should be

vigorous like this. You should be
more

energetic like him.

”

He was mainly saying this to

Isabelle, so she

looked at Old Mr. Bailey,

knowing what he

was trying to convey. While she

was more on

the tacit end of the personality
spectrum,

John’s temper was easy to

trigger, so when

such two people got together, it

was indeed

difficult for them to cultivate

feelings for

each other. Sparks could only

appear

between two people with

complementary

personalities.

Isabelle had actually thought about this problem before. When John had come to break off their engagement, although he had apologized, he acted unusually calm. She could tell he was unapologetic, and she could not see any conflicted feelings or reluctance from him. Thus, Isabelle thought that John probably didn't like her. She had thought that she had the charm, but she had lost to someone like Sophia, which was a fact that she simply couldn't accept. After encountering Sophia for a couple of times, she had secretly made comparisons between the both of them, and she thought that other than their personalities, she wasn't on the losing end compared to Sophia

at all.

Sophia's identity was nothing and her behaviors were often inappropriate, so other than her jovial and unabashed personality, there really wasn't anything else about her.

Thus, Isabelle thought to herself that maybe men like women like Sophia. William laughed, then he turned the topic toward the joint effort between the two families once again. Old Mr. Bailey naturally followed his words and continued the talk.

The only thing left for the two families to work together was to get the contract signed, for the details and the like had all been negotiated. Sounding somewhat emotional, Old Mr. Bailey said that he actually wanted to cooperate

with the Constance Family before, but some things came up halfway and caused it to be delayed.

When those words were heard, everyone at the dinner table was taken aback; it was obvious what he was talking about.

Mrs. Constance blinked and turned her head to look at John, but he was obviously distracted as well. Frowning slightly, he seemed to be rather irritable. Isabelle also gave John a look, and she could take a guess why he was like this.

Meanwhile, William smiled. "It's never too late for a good thing to happen. Although the time had been delayed, our families ended up cooperating in the end. In a sense, it is the same thing.

”

Old Mr. Bailey glanced at
Isabelle from the
corner of his eyes and echoed
William’s

words,

“Yes, indeed. It’s never
too late for a
good thing to happen.

”

Isabelle frowned before
drawing her gaze
back from John’s face. As she
lowered her
eyes to look at the teacup
beside her, she
felt a little powerless.

The Baileys and the Constances
didn’t know
that Sophia was here in the
other private
room, so they weren’t affected
at all as they
chatted about, ate and drank
for a long time.

Seemingly getting more irritable
by the
minute, John finally stood up.

“I’ll be going to
the bathroom.

”

Without looking at anyone else,
John got up
and left. He did move toward
the bathroom,
but when he stood at the sink,
he took out a
cigarette case directly before
lighting up a
cigarette. Then, he heard a
giggle coming
from inside the bathroom.
Logan's voice was heard saying,
"It's a shame
I got to know Sophia a bit later.
I tell you, I
really like that gal's personality.
Do you know
what I thought of before? If she
was single,
the two of you should get
together, then she
would be able to deal with
those people in
your family properly. A strong,
independent
woman like her would surely
give them a
headache."
"

The Returning Ex Chapter 213
After speaking, Logan came out

with a push
on the door. His head was
turned back as he
was speaking with the person
behind him. So
when he turned around and
saw John, he
yelped and said,
“John! You’re
here! You
scared me.

” He didn’t show any
embarrassment at all; it was as
if he was not
the one who had been talking
about his wife
behind his back just now.
Ian was behind him. When he
saw John, he
didn’t look surprised at all.
Logan and Ian went over to
wash their hands,
then Logan asked John,
“What’s
the matter?
Did you get annoyed with those
people at
your end?” Before John could
speak, he
tutted and added,
“I don’t like

these
business discussions either.
Those people are
so fake. How long have you
been here? How
about you come sit in our room?
I can finally
tell that Sophia is out to make
me a pauper.
She had ordered so much food,
but there is
no way that we can finish all of
them.
”

However, after he said that, he
seemed to
suddenly remember the
relationship between
John and Sophia, so he laughed
and told him,
“Come on. Since she is your
wife, it is up to
you to discipline her.
”

John stared at Logan for a long
time, then he
nodded his head.
“Very well.
”

Sophia and Robin were sitting
in the private

room chatting, mainly talking smack about their landlord. When she thought of it now, Robin was still annoyed. Sophia was also cussing up a storm. If it weren't for someone keeping a lookout for her, she would have gotten in trouble.

Just when the two were in the middle of voicing their righteous indignation, the door of their private room opened.

Before they saw anyone entering, they had already heard Logan's voice.

"Sophia, your sweet honey bunny is here."
"

Sophia's face twitched. What was with that name? That's disgusting. John came in last. After taking a look at Sophia, he headed directly to her and sat

down beside her.
Feeling a little helpless, Sophia
wondered if
she was supposed to start
acting again? I'm
going to have to start asking for
payment at
this rate. She looked at John
and asked,
"Why are you here? Are the
business talks
over?"

"No.

" John let out a sigh.

"I
couldn't drink
anymore, so I found an excuse
to come out.
"

Logan smiled.

"This is how
social gatherings
are, which is why I don't like
them.

" Then, he
glanced at Sophia and directly
ordered her,
"Come on. Get your hubby
some food. Look at
all this food you ordered on the
table. I will

not be happy if we can't finish them.

”

Sophia rolled her eyes at him.

“Look at how miserly you are. If there are any leftovers, we can just pack them up. You can bring them home for your supper.

”

Although she said this, Sophia still took her fork and passed some food for John.

“Since you have drunk a lot of alcohol, you should now eat some food to make your stomach feel better.

”

John looked at the fork in Sophia's hand, feeling quite certain that this woman was doing this deliberately. There were sterilized and clean cutleries at the side, yet she used the fork that she had used

before, all the
while looking innocent.
He had thought that this
woman was an
honest person before, which
now made him
wonder how did he end up
being so blind to
have missed what sort of a
person that she
really was?

Sophia blinked, looking all
innocent and
harmless.

“Go on. Eat.
”

Logan didn't know about the
drama going on
between Sophia and John, so he
piped in as
well.

“That's right. Hurry up and
eat. You
need to look after your body.
You had drunk
so much alcohol, so you'll
definitely feel
unwell tonight.
”

John slowly took the cutleries in
Sophia's

hand.

“Thank you.

”

Sophia laughed.

“No need to
thank me. We’

re

a family. This is how things
should be.

” She

knew John was a clean freak, so
she was

doing this to get to him, and as
expected,

John simply took two bites as a
show before

putting the food down.

With Logan here, things
wouldn’t get quiet.

He asked what was going on in
John’s private
room.

John simply leaned back in his
chair.

“We

talked about cooperating with
each other,

and discussed the mode of
supply

afterward.

”

Nodding, Logan asked,

“Who is

here from the

Baileys? That old guy?”

The Returning Ex Chapter 214

John didn’t know whether the

old man Logan

said was referring to Old Mr.

Bailey or Elder

Mr. Bailey, so he answered

directly.

“Old Mr.

Bailey is here, as well as Mrs.

Bailey.

”

Sophia gave an audible snort

when she

remembered the pair of mother

and

daughter she had followed

earlier. There was

definitely a reason why Isabelle

held those

twisted values and standards,

for Mrs. Bailey

was not a moral person either.

Logan looked at Sophia, then he

continued,

“Isabelle is now working at her

family’s

company, isn’t that right? I

remembered
that before she never showed
up at her
family's social gatherings. Now
that she has
appeared, that should mean
she's working in
the company, right?"

John nodded.

"Yes. Isabelle is
the liaison
officer for both our companies.
"

Understanding the situation
now, Logan
tutted and said,
"Didn't Isabelle
give off a
high-class lady vibe before?
Why is she
bothering to lower herself to
our standards
now? She can't hold her nose
up anymore?"

No one could answer this
question.

Ian, who has been silent all the
time, asked,

"Does Old Mr. Bailey have any
other children
besides Isabelle?"

**“He does,
” Logan replied.**

**“But
his son is
currently only just starting high
school. He’s
too young to support the
company.
”**

**Ian let out an ‘oh’; he seemed
to have
understood something, but he
didn’t say
anything further.**

**On the other hand, Sophia went
over to the
seafood platter and used her
cutleries to put
some in John’s bowl.**

**“Eat up.
Someone may
come to get you in a while.
You’ll have to go
back and drink some more
then.
”**

**John looked down without
touching his
cutleries.**

**“I know how to deal
with it.**

”

Nevertheless, what Sophia said was indeed accurate. After a while, a knock on the door of the private room could be heard, and Logan, thinking it was a waiter, told them to come in directly.

When the door opened, Isabelle was the one standing there at the doorway. Her face was very calm, as if the unpleasantness she experienced earlier had never happened.

“Why are you here?” Logan frowned. This question, coupled with his tone, was obviously unfriendly.

Isabelle looked at John.

“Everyone is all waiting for you over there. I had guessed you would be here. Let’s go. Everyone is almost done eating over there. It should be over in a

while.

”

**Logan chuckled, and in a loud voice, muttered,
“Why is she acting like she’s the wife?”**

Everyone in the room heard this.

**Turning his head to look at Sophia, Ian said,
“Sophia, is there anywhere else you would like to go? We’re almost done here as well, so we can leave right away.**

”

“Oh, so there’s some entertainment later? I thought we would all be heading home after we finished eating.

”

**“Yes,
” Logan drawled.**

“We will go to my club later. There are a lot of good things there, so let me take you all there for a look. Today, I, the great Logan, will show you

**hicks what
you
've been missing out.
”**

**John, who was at the side,
frowned as he
stood up and pulled Sophia up.
“Come with us.
Mom and Dad are over there.
You should say
hello.
”**

**“Eh?” Sophia exclaimed, for she
was a bit
surprised.
In truth, she didn't really want
to see those
people from the Baileys. She
felt that she
would get frustrated with them,
so she
hesitated for a moment. But
when she heard
that both William and Mrs.
Constance were
there, she wanted to go and
join in; she
simply didn't want Mrs.
Constance to have it
easy, and the same went for
Isabelle as well.**

Logan winked as he stared at Sophia for a while, then he waved his hand suddenly.

“Go on, go on. You should go. John’s parents are all over there. Since you, their daughter-in-law, have caught up to them, you should go and say hello. Go on.”

John held Sophia’s hand in his palm.

“Let’s go.”

Over at the side, Isabelle’s expression had completely changed. She was normally good at turning situations to her favor, but now her face had paled slightly.

The Returning Ex Chapter 215

It was fine if John and Sophia wanted to act all lovey-dovey with each other in front of her alone, but if they were to do it in front

of her and her family... Would John really be that heartless? Where would this put her? When she saw Isabelle like this, Sophia immediately grew happy. So, she followed Logan's lead and said, "Alright. It's as Logan said. I should go and greet them."
"

She hooked John's arm and followed him to the outside.

Meanwhile, Isabelle was still standing at the door, pursing her lips while looking at Sophia and John.

The corners of Sophia's mouth were lifted, making her look like a cat who had caught a canary. She really was suitable to be a villain, for she really liked this feeling of making a weak b*tch like Sophia so angry

that she
would cry at any time. It really
was a great
feeling.

John took Sophia to a private
room that had
its door ajar located not far
away and pushed
the door open directly.

The atmosphere in the private
room was

actually pretty good. Mrs.
Constance and

Mrs. Bailey were smiling,
looking like the best
of friends, while William and
the Old Mr.

Bailey were clinking glasses
together and
toasting one another, looking
like best pals.

John went in and called out a
greeting to his
parents, then he said that when
he had gone
out earlier, he had bumped into
Sophia, so he
brought her over to say hello to
everyone.

Instantly, everyone inside the
room fell

silent.

William, however, recovered pretty quickly as he swiftly stood up.

“Oh, Sophia.

I had asked

John if you were free today and wanted to

invite you to come over with us.

He said that

you wanted to open up your store and would

be a bit busy there. But look!

You’re here

now! Talk about coincidence!’

William’s words were courteous enough for

Sophia, so she was willing to open her mouth

and call him ‘Dad’ sweetly.

Then, she said,

“I

have been a bit busy lately. I

went to the

store to sign the contract today.

When John

returned to the Constance

Residence at

noon, he had asked me to come along, but I

really couldn’t get out of it.

”

When Sophia said this, she looked at the expressions of the people in the private room. Mrs. Constance was not a good actor, so her long face was pretty obvious; even Mrs. Bailey’s expression was better concealed than hers. On the other hand, Old Mr. Bailey did not look at Sophia. He only looked at Isabelle who was at the doorway. Isabelle was standing behind Sophia and John, so Sophia couldn’t see her expression, but she could guess that Isabelle’s expression right now must be extremely sad. Oh dear, what should I do? I feel really happy right now though. I’m literally on cloud nine! William seemed to have noticed

that the atmosphere in the room was not very good, so he kept smiling, trying to ease the tense atmosphere.

“Come. You haven’t eaten yet, have you? Sit down and eat with us. The Baileys will be working together with our family in the future. They are our partners, so they won’t mind.”

It didn’t matter to Sophia if they minded it or not, but she herself felt bothered. Thus, she smiled and replied, “It’s okay, Dad. I still have friends outside. I just came over to say hello. They are still waiting for me over there.”

Mrs. Constance finally spoke up now.

**“You
still have friends outside?
Who?” Her tone
of speech was somewhat odd.
Since Sophia
wasn’t a person of great status,
Mrs.
Constance naturally thought
that she
wouldn’t have any friends who
were
respectable. Mrs. Constance
looked down on
her, so she would also look
down on her so-called friends.
“Would you like to call your
friends over here and have
everyone get to
know each other?” she said
after a snort.
Of course, Sophia had heard the
ridicule in
Mrs. Constance’s tone, so she
looked at Mrs.
Constance and told her,
“I think
we should
forget about this. I heard that
his
reputation is not very good, so
it won’t be**

good if he comes over and
upsets you all.
”

Isabelle hurriedly said,
“Miss
Gwendolyn’s
friend should have other things
to do, so...
”

“What’s there to be worried
about?” Mrs.
Constance said directly.

“I
haven’t seen any
of Sophia’s friends before. Since
we’re here,
you should bring your friend
over as well.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 216
John stood at the side,
remaining silent all
the while, looking as if he had
no intention of
stopping Mrs. Constance at all.
Knowing that John was giving
herself a
chance, she nodded.
“If that’s
the case, then
fine. I’ll give my friend a call.

”

The b*stard Logan had saved his phone number in my phone by himself just now, so this is the perfect time to use it now. Sophia gave him a call directly. Logan was pretty curious when he received her call.

“Yo, Sophia. Why are you giving me a call? We’re only separated by a few steps.

What’s up? Do you miss me?” Although the phone was not on speaker, the inside of the room was quiet, and the sound from the phone was loud, so everyone at the table could hear what he said clearly.

William frowned, thinking that what the other party had said was a bit out of bounds.

This isn’t something that ordinary friends would say. Meanwhile, Mrs.

Constance didn't
bother to hide the cold sneer on
her face.

"Oh, we're in Room 606, which
is really not
far away. Come here for a while;
everyone
here wants to get to know you,
"

Sophia
replied.

"Oh? Is that so? They want to
get to know
me? Okay, I'll go over
immediately.

" After he
said that, there was static noise,
followed by
the sound of the private room
door opening.

Then, the voice on the phone
and in the
corridor overlapped somewhat.

"Sophia, I'm
here.
"

Sophia hung up the phone,
turned around and
opened the door. When she did
that, she
glanced at Isabelle, her eyes

twinkling and a
smug smile on her lips.
When Logan saw Sophia, he ran
over happily.

“So these are your
parents-in-law, aren’t
they? Those are John’s parents.

I’ve met
them before.

” With that, he
directly opened
the door of the room and came
in.

“Hi! Hello,
everyone!” He was acting very
familiar with
everyone. When he looked at
William, he
said,

“Sir, it’s me. Sophia and I
are good
pals.
”

William was stunned, and Mrs.
Constance,
who was on the side, shot up as
well.

“Logan?
Why are you here?”
William and Mrs. Constance
knew very well

what sort of person Logan was—a total b*stard. Old Mr. Jefferson had sired four daughters, and Logan was his only son, so naturally, Logan was treated like a prince. As he grew up, Logan grew more and more deviant. He had now opened his own club, and rumor had it that there were all sorts of barely legal activities carried out in the club, so it had been reported several times to the police. If it weren't for the Jeffersons' wealth and backers being able to handle him, the family would sooner or later be ruined by him. Before this, William had prohibited John from frequently coming into contact with Logan, but even though Logan was not

dependable, the Jeffersons were indeed good backers. The four Jefferson girls had all found good husbands. Although the heir of the Jefferson Family was unreliable, his four elder sisters managed the company in an orderly manner. Therefore, despite the fact that many people looked down on Logan, they still did not dare to face him head-on, for he had a bad temper and was likely to do anything when pushed; he would even quarrel with his father face to face. He had a good background, so naturally, no one would dare to provoke him. Mrs. Constance looked at Logan. "How did you and Sophia become friends? Did you two meet through John?"

Sophia didn't speak; she simply put on a faint smile.

Logan glared at Mrs. Constance.

"Madam, what do you mean by that?

John had nothing to do with Sophia and I meeting each other.

I have a better relationship with Sophia than

I do with John. I mean, look at John...

" Logan grew more excited as he spoke.

"He won't do anything fun with me. He's completely different from me, but Sophia on the other hand...

" Then, he turned his head and looked at Sophia.

"Sophia's character is just like mine, and I like it!"

Sophia clicked her tongue.

"Alright, enough already. Stop with the act. You know very

well what your reputation is like.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 217
Logan chuckled, not giving a fig where he was and who was around him, and opened his mouth.

“I just love how you look down on me.
”

The expressions of William and Mrs.

Constance, as well as the Baileys, all collectively fell.

John, on the other hand, looked like he wasn't bothered by it.

He spoke up,

“Everyone has almost finished their meals, right? How about we call it a day?”

They hadn't eaten their fill, but everyone had lost their appetite.

The meal was over when Sophia and Logan

came over and stirred things up.

Mrs. Bailey stood up.

“Then

let’s end it here.

Everyone has already eaten
anyway.

”

Unfortunately, Logan didn’t get
the hint.

“Oh,

so you all have finished eating
here. In that

case, John, Sophia, let’s head
over to my

room and continue eating.

Sophia, you really

are a sinner. Not only did you
kill my wallet,

you also killed that table’s
worth of sea

creatures. How will you make it
up to them if

you

’re unable to finish all the
food?”

Sophia gave him a glare.

“Be

quiet.

”

“What’s wrong?” Logan
exclaimed.

**“Did I say
something wrong?”
Old Mr. Bailey also stood up. He
probably
couldn’t bear to continue
listening to Logan.
“Let’s go. It’s getting late.
”**

**Old Mr. and Mrs. Bailey were
the first to
reach the door. They pulled
Isabelle with
them and, after some
perfunctory farewells
to William and Mrs. Constance,
left straight
away.**

**When Isabelle was leaving, she
stared at
John’s back a little unwillingly.
John never looked back. He
never looked at
her.**

**She gritted her teeth so hard
they almost
broke.**

**This afternoon at the Constance
Residence,
the two of them had a very
good chat and
got along very well.**

But after tonight, she felt like they were back at the starting point. William stood there, and Mrs. Constance looked at Sophia. She really had underestimated her. How did she know someone like Logan Jefferson? Logan was like a bomb. He could hurt someone, but he could also protect them. Now looking at how well Logan and Sophia were getting along, it seemed that he was treating Sophia pretty well. So this woman has found another backer. Mrs. Constance clenched her teeth in frustration. This was basically a checkmate for Sophia. How did she manage to find a turn-around? John waited for the Baileys to leave, then he

wrapped an arm around
Sophia's shoulder
before saying to his parents,
"Sophia and I
will go to Logan's place to sit for
a while.

Mom, Dad, you two head home
first. Dad, you
drank a bit too much alcohol
today. You
should go home and have an
early rest.

"

Mrs. Constance's expression
was still ugly.

"It's already late. You two
should go back
soon as well.

"

"Got it,

" John said.

William sighed and led Mrs.
Constance away
first.

When the two of them were
still in the
corridor, Sophia vaguely heard
William say,

"You just had to do it. You
shouldn't have
done that in this kind of

situation.

”

Mrs. Constance mumbled something in reply, but Sophia couldn't hear her clearly.

Logan stood at the door, completely unaware, not knowing that the atmosphere had gone off because of his appearance. He looked as usual.

“Hey, all of them are gone. Come on, let's go to my private room.

”

池渊和顾思对视一下，也就跟着章龙延过去了。

John and Sophia looked at each other, then followed Logan over to his room.

Ian and Robin were still looking at their phones. When they saw them coming back, Ian stood up.

“What's the matter? Are we leaving?” he asked.

“No, no.

” Logan waved his hand.

“The

Constances and Baileys have

left, so we came

over to continue to eat.

”

Ian was surprised.

“They left so

quickly?”

Sophia sneered.

“Yes. When the

young

master of the Jeffersons makes

a move, no

meal will be left in peace.

”

**John didn’t actually want to eat
anymore.**

Sophia and the rest were

already full, so

everyone sat down and just

chatted with

each other.

Sophia didn’t know the details

of Logan, but

she knew that he seemed to be

quite rich.

The Returning Ex Chapter 218

As they sat there, Sophia took

the

opportunity to ask John,
“Why
didn’t you
stop me just now? You knew
that if Logan
went over, the atmosphere
over there would
definitely be ruined.

”

John leaned back in his chair.

“If
he didn’t go
over, the meal over there would
probably go
on for a while. I was a little
tired.

”

Sophia frowned.

“But it seems
unwise to end
a social gathering in this way.

”

John curled his mouth into a
smile.

“It
doesn’t matter.

”

Sophia glanced at Logan from
the corner of
her eye. He was talking to Ian
with his hands

miming excitedly in the air
about the latest
news over at the clubhouse.
Logan just couldn't sit properly
on his chair;
he was squatting on it like a
monkey.

Sophia lowered her voice and
asked,

"You and
Logan are friends, but I get the
feeling that
your parents don't like him a
lot.
"

John said,
"Yes. My parents like
those who
are more obedient.
"

Sophia nodded her head.

"That
does seem to
be the case. The Baileys don't
seem to like
him a lot as well.
"

John snorted.

"Yeah? I didn't
pay much
attention.

”

That was what he said, but no matter how he didn't pay attention, he could tell that the Baileys really didn't like Logan. But from his understanding, the Baileys and the Jeffersons had no dealings with each other, and they didn't have any conflict with Logan.

Still, from their attitudes toward Logan, it wasn't like how they would act after hearing the rumors outside about him. John couldn't think of anything at the moment.

At this moment, in a car at another location, Isabelle was sitting in the passenger seat with her head turned looking at the outside.

Her parents sat at the back, quiet all this time.

The car drove a long way and

finally stopped
at a traffic light.

Mrs. Bailey then opened her
mouth,

“How did
that Sophia know someone
from the
Jeffersons? Just look at how
that Logan
fellow spoke to her, as well as
his attitude.

Didn't the rumors say that he
was someone
hard to get along with? Why is
he so friendly
with Sophia?”

Old Mr. Bailey let out a sigh.

“I'm not sure.

”

After he said that, he looked at
Isabelle.

“When you and John went over
to his room,
was Sophia in there as well?”

Isabelle narrowed her eyes as
she looked
outside.

“Yes. Early on, when
we went to pick
the seafood, John and I saw
them. Logan

treats her really well.

”

Mrs. Bailey’s face stretched into a frown.

“And John wasn’t angry at all.

Someone was

making moves on his wife, and

he looked as if

he didn’t notice it.

”

Isabelle snorted.

“With Logan’s

personality,

no one would find it strange if

he did

anything out of the ordinary.

John is

probably used to his antics.

”

Old Mr. Bailey’s face was a little solemn.

“If

Sophia can get the Jeffersons to

back her,

Mrs. Constance’s attitude

toward her may

change.

”

From the start, the reason why

Mrs.

Constance looked down at her

was because
she lacked status.
Now if she could make up for
her lack of
identity, Mrs. Constance would
definitely
change her attitude.
Isabelle, who was sitting in
front, suddenly
thought of this problem as well.
Her face sank into a frown.
That's right. The
reason why Mrs. Constance is
treating me
well now is because I have good
family
conditions.
If Sophia and my role were
reversed, and I
have Sophia's background, Mrs.
Constance
probably wouldn't even look at
me.
Isabelle slowly clenched her
teeth, not
willing to accept things as they
were.
But even with so many
advantages on her
side, she had still lost to Sophia.
What did someone like Sophia

have that
made her special? What did she
have that
could make Logan act like an
eager puppy
around her?

When she thought of how
Logan Jefferson
shielded Sophia in front of the
Baileys,
Isabelle felt like something had
lodged itself
inside her heart.

There wasn't a single crack.
Old Mr. Bailey also drank a lot
just now.

When he let out a breath, it
reeked of
alcohol.

The Returning Ex Chapter 219

Old Mr. Bailey said,
"There is no
rush. Let's
just continue to observe. The
Jeffersons
may let Logan to act as he
pleases, but they
should have their limits."
"

Mrs. Bailey agreed with what
he said.

Then, the car grew silent once more.

As the car continued on to the Bailey

Residence, Elder Mr. Bailey was still sitting in the living room.

The television was switched on, but he didn't watch it.

A servant made him a pot of tea, but he just picked it up and smelled it instead of drinking it.

After he had aged, sleep became difficult for him. If he drank tea tonight, he probably wouldn't be able to sleep.

Elder Mr. Bailey watched as Old Mr. Bailey and the rest came home.

He put down his teacup.

**"You all smell of alcohol. It looks like the meal was a success."
"**

When he said this, the three people entering

the door were a little awkward.
This meal was anticlimactic. The
three of
them originally thought with
the start they
had today, they would have a
good harvest.
But who would have expected
Sophia to join
in halfway, followed by Logan.
These two really were
troublesome.
When Elder Mr. Bailey saw their
expressions,
he frowned.
“What’s wrong?
Did it not go
well?”
Isabelle did not wish to talk
about what
happened tonight. Her heart
retched when
she thought about how Sophia
gave her a
middle finger.
She was listless.
“I’ll be going to
rest now.
Grandpa, you should rest early
as well.
”

Elder Mr. Bailey waited until Isabelle had left, then looked at Old Mr. Bailey.

“What’s going on?”

Old Mr. Bailey sighed. He sat down and briefly talked about Sophia and Logan.

Elder Mr. Bailey frowned.

“That spoiled brat of the Jeffersons?”

Old Mr. Bailey grunted an affirmative.

“That’s him.”

Elder Mr. Bailey’s expression grew solemn.

He had met Logan Jefferson before, but it was a long time ago.

At the time, Logan was still just a kid, but he

already had a mean temper.

That time, he was upset for some reason, and

he pointed a finger at Old Mr. Jefferson, yelling at him.

Old Mr. Jefferson was already old, yet he was smiling and kept apologizing to Logan.

A child raised in a family like that would definitely turn out to be unsightly.

But there were two sides to everything.

Logan might act unsightly, but if they could get along well with him, there would be a lot of benefits.

Jefferson Enterprise was also developing quite well in the hands of his four elder

sisters. The scale of their company was not

something the average company could

compare. Plus, the Jeffersons' sons-in-law

also came from good families and had their own companies.

The connections they had were so large it was staggering.

Elder Mr. Bailey thought about it, then said to Old Mr. Bailey, "See if you can find an opportunity to meet with someone from the Jeffersons. They are all businessmen, so they should know how to choose."
"

Old Mr. Bailey nodded slowly. "Okay, I understand."
"

Mrs. Bailey, who was beside them, felt a little uncomfortable with all this. "Dad, it's not like Isabelle can't get married. John hasn't divorced yet. I don't feel it's worth it for Belle if we joined in like this. If Belle really wants to find someone to get married to, she should find someone more reliable than John."

”

Elder Mr. Bailey shot her a glare.

“What do you know? Do you think it’s the same now as usual? There’s no time for her to go looking for another prospect. As for John, he’ll get divorced sooner or later. There is nothing wrong with us making preparations beforehand. Matilda has told you, hasn’t she? John and Sophia won’t stay together for long. Rather than letting someone else snatch him up in the end, we should strike first.

”

Mrs. Bailey felt that what he said made sense. She frowned and thought about it for a while, then shut her mouth. Over at Sophia’s side, after wrangling in the private room for a while, everyone had gone

home.

John had drunk alcohol, but he had asked a driver to come over.

The Returning Ex Chapter 220

The few of them said goodbye at the entrance of the restaurant.

As he walked, Logan flipped the wide sleeves of his pajamas, swaggering across the road, and went to the clubhouse on the opposite side of the road.

The club was packed with people at this time.

There were many cars parked at the entrance, and the doorman at the club entrance kept bowing and greeting guests.

When Logan went over, he patted the doorman's shoulder solemnly.

When Sophia saw this, she asked, "How did you get to know a friend like

him?" She was speaking to John.

John glanced at her from the corner of his eyes.

"Then how did you know him?"

"Oh, it was through Ian. The two of them were friends. I just took advantage of Ian's being friends with him.

"

John turned around and got in the car.

Sophia turned around and said goodbye to

Ian, then called out to Robin,

"Come on, it's

late at night. It won't be safe for a girl like

you to go home by herself. We will send you

back.

"

The two got into the car. Sophia lowered the window and waved to Ian, who was outside.

Unwilling to witness the glee on her face,

John quickly looked away.
After the car had driven out,
John said
quietly,
“So you do know that it
is not safe
for a girl to go out alone.
” He
wasn’t loud, but
his words were filled with irony.
Sophia frowned and hissed,
wanting to vent
her frustrations for Logan on
John.
But seeing that Robin was still
in the car,
after thinking about it, she
endured it.
The car drove to Robin’s district
first. When
Robin got out of the car, she
repeatedly said
thank you to Sophia.
Sophia waved her hand.
“It’s
okay. If we get
a chance in the future, let’s go
out together
again.
”

Robin was very happy today

**and repeatedly
agreed.**

**They waited for Robin to enter
her district,
then drove off.**

**On the way home, Sophia and
John remained
quiet.**

**When the car reached Sophia's
house, she
got out without delay, entering
the house
saying nary a word.**

**After paying the driver, John
had a
cigarette outside before
entering, only to
see Sophia had already gone
upstairs.**

**Standing by the window
downstairs, he
looked at the courtyard. His
phone had been
vibrating in his pocket all this
while, ever
since he got in the car. He didn't
need to look
to know who was calling. His
mother had lost
face today, so she was
definitely calling him**

to complain.

But he had no intention of listening to her complaints. Still, she was his mother. If she

weren

't his mother, he wouldn't give her a fig.

Everyday, she always had something to complain about.

However, his phone kept on vibrating.

Without a choice, John took out his phone and answered it.

Mrs. Constance asked immediately when he answered the phone,

"Is it

convenient for you to speak right now?"

This meant that she was going to complain.

John grunted an affirmative.

"Just say it.

"

Words burst from his mother's mouth like a broken dam.

"How did Sophia

know Logan
Jefferson? Were you the one
who
introduced them to each other?
They seem
to be really close with each
other. With how
protective Logan is of Sophia,
do we need to
worry about them? You know
better than I
what sort of person Logan is,
John. He
wouldn't treat someone so well
without
reason. Just think about it.
Wasn't there a
rumor about a girl getting a bit
close to him
and ended up in a bad situation?
Just think
about how people end up when
he sinks his
claws in them in his club. You
need to be
careful when Sophia meets up
with him...

”

John put the phone down and
vaguely heard
her continuing to talk without

end.

William was not a man of many words. The same went for him. The both of them liked to be quiet, but looking at Mrs. Constance and Sophia, it was the total opposite; both of them were very noisy people. Mrs. Constance talked for a very long time.

When she noticed that there wasn't any response from his side, she called out, "Hello? John? Are you listening to me?"

John picked up his phone again. "I did not introduce them to each other. I only learned that they knew each other today. I am just as surprised as you are."
"

The Returning Ex Chapter 221
Mrs. Constance paused. With a suspicious voice, she asked, "Sophia got to

know him
herself? With the identity she
has?”

John didn't really want to talk
about this. He
was feeling a bit irritable today,
ever since
this morning.

When he talked with Isabelle
about work in
the afternoon, he had felt a
little bit better.

But when he met Sophia at
night, this feeling
came back again. It continued
up until now.

Mrs. Constance was a bit
worried.

“John,
your relationship with Logan is
decent at
best. He changes with the flip of
a coin. He is
someone who would point and
yell at his own
father. There is nothing he can't
do. I'm
worried that when he gets
bewitched by
Sophia, he would break off all
ties with you,

then...

”

John laughed.

“Mom, you’re overthinking things. Sophia isn’t that sort of person. Even if she is, how will she bewitch him?”

Mrs. Constance didn’t want to admit this, but

she still admitted grudgingly,

“She is beautiful.

”

Then, she continued,

“If it weren’t for the fact that her looks were passable, I never would have agreed with the two of you getting married in the first place, no matter what.

”

John sighed.

“There’s no need to speak of this matter again. It’s useless to talk about

all this now.

”

Mrs. Constance also knew that.

She smacked

her lips helplessly.

“It is useless.

John, we’

ve

ruined you.

”

That was going a bit far.

John actually didn’t blame

anyone, for he had

also agreed to the wedding

back then.

If he hadn’t agreed, his family

would’ve tied

him up and brought him over to

the Civil

Affairs Bureau to sign and

collect the

marriage certificate.

So everything that happened till

now had all

gone as he had expected.

He couldn’t blame anyone.

He disagreed with his mother,

then

continued,

“Sophia and I are

different from

what you all think.

”

Talking about this, John felt exasperated.

“Also, Mom, you shouldn’t have insisted on an occasion like today.

”

He was talking about how his mother had insisted for Sophia to bring her friend over.

Today, Mrs. Constance had wanted to embarrass Sophia, which was clear as day to John.

If he didn’t know the friend Sophia had was Logan, he would have stepped up and put a stop to it.

The reason he didn’t stop everything from happening was because he wanted Logan to come over and show Sophia support.

During the meal today, his mother was so happy that words slipped from

her mouth.

She said a few things,
comparing Isabelle and
Sophia with one another.

Although she wasn't
obvious, she still let out
snippets that proved
she didn't think much of Sophia.

John was a
bit uncomfortable with that. It
was one thing
to say all this when it was just
the two of
them, but John felt it was unfair
to Sophia
for his mother to say such
things in front of
so many people. It was for the
best that
Logan had come over. At least
the Baileys
would know that Sophia wasn't
someone that
anyone could look down on.
When Mrs. Constance heard
John say this,
she was put on the spot. She
wanted to
embarrass Sophia today, but
she was the one
who was embarrassed in the

end.

On the way home, William had already told her about how she couldn't look at the situation and didn't put matters according to importance. William's tone was neither angry nor serious. He just pointed out facts and reasoned with her on the matter.

But Mrs. Constance knew that her husband was unhappy, as he had never done this before.

She sighed.

"I was indeed reckless about this matter today. Your father has already told me that putting Sophia on the spot out in public was not giving you face."
"

"Yes. No matter what we think ourselves, in the eyes of the public, Sophia is my wife.

She represents me.

”

After a few seconds, Mrs.

Constance said

timidly,

“John, you seem to be

more

protective of Sophia recently.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 222

John was taken aback.

“Am I?”

He didn't know if he was being

protective of

Sophia, but it seemed that he

knew more

about Sophia after the divorce.

So, he didn't

want anyone to talk bad about

her.

This feeling was very strange.

He wanted to

be the only one able to talk to

and touch

Sophia. No one else was

allowed to.

Mrs. Constance sighed.

“Maybe

I have said

too much recently and made

you feel

uncomfortable. I will try not to talk about her in front of you from now on.
”

John frowned and said nothing. After telling him to rest early, Mrs.

Constance hung up the phone. John slowly put his phone down, and then thought for a while.

Have I been defending Sophia recently?

He didn't actually feel like he did. It was just that sometimes what his mother said upset him, so he came to Sophia's defense and refuted a word or two.

It couldn't be counted as him defending her.

John stood there for a while, then turned around and slowly went upstairs.

Meanwhile, Sophia didn't return to her room.

She was in the study, looking at the

computer.

It seemed like she was looking
at the driving
test book.

John walked to the door and
glanced inside.

As she scratched her head,
Sophia seemed
like she didn't understand what
she was
reading.

She actually gets along well
with Logan. The
way she speaks and deals with
stuff now is
somewhat illogical, yet Logan is
even worse.

But putting them side by side,
they're like
two peas in a pod.

Thinking of that, John
remembered what
Logan said over at the
washroom.

If Sophia was to be married into
the Morgan
Family, they would all be
turned into nice and
obedient sheep by her.

That was not an exaggeration.
After all,

Sophia could even deal with his mother.

Although Mrs. Constance was sometimes unreasonable, she wasn't someone cunning.

However, it might not be the same over at the Morgans.

Leah Zimmerman had played a big scheme in order to get into the Morgan Family long ago.

If Sophia really married into their family, she wouldn't be able to win against them.

At this, he closed his eyes and strode to his room.

Why was he thinking about all this? Sophia was the same as him. They made their own choices, no matter what they did.

John returned to his room and lay down after washing up. Since he was a little dizzy, he fell asleep quickly after lying down.

However, it might be because he was thinking about Sophia before going to bed, but he kept dreaming that night; his dream was all about Sophia.

There were many different men standing beside Sophia, and he was screening them one by one.

The person who flirted with her on the plane was there. No, this man looks frivolous. He will definitely be unfaithful in the future.

The person who flirted with her in Tri Asel was also there. No, his looks can't match Sophia's.

Ian was also there. John stared at Ian for a long time. With his background and his family, it's a big no.

But Sophia really liked Ian in his dream, and he had even bought her a ring.

When she wore the ring, she looked very happy.

John hesitated. If Sophia really got together with Ian, it doesn't seem to be too bad.

In the end, he hesitated repeatedly until he woke up in the morning.

After opening his eyes, his mind was still in a mess. For a moment, he couldn't figure out where he was. It took him a long time to sit up. Letting out a long exhale, he wondered why he couldn't get out of such a dream last night.

When he was done washing himself up and went downstairs, Sophia had already prepared breakfast.

She was sitting in the dining room, sending a WhatsApp voice message while eating.

There was no need to ask, for
John knew who
Sophia was chatting with just by
her tone.

He slowly walked over and sat
opposite
Sophia.

He spoke first,
“Logan?”

Sophia replied,
“Yep, he texted
me early in
the morning. I wonder where
his energy
comes from.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 223
John smiled silently.

“That’s just
how Logan
is.

”

With that said, Sophia’s phone
buzzed again.

She directly played the voice
message.

It was Logan’s voice.

“Come
over to my place.

It’s finally a day off today. Ian
will be coming

over, too. Can that friend of yours come over as well? Let's play a few matches today.

”

Sophia replied in an unfriendly tone,

“You might as well get married with two sets of mahjong. How will someone like you continue your family's bloodline if you act like this?”

Logan laughed.

“I'm not in a hurry. If I want to find a woman, they will all line up for me to pick.

”

Sophia spat in rebuff at him.

John frowned while eating, not saying a word.

It was an off day today, and he had originally planned on sleeping in.

But because his biological clock was fixed, he couldn't fall asleep again after waking up.

Logan persisted, saying,
“Ask
your friend if
she can come over today.
”

She definitely couldn't. Robin
had her own
store and was responsible for
her own
profits and losses.
Without hesitating, Sophia said,
“She can't.
She's busy.
”

Logan then whined, saying that
he needed
one more person, that he
couldn't live
anymore and would be
depressed otherwise.
John slowly raised his head.
“Tell him I'll go
with you.
”

Taken aback, she looked at John.
“You are
following me to Logan's
clubhouse?”
John hummed in assent.
“It's
been a long

time since I've been there. I
might as well
take the opportunity to go and
have a look.

”

Sophia blinked a few times then
sent a voice
message over.

In fact, Logan didn't mind who
would come
over. He was happy as long as
he had enough
players to play mahjong with.
He immediately replied that he
would be
waiting for them over there. He
would
prepare delicious food and
drink, waiting for
their arrival.

Sophia was a little exasperated.
How could
this man act like those
middle-aged and
elderly women who liked this
sort of
pastime?

Not paying any more attention
to Logan,
Sophia asked John as she ate,
“Are you free

today? You don't need to go over to the Baileys, the company, or the Constance Residence?"

John raised his eyebrows and looked at Sophia.

"Why? You don't want me to go over to Logan's?"

Sophia paused, feeling confused.

"It doesn't matter to me whether you are going or not. I am just surprised that such a busy man like yourself has time today."
"

John thought for a while. He wasn't actually busy before; he just didn't like going home very much.

A lot of his rest time was spent in the company, as most of the time he was just pretending to be busy—he just didn't want to see her.

After the two finished their breakfast, Sophia went upstairs and changed her clothes.

John was waiting downstairs for her.

Before Sophia came down, his cell phone rang.

John took it out, looked at the caller, then answered his phone.

Over the phone was Mrs.

Constance's voice

again. She said that she had asked Isabelle

to go shopping with her and have tea

together. She wanted John to tag along.

Without dawdling, John replied,

"I'm busy. I

have something to do today.

"

Mrs. Constance was a little surprised.

"It's

Sunday. What are you busy with?"

John didn't want to explain.

**“I
have some
business.
”**

**Then, he continued,
“I haven’t
really divorced
with Sophia yet, so can you stop
pulling
Isabelle toward me? It’s not
good for both
me and Isabelle.
”**

**Mrs. Constance paused and
stopped talking,
for she knew that as well.
Outsiders thought that John
and Sophia
were still married, but she knew
privately
that John and Sophia had
divorced. There
was nothing between them, so
she couldn’t
help it.
Isabelle was such a nice girl,
and others knew
that, too. If she was snatched
away by
someone else, she might really
cry.**

John took a deep breath.

**“I’m
not planning to
find myself another wife so
soon. You don’t
need to be so anxious. Just let
me make my
own decisions in the future,
alright?”**

**Mrs. Constance moved her lips.
It took her a
while before she said,
“Alright, I
understand.
”**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 224
Hearing footsteps coming from
the stairs,
John said directly to the phone,
“I’m busy
here right now, so I’ll be
hanging up.
”**

**After speaking, he hung up the
phone.**

**Sophia wore shorts with
suspenders and
white sneakers, while her hair
was tied up in
a ponytail on this day, making
her look**

charming and energetic.
As John's gaze fell on Sophia, it
took a while
before he looked away. He only
realized now
after they had divorced that
Sophia's
appearance had changed too;
she seemed to
look a lot younger.
He tried hard to remember how
Sophia
looked before, but he couldn't
remember it
clearly. Nevertheless, all he
remembered was
her dull personality, looking
depressed
everyday, which made her
appear older than
her current self.
Sophia looked at John.
"Let's go.
I'm all
ready."
"

With a grunt, John turned
around and left
the house first. They locked the
door and
the two went into the car.

As soon as Sophia got into the car, she took off her shoes and sat cross-legged on the chair.

Glancing at her, John wondered when she developed this habit of crossing her legs. In his memory, she didn't have this habit before.

The car drove all the way to Logan's clubhouse.

Since it was the middle of the day, the streets were quiet and there weren't many people around.

Logan had changed his clothes. Even though he was still in pajamas, they were light gray in color. The clothes fitted loosely on his body.

When he saw John's car coming over as he stood by the entrance, he quickly ran out of

the clubhouse.

**“Finally, you
guys are here. I
have been thinking about you
guys.
”**

**Sophia got out of the car and
looked at him,
a little disdainful.**

**“If you really
are sincere
in welcoming us, at least get
dressed up.
”**

Logan gave her a glare.

**“I
changed my clothes
specially to welcome you guys.
Won't this
do?”**

**Since he was still in pajamas, it
wouldn't make
a difference if he just changed
into another
set of pajamas.**

**Ian hadn't arrived yet, so the
three of them
went up to the second floor
first.**

**Naturally, they couldn't just
start the game**

like Logan wanted as they were still missing one player, so Logan took John and Sophia to the private room next door. That private room had a larger space, and there was a large simulation racing game machine inside.

For the sake of making it realistic, the race cars were made to the size of actual race cars, and the models were all made according to existing race cars; only the track was being projected.

Logan looked at John.

“Wanna give it a try?”

John smiled.

“Sure.

”

Thus, Logan went over and switched on the machine. The sound of the machine switching on was so loud that it could probably be

heard by the people in the shops across the street. Then, the projector screen came down. In front of the race car, a realistic looking track appeared.

John straddled his long legs and got in the race car.

To Sophia, these things were incomprehensible to her. She couldn't even understand the driving test book, let alone this. So, she turned around, went to a chair at the side and sat down.

As the game started, John sat in the race car and swung the steering wheel left and right to adjust the angle.

Maybe men just like stuff like this, but I'm getting sleepy just by looking at it, Sophia thought to herself. So, she took out her phone and sent a message to Ian.

It took a long time for Ian to reply. When it came, he said that he suddenly had something to deal with and that he couldn't make it.

Sophia gave a surprised 'eh' and stood up before shouting to Logan who was not far away, "Ian said he has something to deal with, so he can't come over."

Since Logan had been watching John as he drove the race car, he didn't take it seriously when he heard Sophia.

"Tell him that he has to come. I'm waiting for him. I even got the poker set ready."

His eyes never left the virtual track John was driving in, looking excited for some

reason.

After thinking about it, Sophia called Ian.

It took a long time for Ian to pick up as well,

and his voice was lowered when he said,

“Sophia, I have something to deal with now,

so I can’t go over. You guys have fun over

there. I’ll be late...

”

Before he finished speaking,

Sophia heard a

smash over there. It sounded like something

fell down and broke, then she heard a

woman’s yell.

“So we look like

pushovers to

you, is that right? So you think my children

are not a part of your family?

That they

deserve to be bullied like this?

You think a

b*stard like yourself can move against the

main family? Come on then! I’m

not dead

yet...

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 225

Ian paused for a while before hanging up the phone.

After gripping the phone for a while,

Sophia’s expression was unhappy when she put it down.

B*stard? Leah was probably talking about Ian.

Being a smart person, she knew that she

couldn’t go to Ian’s place on her own, so she

looked at Logan before calling him directly.

“Logan, do you want to show me how cool you are?”

Logan was still staring at John over here as he yelled,

“Turn here. Be careful when you

turn. Ah, ah, oh, you made it.

The last time I

reached here, I had hit the wall
directly...
”

Sophia frowned and shouted
loudly,

“Logan!”

Still not looking at Sophia,

Logan answered,

“What’s wrong? What’s the
matter? Just tell
me.

”

Sophia took a deep breath.

“Something

happened to Ian. Now, I want
to let you out

and go help Ian. Are you
ready?”

Logan slowly turned his head
and looked over
to her.

“What happened to
Ian?”

Sophia didn’t know what
exactly was going on,

for she had just heard Leah
calling Ian a

b*stard on the phone, so she
knew something

must have happened.

Since there were swearing and

the sounds of things being smashed, whatever was happening over there was probably serious.

Sophia pursed her mouth.

“It seems like his stepmother was throwing things at him and cursing at him.

”

“What?” Logan was immediately unhappy.

“That b*tch. It seems like she still didn’t get it after I scolded her the last time.

” He turned around and walked outside.

“You guys wait for me. I’ll go change into my armor.

”

John stopped playing too. As he got out of the car, he looked at Sophia, but he didn’t look anxious at all. He just sighed.

**“You seem
to really care about him.
”**

**Glaring at him, Sophia retorted,
“Of course I
do. Don’t you know who Ian is
to me?”**

John nodded slowly.

**“You’re
right. He even
gave you a ring.
”**

**Speaking of the ring, Sophia
paused and
raised her hand to look at it.
Then, she
clicked her tongue and said,
“About this ring,
I think...
”**

**John looked at her as if he
wanted to hear
what she had to say, but Sophia
didn’t even
know what to say next.
Should I tell him that Ian
insisted on giving
me this ring? Or should I say
that I rejected
his offer, but I relented in the
end? But if I**

say something like this, won't that make me sound like a fake b*tch? This sounds like an excuse that those fake b*tches would often use though. Thus, she simply nodded.

"Yeah, he even gave me a ring."
"

John sized her up, then he turned around and headed outside. When Logan came out after having changed his clothes, he looked dignified, completely different from his usual self. Sophia sighed. Sure enough, the clothes maketh the man. After taking off his pajamas, Logan finally looked like that son of a rich family that he actually was, but the big gold chain on his neck did seem to lower his classiness. With a frosty expression on his face, he

said,
“Let’s
go and have a look at what’s
happening at the
Morgans.

”

Sophia really liked how it
seemed like they
were going to screw with the
Morgans, so she
got excited for some reason.

“Come on, come
on. Hurry up, it may be over if
we are late.

”

She didn’t look like she was
going over to
help Ian at all. Rather, she
seemed more like
she was going over to be a
spectator.

Sophia walked two steps
toward the stairs,
then she looked back at John.

“Are you
coming?”

Looking back at her with a
sneer, John said,

“What do you think?”

Sounds like a yes. Sophia was
relieved, since

there would be strength in numbers. Besides, she felt more secure with more people.

“Hurry up. We might miss everything if we are late,
” she urged them.

This attitude of Sophia made John feel puzzled. What did the old Sophia suffer that she turned into the way she is now? I really can't get it.

Then, the three of them got into John's car.

As John knew where Ian's house was, he drove them there directly.

The Returning Ex Chapter 226

The trip home didn't take a long time. When

John's car stopped at the entrance of Ian's house, the sound of cursing could still be heard from the inside.

Breathing a sigh of relief, Sophia cracked her

knuckles and was ready to rush inside. However, John gave Sophia a look. "You behave yourself. Let's go inside first and see what's going on."
"

He had just finished saying this when Logan rushed out, appearing to be even more anxious than Sophia. The front gates of the Morgan Residence were closed, so Logan went over to the gates and kicked them. Then, he started cursing, "Sean, Simon and Sally Morgan, and... what's her name again? Oh, yes, Leah Zimmerman. All of you, come out! What did you do to Ian? I'll have you know; if there's even a single hair out of place on his head, all of you will

answer to
me!”

Sophia put her hand on the
doorknob and
frowned abruptly. The last time
she followed
Ian to the Morgan Company,
Sean had Ian’s
position changed on the spot
because of her.

However, Logan should be the
one whose
words carried more weight, so
why didn’t
Sean treat Ian better for Logan’s
sake?

She couldn’t understand this.
After Logan
yelled a few times, someone
had come out
from the house, who seemed
like a servant.

That person turned around and
went back to
the house upon the sight of
Logan.

Sophia and John also got out of
the car and
stood at the door. While Logan
punched and
kicked at the iron fence gates,

yelling non?stop, Sophia stared in the direction of the living room. After a few minutes, Ian came out from inside.

He didn't look like there was anything wrong, judging from his expression as he came over to open the gates.

"Why did you all come to my place?"

Logan looked at Ian up and down.

"Are you okay? Have they beaten you? They're your family, so it would be difficult for you to lay a hand on them. Leave it to me. I'll take care of them for you."
"

Ian sighed.

"It's okay. Nothing happened."
"

John, who was at the side, spoke up,

**“Aren’t
you going to invite us in?”
Ian looked at John, then at
Sophia, seemingly
hesitant. However, Logan
couldn’t care less
and he marched toward the
door of the living
room. Sophia wanted to follow
as well, but
she was pulled back by John.
“You stand at
the back. Don’t rush to the
front.
”**

**Sophia made a confused grunt,
for she didn’t
know what John meant.
Looking at Ian, John
asked,
“Did you and your family
get into a
fight just now?”
Ian grimaced.
“It wasn’t
anything big. Just
some small matter. Everything’s
fine now.
”**

**He had just finished speaking
when the**

sound of something breaking
came from
inside the house; it sounded
like glass
breaking.

Sophia paused, then she heard
Logan's
cursing. So, John and Ian
hurried toward the
house, while Sophia also
followed in stride.

There were many people in the
living room; all
of the Morgans were here. Old
Mr. Morgan
sat on the sofa, seeming very
angry and was
coughing non-stop. Meanwhile,
Leah stood at
the side. Under her feet were
shards of
glass that seemed to have
belonged to a cup
or a vase.

Sophia stood at the doorway
and looked
around. The Morgan siblings all
had dark
expressions on their faces as
they stood
around, not saying anything or

moving.

Without understanding the ins and outs of the situation, Logan just stood where he was and yelled at them, saying that they were bullying Ian.

Taking advantage of the chaos, Sophia moved closer next to Ian, causing John to look at her sideways. However, she didn't notice this as she stood beside Ian and lowered her voice to ask him, "What's going on? Did you get into conflict with these people earlier?" Ian gave a slight nod.

**"Look at Simon."
"**

Sophia quickly turned her head to look at Simon, who was standing there, his figure stiff and straight. One side of his face was a

little red and it seemed a little swollen.

Looking at him for a few seconds, Sophia then turned her head toward Ian.

“You hit him?”

The Returning Ex Chapter 227
Ian gave an affirmative hum, while Sophia nodded.

“Great job!” Simon was showing off his own power and influence when they previously visited the company, so she never liked him. Look at how Sean carries himself!

That’s the poise and grace of a true leader, and he has no need to be a show-off like Simon.

Meanwhile, Sally had been looking on from behind Simon while Logan jumped around in front of Sophia. She inevitably saw Sophia

while observing Logan, and the former was the sole reason that Ian managed to attain the position of vice president. Ian knows nothing about the job, so he shouldn't have been given the position!

Besides, why would Sophia associate herself with someone like Ian?

The more Sally thought about it, the more uncomfortable she felt. The feeling of discomfort eventually grew into something which she could no longer put up with.

"This is our family business, so why would you come in support of this b*stard? Birds of a feather flock together, so you're all—"

Before she could finish her sentence, Logan turned to pick up a huge vase from the foyer,

then threw it at Sally.

“I dare
you to f*cking
say that again!”

The vase was so huge that it
lost its accuracy
upon being thrown, which led
to it landing on
the ground before Sally and
shattering to
pieces.

Sally stared at the shattered
pieces of the
vase, as she was seemingly
stunned by Logan’s
outburst, while Leah cried out
in shock as
she hid behind her husband.
Old Mr. Morgan
pointed a finger at Logan in
anger as he
cried,

“How dare a brat like you
act out of
place in my territory!”

Logan shot him a glare as he
shot back,

“You
know that’s just who I am! I
don’t care if this
is your place, and I will tell you

to not
provoke me! I know of the
sh*tty things
you
've done, you old git, which I
will announce
to the world if you ever cross
me again!" He
then looked toward Leah before
scolding,
"And you! I know of your past,
you vile
creature! How dare you call Ian
a b*stard?
Why don't you look at the scum
you gave
birth to?"
Wow, he sure has some fight in
him! Sophia
was somewhat mesmerized by
Logan while
staring at his figure from behind,
whereas
John wore a frown as his gaze
landed on
Sean. They had met a couple of
times during
formal occasions, thus had had
a few
interactions over some drinks.
There was a grim look on Sean's

face, but
what happened didn't actually
concern him.

He was in fact troubled by the
constant

restlessness at home. Upon
noticing John's

gaze, he let out a sigh before
apologizing,

"Mr. Constance, I'm sorry that
you have to
witness this.

"

"I've only ever heard about
rumors, but I
finally was able to witness the
real deal
today.

" John's voice sounded
almost
nonchalant, but Sean's
countenance shifted
ever so slightly.

Meanwhile, Sally seemed to be
triggered by

the sight of the shattered vase,
as she

began wreaking havoc all of a
sudden. After

taking a few steps forward, she
picked up

the largest shard from the floor
to throw it
at Logan.

“What happened
within our family
is none of your business! Get
the f*ck out of
here!”

It was apparent that Sally had a
better aim
than Logan, as the shard the
size of half a
vase flew straight toward Logan.

While he
managed to evade the shard
due to his
superb reflexes, the same
couldn't be said of
Sophia, who stood behind him.
She was staring at John while
eavesdropping
on his conversation with Sean,
as she knew
John was a great business
negotiator with an
intimidating aura, so he could
actually do
better when compared to
Logan's
shenanigans. It was thus she
didn't see the

shard flying toward her.
Instead, she only noticed
something was
approaching her from the
corner of her eye.

The Returning Ex Chapter 228

Although Sophia was slow to
react, Ian had
better reflexes, so he turned
immediately to
pull Sophia into an embrace
with his back
against the incoming projectile.

John was
standing on her left but slightly
further
away, so he didn't manage to
react in time.

The shard crashed into Ian's
back before
smashing into smithereens on
the ground,
while Sophia felt a prickling
pain on her calf,
which might be due to a wound
inflicted by
the broken shards. Logan
seemed to have
forgotten about his anger as he
stared at
Ian and Sophia while the room

fell into dead
silence for a few seconds.

It was John who first came to
his senses.

Stepping in, he pulled Ian away
from Sophia
to check on her while holding
both her
shoulders.

“Are you alright?”

Sophia looked between John
and Ian before
pouting.

“My leg hurts, but I
don’t have the
courage to look at it. Am I
bleeding?”

The suspender shorts she wore
left her
thighs and calves exposed. John
squatted to
see that her calf was indeed
bleeding due to
an injury caused by the shard.

There were
two or three wounds, which
one of them
seemed more severe due to the
length of it.

Sophia was afraid of pain, so
she dared not

watch whenever she received
an injection,
nor was she brave enough to
look at her
wounds.

After a few second's pause,
Logan rushed
toward Sally, bellowing,
"You
scum! How dare
you assault her! I hope you
have a death
wish!" Logan never had a sound
moral compass
to begin with, as he would
threaten to beat
his father up whenever they
quarreled, so he
had no qualms about kicking
Sally because he
never liked her to begin with.
Simon quickly pulled Sally aside,
so he ended
up on the receiving end of
Logan's kick, which
prompted Leah to pull Sally and
Simon behind
her while chiding Logan,
"What
are you
doing? You shouldn't be

resorting to
violence!”

On the other hand, Sophia
dared not lower
her gaze while she froze on the
spot. She
then asked John with a
trembling voice,
“John, is the wound big? Does it
look scary?
My leg hurts, and I can barely
stand, so
please hold me, quick.
”

While the wound wasn't huge,
the blood that
trickled down from her wound
was a stark
contrast to her flawless skin,
which made it
seem all the more gory. There
was a gloomy
look on John's face as he carried
Sophia in
his arms.
Sean and Old Mr. Morgan
finally came to
their senses, after which Sean
quickly
approached them.
“Are you

alright? I'll go
get the family doctor.
”

With the help of his walking
stick, Old Mr.

Morgan propped himself up.

“Quick, go get
the doctor!”

“That won't be necessary,

” John

turned them

down harshly as he turned to
look at Old Mr.

Morgan, then at Sean, before
finally staring

daggers into Sally, Simon, and
Leah. It was

then that Sally realized what
she'd done, as

she quickly hid behind her
mother.

Sophia seemed to be on the
verge of tears as

she shrunk into his arms with a
pout. After a

while, John said,

“I will

remember what

happened today, and I will have
you pay for

what you did when I have the

time to.

”

He then carried Sophia away,
while the
latter was mumbling in his arms
until they got
into the car. Using some tissues,
he wiped
off the blood around her
wounds to see that
they were merely scrapes
despite their
length, which wouldn't be that
big of a deal.

However, Sophia dared not look
at her
wounds, keeping her head
raised as she was
afraid of gory stuff despite how
foolhardy
she could be. She thus asked in
a trembling
voice,
“Does it look scary? My
legs feel
numb.

”

John looked at her in
resignation.

“I already
told you to stand further away

from conflict.

You shouldn't have joined in on the fray.

”

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Upon hearing what John said,

Sophia shot

him a glare.

“I was standing

behind Logan!”

She then proceeded to mumble,

“That nitwit

isn't even half as capable as

Ian.

”

There was a pause in John's

movements as

soon as Ian was mentioned,

which reminded

him of when Ian held Sophia in

his arms.

There was a tear to the back of

his shirt,

but John wasn't sure if he was

hurt. He has

quite a good reflex, John

thought, and the

thought of it irked him.

While the wound on Sophia's

leg wasn't that

serious, John still offered,

**“I’ll
bring you to
the hospital to have it
bandaged.
”**

**Sophia’s mouth hung agape as
soon as she
heard they were going to the
hospital.**

**“Is it
that serious?”**

**John buckled her up before
driving off,
figuring that Logan’s presence
would be
enough to hold them off.**

**Sophia was carried
in his arms upon their arrival at
the
emergency department.**

**The doctor on duty—who was
an acquaintance
of John’s—stood from his seat
when John
carried Sophia over to him.**

“John?”

**Meanwhile, John was feeling
more relieved
upon seeing the doctor.**

**“Mr.
Holt, this is**

Sophia, and her leg was injured,
so I brought
her over to have it treated.
”

With haste, the doctor
examined Sophia’s
wound. From a doctor’s
perspective, any
wound was a wound worth
attention. While
retrieving some antiseptic and
gauze, the
doctor had John carry her over
to the bed.
Sophia held onto John’s arm as
she said,
“I’m
scared.

” She was no longer the
foolhardy girl
who feared nothing.
After giving it some thought,
John pulled her
into an embrace while
consoling her,
“It’s
alright. It won’t hurt a lot.
”

The doctor chuckled upon
seeing her
reaction.

“It’s not that big of a deal, as all you need is a dressing. You don’t even need a vaccine for tetanus.”

Nonetheless, Sophia dared not look as she buried her face in John’s arms while the doctor cleaned and wrapped up her wound.

“I’m done. You’ll be alright in two days, but beware that the wound doesn’t come into contact with water.”

**Sophia was still holding onto John’s waist when she looked up at him to speak in a pitiable tone,
“I don’t have the strength to walk.**

” It was thus John carried her in his arms as he left after bidding the doctor

goodbye.

After pondering about it,
Sophia tried to
reach for her phone, only to be
stopped by
John, who wore a frown on his
face.

“Don’t
move.
”

She let out a cry of surprise.

“I
want to give
Ian a call to inquire about things
on his side.
”

There was a sour look on John’s
face as he
spoke,
“You seem to care about
him a lot.
”

She wore a pout while asking,
“Why do you
look so gloomy? Can’t I ask him
one
question?”

Her query was met with silence
as John
carried her into the car. As soon
as they

settled into it, Logan's call came through without having her to make a call. She quickly forgot about the wound on her leg as she picked up the call.

From what Logan said, he already left the Morgans after giving them a harsh scolding, yet none of them dared retort him, perhaps due to the threat he issued beforehand, so all they could do was hope that Logan would leave them alone after he'd had enough.

Logan also inquired Sophia on her injury, to which she replied, "It's already bandaged up.

The doctor said it's not a big deal, so I will be going home for today. Sorry for not being able to play with you today."
"

Nor was Logan in the mood to

**gamble, so he
hung up after telling her to take
care, and he
would contact her again when
he had time.**

**Sophia leaned back in her seat
while crossing
her legs slowly as John opened
up,**

**“Buckle up.
I’ll begin the drive now.
”**

**She hummed in the affirmative
while
buckling up, after which the car
drove away.**

**They spent the journey in
silence up until
they arrived at home. John
would then get
out of the car to open the door
for her.**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 230
Upon turning around, John saw
Sophia sitting
in the car with an aggrieved
look on her face.**

**He roughly understood what
she meant.
After letting out a breath of air,
he decided**

to go back to her to carry her
out of the car,
into the house, and straight to
bed.

It was almost noon after all the
commotion,

but even if they were both
hungry, it was
nigh impossible for her to cook
with an

injury. She thus took out her
phone while
offering,

“I’ll order some
takeaway. What
would you like to eat?”

While he was about to leave, he
stopped in

his tracks as soon as Sophia said
so. He then

sat down on her bed before
taking her phone

from her. The choice of food on
the

takeaway app was similar to
each other, so he

handed her phone back after
browsing

through a few of them.

“I’ll

have someone

bring us some food, so you don't need to order these.

”

She gave him a nod in response.

“Okay.

”

Remaining seated at his spot, he settled his gaze on the door as if hesitating on something. Sophia thus started a conversation with him.

“I met Dylan a while ago, and he told me Uncle Owen will soon be celebrating his birthday. Do I need to show up during the occasion?”

There was a moment's pause before John turned to look at her.

“How did he word it?”

A look of surprise crossed her features.

“There's nothing special about the wording.

All he did was told me that

Uncle Owen's birthday is coming soon, so they might be hosting a celebration in the house. He also had me help pick out a present for Uncle Owen.

”

John arched his brow.

“You did what?”

The odd tone in his question irked Sophia despite her lack of understanding as to what it meant. Thus, she replied in an unfriendly manner,

“Yeah. He told me that he wasn't sure what would be a fitting present, so he had me help out. What of it?”

She put some emphasis on the final part of her line.

John turned to look at her with an aloof expression.

“Can't I ask?” He

then stood
before continuing,
“Sophia,
your relationship
with Ian has nothing to do with
me, but you
cannot choose Dylan as your
spouse. While
you do have the right to choose
who you want
to spend time with after our
divorce, it
doesn't include members of the
Constance
Family. Do you understand?”
While looking at John, she
figured she'd
already read his mind. He
means I'm not
allowed to associate myself
with anyone from
the Constance Family after our
divorce, as it
would bring shame upon his
family. The fact
that both brothers within their
family fell
for the same woman would
make it into the
books regarding the history of
the upper

class society.

Such thoughts led to her letting out a snort.

“I don’t need you to remind me about that.

I’m not stupid.

” She then leaned back on the bed.

“Besides, I no longer wish to associate myself with your lot.

”

John turned to stare at her for a while.

“I wish you will hold true to what you just said.

”

After having said so, he stepped out of the room, leaving Sophia behind as she rolled her eyes while sitting on the bed. It was odd of him to put emphasis on that, as she didn’t do anything out of line with Dylan. Picking out a present with him shouldn’t amount to

anything anyway.

Sophia lowered her gaze to look at her leg.

Perhaps due to the doctor's attentiveness in bandaging her up, she didn't feel much pain, aside from a soothing coolness when he was cleaning her wounds. Now that the wounds were covered, she felt much better upon knowing that she wouldn't be seeing them.

She figured it was because the year she spent living with the Constances made her somewhat delicate, as she used to knock herself all over. After lying down slowly, she extended her legs, then she dozed off after some time in bed.

Meanwhile, John went downstairs to give Zack a call, telling the latter to buy some nutritious food. It came as a

surprise to
Zack, thus he asked,
“Where are
you? Are
you not at home?”

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“I am,
” John replied, which
further confused
Zack. He thus pressed on,
“Why
would you
order takeaway if you’re at
home? Didn’t
Sophia cook?”
After taking a deep breath, John
said,
“She
was hurt, so she is resting in her
room.
”

“What?” The news came as a
shock to Zack.
“Why is she hurt? Is it severe?”
The manner in which John
replied betrayed
no emotion.
“She’s alright, just
that her leg
was scraped by some glass, but
she will

recover soon.

”

Zack was feeling more relieved after listening to what John said.

“You wait there while I go get some food. I’ll be there in a bit.

”

The call was hung up after John grunted in reply. He then settled on the sofa to stare

at the TV screen without switching it on,

spending his time in silence until Zack

arrived. The portion which he carried with

him was obviously too much for two people as

he stepped through the door.

“Where’s

Sophia? Go get her for the meal!”

After glancing at the food in Zack’s hands,

John went upstairs without a word. While

Zack was busy setting up the

table, John
carried Sophia downstairs. She
was not fully
awake, as her eyes were shut
while leaning
against his shoulder with an
indignant look on
her face. The same
Zack saw the wound on her leg
as soon as he
approached them, thus he cried
out in
surprise,
“What happened?
How did you hurt
your leg?”
Her only response was a snort
as John put
her down on the chair, while
Zack came up to
her again.
“Tell me what
happened. Who did
this to you?”
Sophia was rubbing her eyes
when she
explained,
“It could’ve been
worse. I thought
I would be disfigured when the
shard flew at

me, but it was thanks to Ian
that I got out of
it almost unscathed.
”

“What did Ian do?” Zack was
startled by her
answer.

John sat down beside them
before saying in a
lukewarm manner,
“You
wouldn’t have been
hurt if it wasn’t for him.
”

There was a moment’s pause
while Sophia’s
mouth hung agape before she
said,
“That
might be true as well.
”

However, Zack’s attention was
on something
else.

“Why did you meet up
with him again?
Aren’t you two seeing each
other a little too
frequently?”

Contrary to his usual taciturn
nature, John

let out a huff before adding,
“Look at her
finger.”
”

Zack looked toward Sophia’s
finger as he said
to see the eye-catching ring she
wore, but he
wasn’t sure what he meant.

“What’s with her
finger?”

There was a look of satire on
John’s face.

“The ring is a gift from Ian.”
”

“What?” Zack nearly leapt out
of his seat.

“Ian is the one who gave this to
her, and not
you?” He already saw the ring
when he went
to negotiate with Mr. Reyes the
other day,
but he assumed it was given by
John. The
truth turned out to be not as he
expected, as
it was a gift by someone else,
which was
intolerable.
John let out a sneer as if having

thought of
something while leaning against
the back of
the chair.

“It’s fine either way,
as I wish to
see you teach the Morgans a
lesson.

”

Meanwhile, Sophia was sulking
as she chided,

“Are we going to eat? You woke
me up from
my sleep for a meal, yet all you
guys are
doing now is to tattle about my
private life.

”

Upon looking between Sophia
and John, Zack
determined that the mood
wasn’t right, so he
quickly changed the topic.

“Alright, let’s eat!

I bought loads, and the soup is
for you,
Sophia! Drink it to help soothe
your
stomach.

” While Zack handed
her a bowl of

soup, John picked up his cutleries before Zack followed suit.

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Sophia wore a frown as she questioned,

“Why are you dining with us?”

Zack was visibly confused by her question.

“Do you mean I should watch you eat after all the pain I went through to bring you food?

Of course I’m going to dine with you two!”

Upon turning to meet Zack, John said,

“I noticed you seem to be less afraid of me.

”

Zack let out a giggle.

“I noticed that I always feel more balanced while in her presence.

Boss, didn’t you notice that your temper gets better whenever she’s around?” He said that

while glancing at Sophia.
A frown formed on John's face
as he stared
at Zack for a while.

"No, I don't
think so.
"

With his bowl in hand, Zack
began eating
without a care in the world.

"It's true! I don't
lie! Even your expressions look
different
when she's with you!"

John let out a sneer while he
retorted,
"You'd better find time to go to
an
ophthalmologist.
"

While lowering his voice, Zack
told Sophia,
"I
nailed it. It's just that he never
admits that
I'm right.
"

She could feel something was
tugging at her
heartstrings when she glanced
at John.

Memories of his gentleness and
patience
toward her earlier this day
made her heart
flutter, which was probably
because he
rarely did so. Such a rare show
of his
compassion was enough to
make her heart
beat for him again. After letting
out a sigh,
Sophia dug into her meal.
Neither her nor John were in a
good mood, so
none of them spoke when they
ate. While
Zack tried to strike up a
conversation, the
fact that nobody would respond
to him was a
little underwhelming. They
keep on doing
this... It feels like the Cold War
all again, and
it's frustrating. They're both
grown ups, so
why are they acting so
childishly? Zack
thought to himself.
They finished their meal in

silence, after
which Sophia had Zack help her
up instead of
letting John carry her. She sent
him off as
soon as they arrived at her
room, but he
turned to look at her while
standing by the
door, then he said in a lowered
voice,
“Sophia, I can see that you love
Boss.
”

Sophia froze on the spot as she
wasn't sure
what his intentions were. After
some
thought, Zack continued,
“Although you two
are divorced, it doesn't mean
that you've lost
your chance. You still live within
close
proximity of him, so it's not
impossible for
your ex-husband to fall in love
with you once
again if you put in the effort.
”

Sophia stared at him as if she

was staring at
a lunatic.

“Are you drunk?”

He clicked his tongue before
chiding,

“Why
must you be so stubborn? Must
I say it so

bluntly?” After checking that
John was

nowhere to be seen in the
corridor, he went
on,

“Isabelle obviously fancies
your ex?husband, so are you
going to let them get
together?”

With no intention of hiding her
disgust
toward Isabelle, Sophia shook
her head.

“Absolutely not. Didn’t you see
how we
fight?”

Zack took over the conversation
instantly.

“That’s the whole point! You’ll
have to keep
John by your side if you don’t
want him to
get together with Isabelle!

Simply watching
out for her is not enough. I have
to say, you
still have a chance when John
has yet to fall
for Isabelle.
”

However, Sophia said nothing,
which made
Zack a little anxious.

“Oh, you
little—Don’t
you get me? Aren’t you
normally the shrewd
one? So why is it that you can
be so dumb?”

She shot him a glare, as she
never liked being
belittled, but Zack rambled on
before she
could even open up to retort
him.

“The sole
reason that they still aren’t
together is
because John doesn’t like
Isabelle!
All would be too late after he
develops
feelings for her, so all you have
to do now is

to prevent that from happening!
So how
should you do that? The easiest
way would be
to have him fall for someone
else, such as
you! Do you understand what I
mean?"

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By Novel Heart

Sophia knew what she must do.

Even if she

kept attacking Isabelle, that
wouldn't stop

John from falling for her. So,
not only must

she keep the attack on Isabelle
active, she

had to make John fall for her
simultaneously.

However, that fact made her
despair.

"Talk

is easy. We got married for
nearly a year,

and he still didn't fall for me.

What do you expect me to do now that we're divorced?"

Zack glared at her.

"So what?

You're still living together, so you still have a chance.

You're still married in the public eye, so there's more you can do. Be like water.

"

Sophia thought about it for a second and understood what she had to do, so she nodded.

"I know what you're getting at.

"

Zack was satisfied.

"Good, good.

Take a rest then. Think of what you should do. I believe in you.

" He then went out and closed the door.

Sophia sat on the bed and looked at her feet. Since John and Isabelle had many chances to get along, it would be easy for them to fall in love. I have to sabotage it then. Sophia was seen as an evil woman anyway, so she would stop that b*tch, Isabelle, from getting what she wanted. Nevertheless, she wasn't sure if John would fall for her. She did try, but to little effect. It even made him hate her more. So, she scratched her head in confusion, for there were too many things going on at once. After Zack went down and cleaned up the dining room, he saw John smoking in the yard, so he approached him. "I've cleaned up, and Sophia's resting now, so I'll leave now.

”

John looked at him.

“Investigate
the Morgan
Group for me. I want every
detail.

”

“The Morgan Group?” Zack was
surprised.

“Ian’s Morgan Group?”
John nodded.

“I want the
results in two
days.

”

Zack thought about it.

“What’s
the key
target here?”

John puffed some smoke.

“Simon and Sally.
They don’t do things
meticulously. I want to
know what they did wrong, or if
they had
done any sabotage actions.

”

Leah didn’t like
Sean being the leader of the
company, and
she wanted her children to have

some power
in there. John guessed they
might have done
something, and he didn't care if
Bryce
ignored this, but he would
make this scandal
as big as possible. Everything
could come
later.

Zack immediately obliged when
he heard
that.

"I'll give you the results on
Wednesday
morning."
"

"Okay.

" John looked at the sky.

Not long
after Zack had left, Logan called
John. They
knew each other for a long time
now, but
they weren't on exactly great
terms. The
Constances disliked Logan, for
he was too
unpredictable, which was a
taboo for
business people.

They could be friends, but he would hesitate to be good friends with him. Logan never did call him unless something happened, which made this phone call confusing to John.

After staring at the phone for a while, he picked it up.

“Logan.”

Logan asked, “How’s Sophia doing?” He sounded less arrogant now, compared to his previous attitude.

The Returning Ex Chapter 234

He must have been feeling guilty, since Sally was after him, so Sophia was dragged into this. After telling him that she was fine,

John continued, “What’s up with the Morgans after that?”

“What else?” Logan was vexed

at the mention
of that. Because of his
friendship with Ian,
the other Morgans were his
enemies. They
fought a few times, but the
Morgans kept
finding trouble with Ian.
Those guys never learned their
lesson. Logan
did ask his grandfather to go
against the
Morgans, but the old man
simply glared at
him and scolded,
“Nonsense!
Business is all
about profit! You can’t ruin
someone’s
company because you don’t like
them! If
you
’re so reckless, you’ll be ruined
before you
can do anything to them.”

Thanks to that, all
Logan could do was yell at the
Morgans.
John laughed when he heard
Logan’s story.

**“I
have an idea.
”**

**Meanwhile, Sophia couldn't
sleep. She tossed
and turned, and finally, she
went down.**

**However, she was surprised to
see who was
there. John was there, as usual,
but Logan
was sitting across from him, still
dressed in
that robe he wore to the
Morgan Residence,
and the gold chain around his
neck still
looked jarring as usual.**

**“Oh,
what brought
you here? Me? Did you bring
any gifts for
me?”**

**Logan looked back at her and
grinned.**

**“Gifts?
We're good friends, so no need
for gifts.
”**

Sophia gave him a look.

“You

**don't bring gifts
during your visits?"**

Logan guffawed.

**"Oh, I'm
worried about you,
so I don't have time for gifts. I'll
bring
double the gifts next time.
"**

**John crossed his legs and
watched as they
chatted so easily, then he
gradually smiled.
So Logan likes this type of
woman. Many who
tried to butter up to the
Jeffersons did try
their luck with Logan, but he
was way too
unpredictable. Even though the
sycophants
wanted to, they couldn't please
him.**

**Sophia skipped down and sat
beside John.**

**"What were you two talking
about?"**

Logan got serious.

"What else?"

**The Morgan
trash, of course. Man, are they**

annoying.

”

Sophia straightened up.

“Oh, I

didn't manage

to ask. What's up with the

Morgans? Why do

they want to gang up on Ian?”

At the mention of Ian, John

looked down at

Sophia's finger. The ring wasn't

too pretty,

and the ring of small diamonds

around it

looked cheap.

Logan sighed.

“Maybe it's

because his position

threatened the Morgan siblings,

so they keep

on finding trouble with him.

Today's an off

day, so everyone's at home. The

siblings

caught the chance, and they

trash talked

Ian's mom, which was why he

punched Simon.

”

When he reached here, Logan

sighed once

again.

“Just one punch? He should have given them more. He isn’t One Punch Man.

”

John looked outside and squinted.

Sophia nodded.

“Simon’s an arrogant piece of sh*t. When I went to the Morgan Group, he yelled at me. I couldn’t fight him, or else I would have kicked his butt.

”

Sophia’s eyes widened, and she puffed her cheeks.

The Returning Ex Chapter 235
Instead of looking fierce, she looked adorable.

Logan stared at her and smacked his lips, then he changed the topic.

“I

always thought being John’s wife is the ultimate lottery for

women, but the more I look at you, Sophia, the more I think John's the lucky one to have married you.

”

Sophia looked at John. Is he a good man?

Yes. Even though he doesn't love me, he never flirts with someone else.

But so what?

He didn't make me feel happy.

Sophia looked back at Logan and smiled.

“You're being objective.

”

John snorted silently. I'm lucky?

Yeah, right.

Now that Sophia was here, they couldn't go

into details about their earlier chat, so Logan

talked about some other topic.

He said Bryce

was a f*ckboy who had many women out

there when he was young. Ian's mother was

one, and Leah was another.

**They were only
two of many though. Most of
the women only
appeared once and never again.
These two
were remembered because one
gave Bryce a
son, while the other married
into the family.
Ian's mother wasn't cunning
enough, so she
was eliminated, while Leah was
a schemer. In
the end, she managed to trick
Bryce into
registering her name in the
family book.
Sophia slapped her leg.
"What
was up with
that old git? He doesn't back Ian
up? If it
wasn't for him, Ian wouldn't
have to live this
harshly!"
Logan clicked his tongue.
"That
old git just
tries to be a mediator now. He
can't even
stand on the right side today! I**

had to curse
all of them to relieve my anger.
Man, seeing
them getting livid is fun.
”

Sophia nodded angrily.
“That
old git hasn’t
met me! If he does, I’ll teach
him a proper
lesson!” Then, still sounding
indignant, she
added,
“And also those
b*stards of the
Morgan household!” John
looked back at her,
who was sitting cross-legged,
looking furious.
Logan said,
“See! I told them
that. Those
trash haven’t met you, or
they’d be walloped
now.
”

John frowned at Logan.
“Confident, aren’t
you?” he asked calmly.
For some reason, Sophia
nodded.

**“Of course
I’m confident in my skills.
”**

Logan blindly followed her.

**“You can try it out
when the chance comes,
Sophia.
”**

**John’s expression changed.
When the chance
comes?**

**The dumb Logan didn’t notice
something was
wrong, then he changed the
topic.**

**“I was
going to play some poker with
you guys, but
eh, seems like I’m not getting
it.
”**

Sophia rolled her eyes.

**“Don’t
open a club
then, mate. Just open a whole
casino.
”**

Logan chuckled.

**“I did think of
that, but I
don’t want them troublemakers**

to come to
my place. Things would
probably get difficult
for me if I get dragged down by
them.

”

Sophia got down from the sofa,
then she
went up to him and tugged at
the golden
chain on his neck.

“You’re
wearing this, so you
don’t look particularly tame
either.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 336
Sophia nodded at him.

“Go
ahead then.

”

With that, she made her way to
the dining
hall. John happened to have
made it back
with the divorce certificate and
divorce
agreement in his hands by the
time she
walked out again.

At the same time, Logan and Ian

were
serving food to the dining table.
Logan greeted John as soon as
he saw him,
“Come over here, John. You’re
here at the
right time because we’ve
prepared a lot of
food today for the steamboat.
”

Sophia cast Logan an inquisitive
glance as she
wondered what was in his
mind.
Didn’t he know how things
were currently
between John and her? Why did
he behave
as though nothing had
happened?
John first looked at Ian before
answering
with a smile,
“I’m afraid I can’t
stay because
I still have something to attend
to. Please
enjoy yourselves.
”

Sophia, who could detect that
he sounded a

little upset when he said the last three words, cast him a glance but didn't make any comment.

John then left the place with the stuff and got into his car which was parked in front of the gate. Then, he drove for some distance away before pulling to a stop again.

Inside the car, he lit up a cigarette as he observed Sophia's place from the rearview mirror.

It seemed like their divorce had really freed Sophia from misery because she looked so much happier than before.

After he finished smoking the cigarette, he closed his eyes to clear his mind before driving away because there was nothing more to see.

He headed straight back to

Constance

**Residence having nowhere else
to go.**

**His father wasn't home yet and
John**

**reckoned he had gone out to
attend some**

**social gathering. Meanwhile,
the people of**

**the other three families were at
home**

**because their cars were in the
garage.**

**Dylan was there as well, and he
was leaning**

**against his car while holding a
cigarette butt.**

**When John moved his car into
the garage,**

**Dylan threw the cigarette butt
away and**

**looked at John with his arms
crossed in front**

of his chest.

**When John got out of his car, he
glanced at**

Dylan quizzically and asked,

"Do

you have

something to tell me?"

Dylan chuckled,

**“I didn’t before
this but
when I saw you, I suddenly
thought of
something.**

**” Looking amiable,
he remarked,**

**“I
just found out that you and
Sophia already
divorced each other a long time
ago.**

”

**John stared at him without
answering.**

Dylan continued,

**“I noticed that
the date of
the divorce certificate was
amended because
I came across the original
copy.**

”

**John frowned at him and
questioned,**

**“Where
did you see it?”**

Dylan snickered,

**“The Baileys
visited us
earlier today. Otherwise, where**

do you think
I could have come across that?”
“What time were they here?”

John asked
with his lips pursed with
annoyance.

After some contemplation,
Dylan replied,
“They were here not too long
ago but they
only stayed for a short while. As
your father
wasn't at home just now and
Grandma wasn't
willing to leave her room, the
Baileys only got
to have a brief chat with your
mother. I
happened to bump into them
when they were
leaving.

”

John then turned around and
made his way to
the main building of the
mansion.
In the meantime, Dylan stood at
the same
place and watched him as he
walked away.
Mrs. Constance was nowhere in

sight when
John entered the house and the
living room
was empty.
After some hesitation, he
headed upstairs.
Just when reached the second
floor, the
door of his mother's room was
opened before
she walked out of the room
with a suitcase;
it seemed like she was going
back to her
parents' house.
John only gave her a nonchalant
glance
before heading to his own room
because he
was not in the mood to console
anyone at the
moment.
He already had a lot on his plate
to begin
with but now, he had to worry
about his
mother too.
Mrs. Constance, who had also
spotted John,
was left dumbfounded with
tears welling up

in her eyes after John ignored her.

But still, she would never compromise by admitting her own mistake after years of being treated like a queen by the family.

Therefore, she carried her suitcase downstairs and instructed the butler to arrange a driver for her to send her back home.

Looking at her with some resignation, the butler said, "Young Master William is at his busiest at the moment and Old Mrs.

Constance has been in a foul mood. Mrs.

Constance, why don't you stay?"

The butler was trying to say that it was probably best if she didn't bring more trouble to the family at the

moment.

The Returning Ex Chapter 337

In the end, Mrs. Constance
refused to take

the hint and insisted,

“Just get

me a driver

to give me a lift. Since I’m now

an eyesore to

the whole family, I guess the

rest of them

just can’t wait to see me leave.

Apparently,

the men of this family don’t

need a wife

because work always matters

the most to

them. Stop trying to persuade

me to stay

because I have already made up

my mind.

”

Staring at her for some time,

the butler

indeed stopped trying to talk

her out of it

and arranged a driver to give

her a ride home

instead.

As soon as she departed, the

butler called

William right away to tell him about it.

**William, who was not in the mood to hear about her, just grunted in acknowledgement and said,
“I’ll be back later since she’s away.”**

The butler was left speechless right after he said that.

After ending the call with the butler, William gave John a call to ask him whether his mother had really left.

**Lying on the bed, John switched on the hands-free mode and put his phone beside him as he answered,
“I think she’s left. I**

heard that the Baileys visited us not too long and had a chat with Mom.

Guess they were discussing strategies just now because right

after the Baileys left, Mom started to pack up her belongings and departed.

”

William sneered,
“Seems like the Baileys have overestimated themselves. Perhaps, your Mom is to be blamed too because she’s been very keen to get on good terms with them.

”

Thinking that Isabelle was her perfect daughter-in-law, Mrs. Constance had tried very hard to bring about the marriage between John and her. Therefore, that attitude of hers had very likely sent some misleading messages to the Baileys.

William started sorting out his stuff at his office as he told his son,

**“In that
case, I’m
coming back home now.
”**

**Amused by his father’s attitude,
John asked,
“Are you giving Mom a cold
shoulder?”**

**William sighed,
“I’m not. I’m
truly exhausted
after putting up with her for so
many years.
”**

**Stunned by what his father said,
John didn’t
make a comment.**

**Meanwhile, the ambience at
Sophia’s place
was much more delightful than
Constance
Residence.**

**Logan was great at spicing up
the gathering
because he was open to talk
about literally
anything.**

**As Third Young Lady was an
investor who had
investments in the
entertainment industry,**

he knew a great deal of gossip
in showbiz
from her.

Logan picked some of the
juiciest gossip and
shared them with Sophia.
However, she was never one
who paid
attention to the showbiz and
hence could
only laugh along with him
without actually
knowing who he was alluding
to.

Then, each of them opened a
bottle of beer
bought by Logan.

Things couldn't get any better
when they got
to enjoy the steamboat with
beer.

When they were relishing the
food and the
booze, Sophia took some
photos of their
gathering and shared them on
Facebook.

Logan commented with a laugh,
"Look at that."
Sophia finally knows when she
should post

photos on social media without the need for me to urge her to do so!"

Both Ian and Logan then quickly followed suit.

Not too long after Sophia posted the photos, she received a comment from Zack.

He wrote: 'I'm surprised you are still in the mood for steamboat.'

Finding his comment funny, she replied to him directly: 'Why shouldn't I be?'

Right after that, Zack sent her a voice message via WhatsApp which she wasn't hampered from clicking just because Logan and Ian were there.

Zack's tone sounded like he was trying to avenge the unfair treatment John had been receiving when he told her John had been so

busy trying to deal with his scandal on the internet that he barely had time for meals.

Lastly, he shamed Sophia for having such a good time as if nothing had happened.

Judging from his tone, he seemed to think that being all anguished was the only way she should be reacting.

Sniggering at his voice message, she sent one

back to him in which she said,

“Since I wasn’t

the culprit who stirred up this whole mess,

why can’t I enjoy my meals?

Why should I

bear the consequences while it was your boss

who wasn’t being careful enough when he

went out with Isabelle?

Also, it was his family who posted the

divorce certificate on the internet. You

shouldn’t think that I’m under

any obligation
to react in a certain way for his
sake because
we haven't been related to
each other since a
long time ago.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 338

As soon as she sent out the
voice message,
she received another message
from Zack

which was a photo of John.

Stunned to see that, Sophia

zoomed in on

that photo and found that it

was taken when

he was drinking.

Judging from their surroundings,

they

seemed to be having drinks at

Constance

Residence.

It was obvious that this picture

that showed

John's side profile was taken

without his

knowledge.

But still, she could still tell that

he looked

slightly weary and dispirited.

Sophia wondered what Zack was trying to convey by sending her that photo, thinking that John was worn out because of his scandal on the internet, which had nothing to do with her. Was that dummy trying to say that John was feeling so down because of their divorce? Stop kidding me. He has never acted this way before after we got divorced. Plus, we got divorced a long time ago. Sophia didn't feel like carrying on the conversation with Zack because it was bringing her mood down. She left her phone on the sofa and walked out from the living room so that her peace would not be disrupted by Zack's messages. Then, she returned to the dining hall and

continued the feast.

Logan chuckled,

“Is John feeling
upset?

Sounds like you’re to blame for
that.

”

Sophia snorted,

“Oh please,

John and I

divorced each other such a long
time ago.

Isn’t Isabelle the one who

instigated the

whole matter right from the

beginning? Don’t

pin everything on me because

I’m not going to

take the blame.

”

Logan paused to mull over what
she said

before agreeing with her,

“You’re right.

Everything only happened

because of

Isabelle and I guess she must be

feeling

elated right now for somehow

causing your

divorce with John to be exposed

to the public. It's quite worthwhile for her to only suffer some humiliation from the netizens in return.

”

Sophia stuffed a spoonful of food into her mouth before waving her hands dismissively.

“Let's stop talking about this because it's giving me a headache. We should just focus on enjoying the food and booze.

”

Ian said,

“I suppose the scandal will die down after some time. Now that people are being provided with new gossip basically everyday, they will soon stop keeping tabs on this one.

”

Sophia nodded at him and concurred,

“You'

re
right.
”

Logan went on to say
something to liven up
the ambience and offered a
toast to the
other two before he moved on
to other
topics.

Logan told them that his sister
had recently
invested in a new singing talent
show which
she expected would be a hit in
the future.

While Sophia was giggling, she
glanced at Ian
and suggested on the spur of
the moment,

“You should get Ian to audition
since he’s
such a good singer.
”

Logan, who had downed quite a
lot of beer,
responded excitedly,
“That’s
brilliant! Ian,
you really should give it a try. I
can ask my

**sister to pull some strings to
make sure you
go far in that show.
”**

**Ian chortled,
“I think I’ll give it a
pass
because I can barely handle the
work at my
company now.
”**

**Sophia thought it to be an
excellent chance
for Ian.**

**“In fact, you should
really give it a
shot. Since you don’t really
have much
passion for your current job,
you can just
resign if you manage to make a
name as a
singer. No one made it a rule
that you had to
stick with the career your family
arranged
for you because you can always
choose your
own future.
”**

Logan was soon carried away by

**the rush of
adrenaline as he leapt to his
feet and said
decidedly,
“I’ll ask my sister to
register you
for the competition as soon as
all the
preliminaries of the show are
fixed.
”**

**Ian puckered his lips in
annoyance as he
stared at Logan.
“You should sit
back down
and calm yourself down.
”**

**Sophia looked at Ian and opined,
“In fact, I
think that’s the best prospect
for you. You
don’t have to be bothered by
other stuff
because you aren’t related to
those things
that happen in your family. If
people start
gossiping about your identity,
your family
members will be implicated too**

**and they will
be forced to offer a clarification
on your
identity.**

”

**She supposed Bryce Morgan
would come up
with some excuse to cover up
Ian’s identity
as his illegitimate son.**

The Returning Ex Chapter 339

**Staring at Ian, Sophia
encouraged,**

**“Don’t
worry because if anything
happens, Logan will
come to your rescue by hiring a
bunch of
ghostwriters to clarify things for
you on the
internet through multiple fake
accounts. In
fact, there’s nothing a good
ghostwriter can’t
solve at this digital age.**

”

Logan guffawed,

**“She’s damn
right.**

”

Sophia had a lot of fun during

**the dinner; her
life wasn't affected too
considerably by the
viral news on the internet about
her divorce
with John.**

**However, things were different
for John.**

**Zack was asked to meet him at
Constance**

**Residence and the two of them
opened one
whole bottle of wine each in
the dining hall.**

**In fact, Zack was not in the
mood for
drinking but he had no choice
but to drink
with John seeing how moody he
looked, which
was an expression Zack had
never seen on
him before.**

**However, he had to stop after
two glasses of
wine. Sitting at the dining table,
he only
slowly sipped the remaining
wine in his wine
glass as he observed John, who
was downing**

the wine without uttering a word.

Zack heaved out a sigh. Did John ask him to be there just to watch him drink?

He glanced down at his phone to check for Sophia's reply but he didn't get any.

How heartless was that woman to be having such a great time enjoying a steamboat with friends at home?

He wondered why she didn't feel bad at all for John because he thought that any normal person would under these circumstances.

When the sky darkened outside, Old Mrs.

Constance headed downstairs to the living room.

The sight of a dejected John made the elderly lady sad too.

Walking over to the dining hall with the help

of a maid, she sat down at the head of the table and looked at him.

“John, you shouldn’t be too worried about the stuff on the internet because it will soon be handled.”

Because of the effect of the wine, John quickly got emotional as his eyes went red-rimmed. Old Mrs. Constance lamented, “We decided to keep the matter as a secret from the public back then because we were worried that things would get ugly. But now, things are still a mess despite our effort. We should have just announced your divorce to the public right after it took place at that time.”

In fact, they could have solved

**what
happened at Infinity Group
differently.
The thing was, no one could
foresee the
future so none of them knew
things would
escalate into something as huge
as this.
With that thought in mind, Old
Mrs.
Constance felt annoyed because
it was all
Matilda, that hopeless
dumbass's fault.
Many things wouldn't have
happened if it
wasn't for her.
She knew that Mrs. Constance
had gone back
to her parents' house, which
she thought was
a good idea because she found
the sight of
Mrs. Constance irksome at the
moment.
Although Mrs. Constance was a
middle-aged
woman, she was still very naive
and ignorant,
and she still saw herself as a**

princess.

Over the years, she offered no help to William's career at all and all she knew was to put on airs as his wife. Thinking that everyone was inferior to her, she didn't have a clue that there was actually nothing about her that was superior to others.

John finished the last glass of wine and put the glass back on the table. Then, he leaned on the chair, looked at the ceiling and let out a breath that reeked of alcohol.

Old Mrs. Constance sighed, "John, do you miss Sophia?"

John's eyes, which were opened at first, slowly closed after he heard his grandmother's question.

"Nope.

How's that possible?"

Old Mrs. Constance was

unconvinced because
she knew John was a tough guy
and he had
never appeared so deflated
before when he
was facing an issue.

It was only after a while did
John ask her,
“Grandma, why did you give
Sophia the jade
from Grandpa?”

Old Mrs. Constance was first
taken aback by
his question before she
chuckled,

“I think
your Grandpa would be more
than willing to
give it to her since he fancied
her a lot back
then. In fact, it’s not too big a
deal.

” She
explained it to him casually as
though it was
something insignificant.

Slowly, John turned to face his
grandmother
and remarked,
“Grandma, it
seems like you’

re
starting to have a much more
favorable
opinion of Sophia.
”

Old Mrs. Constance replied with
a smile,
“That girl had a hard time
during the time
she was staying here. You guys
have no clue
how badly your mother treated
her back
then because you weren’t at
home much.
”

John lost his interest as soon as
his mother
was mentioned.
Zack too heaved out a sigh and
commented,
“In fact, I think Sophia is a really
nice girl
but it was just too stressful for
her to stay
here.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 340
Old Mrs. Constance agreed with
Zack’s
comment.

**“Yes. Just look at
how happy and
lively she has become now.
”**

**Sophia was totally different
from her old
self now after experiencing a
tremendous
change.**

**In fact, Old Mrs. Constance
didn't really
fancy girls like Isabelle who was
obedient
and reserved because she
thought the
mansion would be too quiet
with her around.**

**Now that she reflected on her
whole life at
her advanced age, she thought
she had
abided by the rules too rigidly.
Therefore, she preferred to
spend time with
young people with a lively and
vibrant
personality now.**

**After saying that, Old Mrs.
Constance
shifted her gaze to John again
and said,**

**“I
think your relationship with
Sophia has
improved a lot recently because
the way you
look at her has changed.
”**

**Dumbfounded by her comment,
John stared
at the elderly lady and echoed,
“The way I
look at her?”**

**Old Mrs. Constance nodded at
him and
chuckled,
“The way you look at
her now is
different from before. I can’t
really pinpoint
the reason but I can notice that
you’ve been
treating her much nicer lately.
”**

**John pondered over it but his
effort was
futile because he was of the
opinion that he
had always treated Sophia the
same way.
Zack thought about it too and
he pointed out,**

“Boss, you treated Sophia with much more patience during that business trip.

”

However, John just laughed his comment off before slowly rising to his feet.

“Both of you are wrong because I know myself best. I’m sure that nothing has changed, be it Sophia or me.

” Then, he said to Zack,

“Since you drank, you may spend the night here or choose to have the driver send you back home. Just do anything that suits you because I’m going upstairs to get some sleep now.

”

There was no doubt Zack would not choose to spend the night there because he wouldn’t be able to sleep well on a bed

other than his
own.

Not too bothered by his choice,
John then

made his way upstairs.

Standing at the top of the
staircase, he

looked in the direction of
William's room.

He was wondering if things had
not been

running too smoothly at the
company as

William had headed straight to
his room in

silence right after he came back
from the

office.

His gaze lingered on his room
for a while

before he turned around and
walked to his

room.

Feeling sleepy after having the
wine, he

straightway threw himself onto
the bed.

Yet, his phone rang just shortly
after he lay

down.

Laboriously, he fished out his

phone and
checked the caller ID before
picking up.

“Spill it.

”

Isabelle could tell from his voice
that he had
had some booze.

It was only after a while did she
speak,

“John.

”

There was no response from
him.

She began again,

“I just found
out that your
family actually had a talk with
my family
before this. Did the discussion
end well?”

Still, John was not answering
her.

Isabelle sighed,

“I had no idea
things would
turn out this way. I was really
too frightened
that day, so...

”

“Do you have anything else to

**tell me?" John
interrupted.
Isabelle was left stumped at
once.**

**John added,
"I'm hanging up if
there's
nothing else.
"**

**With that, he disconnected the
call right
away.**

**Then, he shoved his phone
away from him and
straightaway dozed off.
He slept soundly the entire
night without
being disrupted by dreams.
Due to his biological clock, he
automatically
woke up at the usual time.**

**Sitting on his bed,
it took him a long while before
the fact that
he had moved out from
Sophia's place
registered in his mind.
He took his time to wash up
before heading
downstairs and found Old Mrs.
Constance**

already there.

“Grandma, you’re up so early.”

The elderly lady turned round to look at John, who had returned to his usual energetic and high-spirited self. She responded, “I woke up early this morning and decided not to snuggle in bed.”

John looked around the living room and asked, “Where’s Dad? Has he gone to work?” Old Mrs. Constance answered, “Yes. He too woke up very early in the morning and left without having breakfast. I suppose there’s a lot of work to be done at the office.”

Without saying anything, John stood there for a little while before heading

to the dining
hall.

The Returning Ex Chapter 341

Although the mansion had only
a few

residents, the breakfast was
still a

sumptuous spread consisting of
both the

local and Western style
delicacies. John sat

down and took an empty plate
on which he

placed some toasts, eggs and
ham.

After glancing at the plate for
several

seconds, he put them back
again when he saw

that there were congee and
buns on the

other end of the table. Then, he
poured

himself a bowl of congee and
took some buns

to his seat where he slowly
enjoyed the food.

Old Mrs. Constance did not
follow him to the

dining hall because she had
eaten. After

devouring a bun, a bowl of congee and some mixed vegetables, he leaned on the chair and chilled out. It was his first time having such a satisfying meal as breakfast.

Then, he headed out after a short rest. Old Mrs. Constance, who was still standing in the living room, smiled when she saw him leaving.

“Don’t worry, everything will be alright,” she told him.

John nodded at her because he wasn’t actually worried about anything.

He was just feeling upset deep down inside.

Along his way to the garage, he bumped into his Uncle

Owen and Dylan, who were surprised to see him. His Uncle Owen had become very friendly with Sophia ever since

she sent him
a tea set as a gift. He let out a
sigh and
lamented,
“It’s a shame that
Sophia and you
ended up this way.
”

Instead of responding to him,
John simply
stared at Dylan, who had on a
completely
different expression compared
to his father.

He was smiling craftily. After
Uncle Owen
left in his car, Dylan stood
beside his own car
and stared at John.

“The Baileys
will be here
today and I suppose Isabelle
will come
looking for you. Guess they
want to have a
discussion about how Isabelle
and you are
going to offer an explanation to
the public.
”

John frowned in confusion as he

didn't see
the need for a discussion. They
just had to
explain things as it was, which
was telling the
public that they were only
meeting each
other for a business discussion.
After John
got into his car, Dylan raised his
voice to ask
him,
"Have you explained
anything to
Sophia?"
John looked dumbfounded
because it was
only then did he realize he had
not told
Sophia the reason why he had
appeared with
Isabelle at the place. However,
his eyes
clouded over because it seemed
like an
explanation was redundant
now. They were no
longer husband and wife.
When John drove his car away,
Dylan stood
at the same spot and watched

him leave
before getting into his own car
and
departing.
As for Sophia, she slept all the
way to noon
and when she woke up, she
took a short time
to get her bearings before
quickly heading
downstairs. It was Ian who had
helped her to
her room last night because she
was
smashed. She could remember
the entire
process and how she had sat on
the floor
beside her bed chatting with
him. However,
she could not remember what
they had
talked about.
When she reached downstairs,
the place was
in complete silence because
none of the two
guys remained. She then
headed to the
dining hall and found it spick
and span. Ian

probably cleaned up, she thought.

Not feeling hungry at all, she went to the courtyard after walking around the living room. As the weather was nice, she enjoyed the warm sunlight for a while before heading back to the living room. Just shortly after she switched on the television, her phone rang. The number shown on the screen was not saved in her contact list but she knew exactly who it belonged to. She decided not to pick up but as soon as the call was disconnected, the owner of that number called her again. She smirked and took her time to pick up this time. Once she did, Mrs. Constance's frustrated voice could be heard. "Sophia, did

you do it on purpose?"

Sophia hung up on her without saying

anything. Seriously, Mrs.

Constance should

think twice before messing with her.

Immediately, the woman called for the third

time. Sitting cross-legged,

Sophia ignored

the ringtone as she watched the show on the

television with relish. She could picture how

furious Mrs. Constance must be right now.

After several attempts, Mrs.

Constance

seemed to have an idea of

Sophia's intention

and stopped trying. Sophia first glanced at

her phone before taking it and included Mrs.

Constance's number in the list of blocked

numbers. After all, she had only put up with

Mrs. Constance's wilful

behavior for John's

sake.

The Returning Ex Chapter 342

She wants to lord over me now?

In her

dreams! After waiting for a

while, Sophia

cooked some noodles. She had

quite a lot of

ingredients, so she made some

scallion oil

noodles herself. Just when the

noodles were

done, a car came to a stop

before her house.

Nonetheless, she carried the

noodles over to

the sofa, planning to watch

television while

she ate.

Surprisingly, the person who

alighted from

the car headed for her house.

Sophia stared

at the person for a moment

before sitting

down casually. Watching the

television, she

then enjoyed the noodles with

great relish.

The living room door was open,

so Matilda

saw Sophia as soon as she entered the courtyard. She's really free, dressed in casual clothes and watching television, even laughing from time to time! Gritting her teeth, she walked over right away.

"Sophia."
"

Sophia ignored her, acting as though she didn't hear her.

Matilda went over to the sofa in a few strides.

"You're such an ill-mannered shrew! An elder called you, yet you didn't even respond."
"

Sophia's eyes remained fixed on the television.

"You're such an ill-mannered shrew! You're trespassing without the house

owner
's permission.
”

Taken aback, Matilda almost lost her temper right then and there. She was initially at her parents' house, waiting for William to give in and pick her up, but he didn't come even after a whole night had passed. This morning, she phoned Constance Residence, only to hear that he'd gone back to the bedroom to sleep last night itself. This had her hopping mad. From that action of his, it meant that he was rather jubilant that she left since he could finally return to the bedroom to sleep. Her wrath was so great that she didn't even eat breakfast. However, she also knew that she couldn't go back to Constance Residence

now, nor could she call him to reason. He definitely wouldn't entertain her and would even feel that she was being unreasonable.

she thought about it, she came to an unpleasant conclusion—if he didn't come and get her, she certainly couldn't go back on her own volition. Would this mean that he wouldn't want her anymore in the end?

At the thought of this, Matilda became restless, and she hurriedly considered the current situation. She felt that the Constance Family had to be presently worried over the uproar on the Internet, so William might not continue to hold the things she'd done over her head if this matter was resolved and his good mood

restored. Then,
she could go back when he
came to get her.
After all, no one would care
overly much
when the matter was resolved,
and this
storm would pass.
But how could this matter be
resolved? To
her thinking, Sophia was an
excellent
resolution. The netizens are
now
sympathizing with Sophia, so
everything will
be fine if she steps forward and
announces
that the divorce was due to a
breakdown in
their relationship or a
difference in
personalities. It'll definitely be
effective if
she were to speak on behalf of
John.
Only after soothing herself for
half a day
did Matilda finally manage to
suppress her
anger over Sophia's retort.

“The Internet is now all abuzz. Hurry up and issue a statement to help clarify things between John and Belle so that this matter can be put to rest, ” she ordered coldly. However, Sophia was still watching television, her gaze never once leaving the screen.

At this, Matilda frowned.

“I’m talking to you. Did you hear me?” Sophia slurped her noodles as though in reply to her question. Within seconds, Matilda’s face flushed with rage.

“Look at you! You’re such an embarrassment! If it weren’t for your grandfather’s friendship with my father-in-law, no one would even marry you back in your village!”

Sophia chuckled. This time, she spoke,
“Yup.
But what to do? I still slept with your son despite being such an embarrassment, and I’ve even made him a divorcee now. What should we do about this?”
The remark of her having slept with her son almost had Matilda blowing her top. This woman is just too shameless that she dares to say anything!
Sophia, however, didn’t find anything amiss at all, even laughing after saying that.
“I haven’t got the time to yak with you,
Sophia! Hurry up and issue a statement to clarify the matter. Then, we’ll have nothing to do with each other in the future,
” Matilda hissed through gritted teeth.

The Returning Ex Chapter 343

Sophia took a bite of noodles.

“What is there

**to clarify? You want me to say
that I**

**pretended to be still married to
John for the**

**sake of helping him out with
the crisis over**

**Infinity Group, but he was then
caught red?handed with**

**Isabelle, so we had to make our
divorce public?”**

**Matilda was rendered
speechless.**

“Sophia,

**are you feigning ignorance with
me?”**

**Finishing the noodles in a few
bites, Sophia**

**then stood up with the bowl in
her hands and**

looked at her.

“Yup, I’m

feigning ignorance.

**However, it seems that you’re
truly ignorant.**

**How are you so thick-skinned to
come and**

**seek me out? The previous time,
you swore**

right here that you wouldn't
implore me for
help. Why, you're going back
against your
word so soon?"

Sneering, she turned around
and walked
toward the kitchen.

"Also, you
should act like
it if you're here to beg me for
help. What
kind of attitude is this now? I'm
already
showing great charity by not
talking smack
about John. I've warned you
not to provoke
me. Otherwise, I won't be able
to control my
tongue.

”

Matilda closed her eyes for a
moment, her
fists cracking by her sides. All of
a sudden,
she recalled the scene back
when she was
forced to come and apologize to
Sophia. This
was the exact spot I stood in

back then. My
humiliation is just greater every
single time!

When Sophia came out after
washing the
bowl, she noticed that Matilda
was still
standing there. She didn't pay
her any
attention earlier, so she
thought that she'd
left. Going over to the coffee
table, she took
a piece of tissue and wiped her
hands.

"If
there's nothing else, I'm going
upstairs to
rest.

"

Matilda's face was devoid of
emotion. She
merely stared at her without
saying a single
word nor twitching a single
muscle. Her
brows creasing, Sophia looked
at her for a
while before she pivoted and
headed for the
staircase.

However, just after she'd turned around, Matilda suddenly rushed at her and grabbed her hair hard, yanking her backward.

"Why are you being cocky with me? Who do you think you are?"

Sophia was startled. Her scalp hurting, she promptly arched her body backward. While she'd lazed around for almost a year after marrying into a wealthy family, she still used to be a farmer in the past. Thus, she was quite strong despite her petite and slim stature. Half bending, she spun around, putting herself face-to-face with Matilda. As her hair was being pulled, she could only keep her head lowered. Swinging a hand out to break Matilda's hold

on her hair, Sophia pinched a nerve on her arm that would render the entire arm numb with her other hand. She pinched hard, upon which Matilda exclaimed in pain before her hold loosened. Straightening, Sophia smoothed her hair and chuckled.

“Looks like the incident back then failed to teach you a lesson after all.

” After saying that, she walked toward Matilda.

At this time, Matilda was cradling her numb arm, staring at her. Subsequently, she grabbed a decorative item from the table beside her and threw it at Sophia while snarling, “You’re truly lacking in manners, you insolent brat!”

Sophia easily dodged. Then, she stepped forward and swung her hand at Matilda without hesitation.

“You’re the uncouth one.”

After the slap, she added a kick. There was a hanging chair behind Matilda, so when she stumbled at the kick and hit the hanging chair, she tripped and fell to the ground.

Her expression frosty, Sophia walked over.

All at once, she was reminded of the scene back when she raised her hand against Matilda. I regretted not kicking her a few times back then, but look, my opportunity is now here!

Propping herself up, Matilda stared at her.

“What? You still want to hit me? Let me tell

you, I'm going to lodge a police report and sue you when I leave. I'll have you return everything you took from John!"

Sophia burst out laughing.

"Sure, I'll give you the opportunity. You're a coward if you don't lodge a police report later!"

After she'd said that, she gave Matilda a kick right away, taking her by surprise since she'd never thought that Sophia would dare kick her.

**The Returning Ex Chapter 344
Screeching, Matilda scrambled backward.**

Without saying a single word, Sophia kicked her twice more. All at once, Matilda wailed.

Never had she been treated such, so she wasn't just hurt physically, but she also bore the brunt emotionally.

Gritting her teeth, she stretched

out a hand
to grab her cell phone that had
fallen out
during her fall.
“Just you wait!
I’m going to
make a call right now. I’m going
to phone
John and have him see your
viciousness for
himself!”
Sophia chortled.
“Make haste,
then. If you’
re
too slow, I might just beat you
to death
later.
”

Trembling, Matilda phoned
John. John was
still in the office, so he was a
touch
surprised when he received her
call. He
initially thought that she was
calling to
grouse about William, but as
soon as he
answered the call, he heard her
howling,

“John, come over quickly! I’m about to be beaten to death by that little b*tch, Sophia!”

John startled.

“Where are you?”

“I’m at the house you gave Sophia. Come quickly! If you’re late, you might not see me anymore!” Matilda bawled.

John promptly sprang to his feet.

“Where’s Sophia?” As soon as his words fell, he heard Sophia’s caustic voice as she barked,

“Hurry up and get your son here! Let me tell you, the knives in my kitchen are very sharp, so killing someone takes just a blink of an eye.

” At this, he no longer asked further because he more or less knew what had happened.

Snagging his jacket, he strode

out, only to
bump into William when he
exited the office.
Upon seeing John in such a
hurry,
astonishment suffused William.
“Are you
leaving?” The Baileys will be
coming over in a
while, so he definitely has to
stay and discuss
how we’re going to explain the
matter to the
public.
“My mother went to look for
Sophia, and
they seem to have fought
again,
” John
explained in mild exasperation.
Momentarily taken aback,
William’s brows
knitted together. Immediately
after, he
muttered,
“What a nutcase!”
Knowing that he was referring
to Matilda,
John pursed his lips.
“I’m going
over to have a

look.

”

Turning around, William walked out with him.

“I’ll go with you.

” She’s an unreasonable

person, so John might not be able to handle her alone.

John said nothing. The two of them went downstairs and got into John’s car before speeding toward Sophia’s house. They were delayed by two red lights on the way, so the battle had already ended when they arrived.

John and William sprinted into the house as soon as they climbed out of the car. The living room door was open, so from afar, they immediately spotted Matilda sitting on the floor, her appearance disheveled. Meanwhile, Sophia was sitting on the sofa

with the
television turned on, watching
television with
her legs crossed.
Matilda was quiet at first, but
the moment
she saw John and William in the
house, she
burst into tears at once.
Struggling up from
the floor with all her might, she
gripped in a
hoarse voice,
“Why are you two
so late? I
was almost beaten to death by
this little
b*tch!”
Slowly turning around, Sophia
stared fixedly
at her. While her expression
wasn't exactly
baleful, it wasn't all that better.
Earlier,
Matilda was so terrified by such
a look from
her that she shrunk back, but
she now stuck
her neck out and glared at
Sophia since she
had backing.

Well aware of his wife's
temperament,
William sighed and turned to
look at Sophia.

She appears to be in a sorry
state as well.

Someone has obviously pulled
her hair since
it's falling off strand by strand.

"What
happened, Sophia?" he asked in
a gentle
voice.

Sophia, however, didn't even
spare him a
glance.

"Ask her. Just ask her
what
happened.

" Her voice was
extremely frigid.

Meanwhile, Matilda was still
weeping and
clutching at William's shirt, her
expression

giving him a severe headache.

This is exactly
how she looked the day she
fought with me.

John looked at Matilda.

"Mom,

**why did you
come here?"**

The Returning Ex Chapter 345

**Matilda's sobbing ceased, but
after a**

**moment's contemplation, she
continued**

**crying. Closing his eyes for a
moment, William**

chided,

**"Stop crying. What's the
use of**

**crying?" He emphasized every
single word as**

**he spoke. His voice was mild,
but one could**

hear that he was a tad livid.

Knowing that he

**was still peeved about the
incident back**

**then, Matilda blinked and
slowly stopped**

weeping.

Again, John asked,

"Why did

you come here?"

Sniffling, Matilda replied,

"I was

just

**thinking that those rumors on
the Internet**

are affecting you badly, so I came over to ask for her help in issuing a statement to clarify things. Then, the matter will be resolved.

”

At this time, Sophia turned back without saying a single word.

John glanced at Matilda.

Although Sophia

isn't very reasonable, she's smart. She won't

do anything irrational. Thus, he then asked,

“Who made the first move?”

All at once, Matilda went silent.

As such, the

answer was clear as day.

Shaking his arm,

William shook off her hand from his shirt.

“Were you trying to add to the trouble we’

re

in now? Well?” This question

was uttered in a

voice far louder than he'd used earlier.

At the side, Sophia sneered,
“You two had
better think of a solution now.
Matilda has
already lodged a police report,
so this matter
will be even worse when the
police arrive in a
while. Perhaps this will also be
fodder for
the media.
”

Stunned, both William and John
looked at
Matilda.

“You lodged a police
report?”

Matilda’s mouth parted a
fraction as she
stammered,

“Y-Yes.

” Actually,
regret assailed
her when she was done lodging
a police
report. At that time, she was
blinded by rage
after Sophia had hit her, so she
didn’t stop
to think. Only when she sat
there and mulled

it over after having made the police report did she realize that something was amiss.

However, she truly didn't want to lose face before Sophia, so she couldn't just call back and cancel the police report.

William clenched his jaw.

"You're truly brainless.

"

Sophia who was watching television snorted.

Matilda is brainless precisely because she's been spoiled by her pampered life all these years. William is too nice to her, and her

status as the most senior Mrs.

Constance

inhibited her sisters-in-law from confronting

her head-on. Meanwhile,

Belinda, the

matriarch of the Constance

Family, has

always been an easy-going

person, thus

closing a blind eye to things
that aren't too
serious. When no one
reprimands her and she
doesn't need to think for
herself, her brain
isn't much use to her. Naturally,
she then
doesn't use it anymore.
Everyone shoulders
some blame in this. Who asked
them to
indulge her so much in the past?
Now, they'
ve
got to bear the consequences.
Sighing, John glanced at Sophia.
"Why didn't
you stop her?"
Amusement flooded Sophia.
"Could I have
stopped your mother? Don't
you know her
temperament? If I'd stopped
her, she
probably wouldn't have
stopped at lodging a
police report. Rather, she
would'
ve even
assembled the neighbors.

”

She’s right. Clenching his hand
into a fist,
John hammered his forehead.
Matilda was now a touch scared.
Gazing at
William, she asked in a whisper,
“Is this a
serious matter, William?”
William chuckled furiously.
“What do you
think?” Upon hearing this,
Matilda pursed her
lips and said nothing.
At this time, Sophia suggested,
“You all
should leave quickly since
there’s bound to be
a crowd when the police arrive
later. Just
leave now, and I’ll tell them I
have no idea
what happened when they
come in a while. If
they call you, try your best to
explain on the
phone. If that doesn’t work, ask
them to visit
Constance Residence. It’ll be
better than
being found out here.

”

Jolting, William hurriedly
seconded,
“You’
re
right! We should leave quickly!”
When things had come to this,
Matilda no
longer cared that this was
Sophia’s idea. She
instantly echoed,
“Yes, yes, we
should leave
now. When the police arrive
and find no one
here, this matter will be
dropped.

”

John looked at Sophia.
“Are you
okay? Are
you hurt anywhere?”
The Returning Ex Chapter 346
At this, Matilda was a tad
displeased. I was
the one being beaten
unilaterally. I look even
worse for wear than Sophia, yet
John hasn’t
even asked after me ever since
he came in

until now. She looked at John.

“John, you two are divorced, so you should be more circumspect.

”

William frowned, very much disgruntled at her behavior now.

“Zip it.

You’ve created such a mess, yet you still have the temerity to chastise others here?” Matilda quickly pursed her lips, not daring to say a single word.

Meanwhile, Sophia remained expressionless.

Without replying to John’s question, she merely said,

“Go. You’ll run into the police if you tarry any longer.

”

Matilda hurriedly scurried out while pulling William along.

“Come, come,

let's go. Let's go
quickly.
”

John, however, stood there for
a few
seconds as he stared at Sophia.
Sophia
sneered at his scrutiny.

“Why,
are you irked
because I hit your mother again?
Even so,
just stifle it!”

Sighing, John went over and
smoothed her
hair for a bit.

“If my mother
comes again,
lock the door and keep her
out.

” Her
expression tense, Sophia took a
step back,
putting distance between them.
John then
slowly retracted his hand.

“I'll
be going back
first.
”

“Hurry up and leave,

**” Sophia
huffed,
seemingly in utter
exasperation.**

**Pivoting, John went out and
joined William
and Matilda who were already
in the car.**

**When he glanced at Sophia
back at the house
through the rear-view mirror,
he saw that
she’d already turned sideways
and was
combing her hair with her
fingers. At this
time, Matilda tapped the back
of his seat.**

**“Go, go! The police will be here
soon.
”**

**Retracting his gaze, John then
started the
car.**

**Just after he’d started driving, a
police car
approached from the opposite
side. The
moment Matilda caught sight of
the police,
she shrunk into herself in terror**

and hid in
the back seat. William twisted
his head away,
truly having no desire to gaze
upon her. John
merely drove off without even
turning to
take a look when he went past
the police car.
Through the rear-view mirror,
he could see
the police car slowly coming to
a stop before
Sophia's house whereupon two
police officers
alighted and entered the
courtyard. He let
out a sigh of relief, yet his
irritation grew.
Matilda, on the other hand,
patted her chest.
"Phew, we left just in time."
"

After driving for a while, John
asked,
"Mom,
where do you want me to drop
you off?"
This question rendered Matilda
at a loss.
Where to drop me off? She

actually wanted
to go back to Constance
Residence, but she
was the one who packed up and
left back
then. She was even a touch
pompous when
she left, so she truly couldn't
quite bring
herself to say that she wanted
to go back in
front of William and John.
She peeked at William out of
the corner of
her eye, only to see that he
hadn't reacted at
all, acting as though he hadn't
heard John's
question. Judging from his
expression, he
doesn't want me to return to
Constance
Residence. Mild indignation
inundated her.
Never had he acted in such a
manner
throughout the years, but he's
now treating
me so shoddily because of an
outsider!
Throwing a tantrum, she

declared,
“Drop me
off at your maternal
grandmother’s house.
I’m not going back to Constance
Residence!”

John didn’t try changing her
mind, driving
straight toward her parents’
house instead.

No one said anything
throughout the rest of
the drive.

When the car came to a stop,
Matilda
dawdled, spending half a day
just to open the
car door. William naturally
knew what she
was trying to do, so he grew
rather
impatient.

“Make it fast. We
still need to go
back to the office where loads
of work are
still waiting for us.
”

Sulking, Matilda swung open
the car door and
climbed out. Without even

bidding the two of them farewell, she stomped into the house.

John then drove away with a sigh.

When he and William returned to the office, the Baileys were already there. Isabelle was there as well, but one could see that she wasn't looking all that good despite her exquisite makeup.

The Returning Ex Chapter 347

Isabelle looked extremely weary and even a touch dispirited. The Baileys were waiting in the meeting room, so William and John hurried over. When Isabelle spotted John, she sprang to her feet at once. At the side, Old Mr. Bailey chided, "Belle."
"

Seemingly snapping back to her senses, she slowly sat

back down with mild embarrassment. The moment John came in, he immediately found a seat and sat down without even sparing her a single glance.

On the other hand, the police questioned Sophia for a bit before the entire matter was dropped. It wasn't her who made the police report, so she merely said she wasn't quite sure what had happened, and the two police officers didn't ask further.

When they'd left, she sat on the sofa for a long time before she remembered something.

I'd better revoke John's access to this place.

Putting aside what Matilda thinks, I myself don't want to have anything to do with the Constance Family anymore in the future.

After cleaning the mess in the living room from the altercation earlier, she then went upstairs and sprawled on the bed. Rolling about, she then took out her cell phone and looked at the news reports on the Internet.

Truthfully speaking, she did contemplate speaking up on behalf of John. The sooner this matter blows over, the sooner my life can get back on track. If this matter hangs in the balance, it'll affect me as well.

But Matilda is truly impudent! How dare she come and order me around? Did she think the title of the most senior Mrs. Constance is a free pass that is effective everywhere? Pah! After this confrontation, I'm more inclined to bad-mouth John on the

Internet. Sophia
inhaled deeply. However, it was
quite a
delight to hit her earlier. I've
finally vented
all the resentment bottled
within me!

Picking at random, she glanced
through two
news reports. The contents
were mainly still
the same, but this time, they
brought up
John and Isabelle's engagement
in the past.

She actually had no idea what
exactly
happened between the two of
them back
then.

The only thing she knew was
that the two
families were initially planning
to join in
marriage, and it was her
appearance that
shattered the balance.

From the article, she read that
it was
actually Matilda who mediated
the union

between the Constance and Bailey Family. It was said that Matilda liked Isabelle very much after a single meeting, so she brought the matter up when she got home.

At that time, it was about time for John to get married, and he was doing rather well in Constance Group, having some minor achievements career-wise. Thus, it'd be perfect if he had a happy family then. The Constance Family considered the matter and felt that the Bailey Family was a good choice.

The Bailey Family, on the other hand, naturally admired John, so they agreed when the Constance Family proposed the idea. This marriage contract was smooth sailing in the beginning. Besides, the article

mentioned
that John and Isabelle had also
met up, upon
which John was very much
satisfied with her,
but something happened later,
and he
married someone else who was
inferior to her
in every aspect.
When Sophia read the first half
of the
article, she didn't find any
problem with it,
but in the second half... Inferior
in every
aspect? Pah!
Sophia put down her cell phone.
It truly isn't
worth it to have made myself
irate again
from just reading a news report.
Hugging her
blanket, she rolled around
twice before
closing her eyes. There's
nothing else to be
done besides sleep.
Meanwhile, the employees at
Constance
Group were all confounded.

After all, Sophia had visited in the past and appeared very loving with John, so it came as an utter surprise that they'd then divorced in short order.

Early this morning, that female employee known as Miss Cox jumped out again, claiming that everything she said back then was true—the cracks in John and Sophia's relationship stemmed from his affair with her.

In the past, few people believed the woman's words, but now that John was in the limelight and someone was playing this up, this woman's claim was taken as proof of his habitual cheating by many.

**The Returning Ex Chapter 348
Although the employees dared not say**

anything openly, their furtive
gossiping never
ceased. Thus, when Isabelle
came today, they
looked at her askance. If they
had to pick
between Isabelle and Sophia,
most of them
would still side with Sophia.
Firstly, Sophia appeared much
more easy-going, always
wearing a smile, whereas
Isabelle preferred to put on airs,
giving off a
feeling of detachment. Secondly,
Isabelle
didn't have a leg to stand on in
this entire
farce. Many people felt that she
was the
third party, and naturally, the
public
abhorred homewreckers.
After reading all the documents
in his office,
Dylan stood up and went to the
pantry. When
he reached the pantry door, he
stopped.
There were people in the
pantry—three

female employees—who were gathered by the window, chatting while sipping tea.

Although their voices were lowered, Dylan could still hear them by the door.

One of them remarked, “I still think that Miss Gwendolyn is quite nice.”

Another one nodded.

“Yup, I think so, too. Miss Gwendolyn is obviously a person who brings good luck to her husband. She’s always smiling, so that invites fortune.”

At this, the third person chuckled and looked at the second person.

“Miss Whitman, you are quite far-sighted. In my opinion, while Miss Gwendolyn looks petite and slim, she’s

exactly the type of woman with potential.

She'll definitely give birth to a son in the future!"

After saying this, the three of them burst out laughing.

When the laughter had subsided, the third person sighed and continued,

"All in all, Miss Gwendolyn is indeed quite a nice person.

Although I've only seen her a handful of times, she looks much more pleasant than Miss Bailey.

"

With his cup in hand, Dylan turned and went back to his office after a moment's contemplation. Sophia and John are divorced.

Life is truly filled with surprises.

After reclining against his chair for a while, he saw a group of people filing past his

office door.

Precisely speaking, they were John, William, and the Baileys. Isabelle was walking beside John, and she happened to have her head turned, speaking to John.

Dylan's room door was open, so John

reflectively glanced into his room when he walked past the door. Dylan smiled and

mouthed something to him. At first, John

frowned, but he then understood Dylan's remark, and his expression instantly

darkened. Conversely, Dylan chuckled as he gazed at him languidly.

At the side, Isabelle looked at John who'd stopped walking in slight astonishment.

"What's wrong, John?"

Retracting his gaze, John replied, "Nothing.

"

The two of them then headed toward the elevator.

When they reached the elevator, the employee elevator at the side happened to arrive, and a few employees walked out, one after another. Those employees greeted

William and John in the beginning, but the moment they caught sight of Isabelle, some couldn't keep their disdain under wraps, mild contempt showing on their faces. Isabelle naturally saw this, but she could only pretend that she saw nothing. The comments on the Internet are much more severe than these people's gazes, yet I have no recourse but to endure it.

John went with William in seeing the Baileys off. Before Isabelle got into the

car, she
glanced at John, but John didn't
look at her,
his gaze pinned on the opposite
street.

Camera flashes went off across
the street.

He'd actually spotted the
paparazzi lying in
wait in the shop across the road
as soon as

he'd stepped out of the lobby,
but he didn't
find it necessary to hide.

I'm not doing anything
scandalous, so who
cares if they snap photos?

These people's
curiosity is intense, so if they
can't get
anything from me and Isabelle,
they'll

probably go to Sophia. He
didn't want these
people to bother Sophia. She
has never
experienced such a thing, and
she's hot-tempered, so she'll
easily get irritated,
leading to an altercation.

The Returning Ex Chapter 349

Sighing soundlessly, John retracted his gaze.

Isabelle, on the other hand, pursed her lips, swallowing the words she initially wanted to say.

When the Baileys' car had driven off, William and John headed back to the office. While walking, William said, "See whether there's room for discussion with Sophia. It's originally nothing too difficult, but your mother went over and assaulted her, aggravating the entire matter."

I wonder whether Sophia will be averse to this mess after the episode earlier. If so, it won't be an easy task to ask for her help anymore. Only when the two of them had entered the

elevator did John reply,
“I’ll talk
to her later.
She’s actually quite a
reasonable person.
”

William murmured an
acknowledgment.
Subsequently, he ordered in
mild
exasperation,
“Don’t entertain
your mother
for the time being. Her attitude
truly needs
to be tempered. We’ve been
too indulgent
with her all these years that she
hasn’t
grown at all, her brains
regressing from day
to day.

” John merely stared at
the electronic
screen in the elevator, watching
as the
numbers went up. His brows
slowly creased,
yet he said nothing, seemingly
agreeing with
William.

Meanwhile, Sophia lay on the bed and slept before she was groggily awakened by Logan's phone call. She fumbled for her cell phone and glanced at the caller ID. Only when she'd ascertained that it was someone she knew did she answer the call.

"Logan.

"

"Are you awake? Where are you? Why don't you come over to my place?"

Logan was probably bored.

Sophia flipped over.

"Nope, I want to sleep at home.

"

At this, Logan smacked his lips.

"I just knew that you'd say this. Don't sleep anymore.

Here, I'll tell you something interesting.

"

Sophia blinked.

“Something interesting?

What else could be more interesting than my issue now?”

Exclaiming in protest, Logan countered,

“I’m serious. I’m not lying to you. Let me tell you, it has something to do with the Morgan siblings.”

Stunned, Sophia slowly sat up.

“Simon and Sally Morgan?”

“Yup.

” Enthusiasm flooded Logan.

“Remember that you were once injured at Morgan Residence? Your man...

” He abruptly stopped, knowing that he’d misspoken. Chuckling dryly, he hurriedly changed his tune.

“I mean, your ex-husband, John. Perhaps he

wanted to
avenge you, so he had someone
investigate
Simon and Sally Morgan. These
two rat
b*stards want to secure
Morgan Group, so
they had under-the-table
dealings with the
company's senior management,
offering and
accepting bribes. Well, you
know what I
mean. Besides, they even made
several
personal investments outside in
the
company's name. The loss was
borne by the
company, while the gain went
into their
pockets. Say, shouldn't such
heinous
creatures be persecuted?"
After a moment's deliberation,
Sophia asked,
"John had someone investigate
this?"
Logan sighed.
"Yes, it was John.
I think he

was angry that Sally Morgan injured you that day, so he wanted to avenge you. However, it's now inconvenient for him to act personally since he's plagued with problems, so he handed the evidence to me. Actually, it makes no difference if I act. Since you're now scandal-ridden, it'll be bad to drag you into this matter, so I'll just teach these two reprobates a lesson on the pretext of helping Ian out.

”

Sophia mulled it over for a while.

“But how is it possible that the Morgans are unaware of Simon and Sally Morgan's illicit dealings? They should be aware, no?”

Putting aside the issue of whether Bryce Morgan

and Leah
Zimmerman know about this,
Sean Morgan
couldn't possibly have missed it.
Now that
the company is in his hands, it's
impossible
that he didn't notice them
doing such a thing
right under his nose.
Logan snorted.
"Sean Morgan is
probably
aware of it, but he doesn't want
to expose it
himself. He's actually very
smart. While he
dislikes Leah Zimmerman, he's
avoiding having
a head-on confrontation with
those three
people.
"

The Returning Ex Chapter 350
Logan actually wasn't at all
bothered about
this.
"Never mind, it's fine. I'll
just let Sean
Morgan reap the reward this
time. He wants

someone to expose this, so I'll
be the bad guy
here. I'm not afraid. I don't fear
anyone.

”

Sophia chortled.

“Are you afraid
of Lorraine,
your third eldest sister?”

Young Master Jefferson was still
arrogant a
second ago, but the moment he
heard this
question, he instantly went
silent. He indeed
feared no one, but Lorraine was
the
exception. He was still afraid of
her. After
all, his other sisters had been
giving in to him
ever since young, but Lorraine
pulled no
punches when she went against
him. It's as
though that woman is eager to
kill me with a
single misstep!
Upon seeing that he'd gone
mum at her
question, Sophia didn't pursue

it further.

Instead, she cut to the chase,
asking,

“What’s the situation over at
the Morgan
Family?”

Coughing softly, Logan then
answered

solemnly,

“I contacted Ian
earlier, and he’s
now at the office. However,
Simon, Sally, and
Sean Morgan have been
summoned home. It’s
probably Bryce Morgan who
called them
home, but this old geezer is the
type to gloss
things over, so he’ll probably
just give them a
slap on the wrist since there are
no outsiders
there.

”

“Then, won’t your efforts have
been in vain?”

Sophia questioned.

“Not exactly.

” Logan then
continued,

**“I still
have evidence of some other
things done by
those two rat b*stards which I
haven’t made
known. After they’ve muddled
through this,
I’ll then expose the next one,
and so on. I
don’t believe that old geezer
won’t get angry
no matter how good his temper
is when
incident after incident comes to
light.
”**

At this, Sophia laughed.

**“You’re
quite
blackhearted, after all.**

**” Just
after she’d
said this, her cell phone buzzed
with a
notification. She brought it
down and glanced
at it, only to see that there was
a Facebook
notification. She opened
Facebook right
away, only to guffaw in**

amusement. John actually sent me a friend request? Isn't this man contrary? It was him who unfriended me back then, yet he's now sending me a friend request.

She pretended as though she didn't see it and exited the application.

Then, she continued chatting with Logan about Morgan Family's scandal. However, just after she'd said a few words, a phone call came in from John. Taken aback, she stared at her cell phone for half a day before telling Logan that she had to go since something cropped up. Logan lamented for a long time, but she ignored him and hung up right away.

After that, she answered John's call.

"Is

something the matter?" Her voice was no longer as impatient as before. John hummed in acquiescence. "I sent you a friend request on Facebook, but you haven't accepted it."
"

Upon hearing this, Sophia was tickled pink.

"Why should I accept it? What are you trying to do by unfriending me back then yet sending me a friend request now?"

John heaved a sigh on the other end, seemingly exasperated.

"I failed to consider it properly back then. I thought we won't have anything to do with each other anymore, but—"

Murmuring an acknowledgment, Sophia then cut him off, asserting, "We

indeed won't have
anything to do with each other
anymore, so
there's no need to be friends on
Facebook
again.

”

I've finally realized that her
tongue is truly
sharp. Besides, she seems to
know the exact
attitude she should exhibit to
inflict the
greatest pain on the other
person. It's truly
vexing when she utters such a
remark
nonchalantly. No wonder Mom
goes ballistic
with just a few words from her!
John went
silent, and Sophia said nothing
either. He was
quite patient in the past, but
he'd now grown
impatient. At this moment, he
became
somewhat edgy and blurted,
“Sophia, we'
re
not enemies.

”

He couldn't see her expression,
so Sophia did
her utmost best to make herself
sound
innocent.

“I don't regard you as
an enemy.

”

At this, she chuckled.

“I'm very
grateful for
everything you've done for me,
but John, we
really shouldn't associate with
each other
anymore. I don't regard you as
an enemy. I
merely want to regard you as a
stranger.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 351

All at once, John was rendered
speechless.

This thought of Sophia's
actually echoed his
back then. However, a person's
thoughts
often changed although he
himself didn't
quite understand when the

change in him

transpired.

Sophia didn't want to listen to his jabbering.

After all, they both knew that some things were useless to speak of. Thus, she said,

"I'll

be hanging up if there's nothing else.

"

Without giving John any time to react, she

outright hung up on him.

Placing her cell

phone aside, she let out a sigh of relief.

Wow! I feel much more relaxed after saying that!

After having napped for a while earlier, it

was now dusk. She was hungry, but she truly

didn't feel like moving. Hence, she snagged

her cell phone. Instead of calling for

takeaway, she called Logan back.

Logan answered in no time.

“Sophia.

”

Sophia hummed in acknowledgment before declaring,

“I’m starving. Come

over to my

house with some food.

”

“You’re looking for me just because you want food? Don’t you know how to call for delivery if you’re hungry?” Logan groused.

Sophia instantly raised her voice.

“Can I call for delivery now? I’m a famous figure now, so I’ve got to reduce my public appearances, you know? Put a rush on it. Besides, you’re it! You’ll be my manager for the time being, so hurry up and come over.

”

Logan was extremely patient with her and

answered her affably,
“I’ll come
over now, so
you can stop nagging me. You
gave me a scare
by raising your voice earlier.
”

After hanging up the phone,
Sophia lay on
the bed.

However, Logan wasn’t all that
quick in
coming. He only arrived after a
long time, but
he wasn’t alone. He came with
Ian, claiming
that Ian so happened to get off
work and he
passed by Morgan Group, so he
brought Ian
along.

What a dumb excuse! Morgan
Group isn’t
anywhere near the clubhouse
or my house, so
he has to detour for quite a bit
if he wants
to pass by Morgan Group.
However, Sophia
wasn’t bothered about this, so
she merely

placed the food Logan bought onto the dining table.

“Come on, let’s eat! I’m about to starve to death!”

Logan preferred eating in a group, so he bought quite a lot of food. He and Ian came over before he went to the kitchen to get some cutlery. Then, he asked Ian,

“Do you know how it’s going with the matter back home?”

At this, Sophia suddenly recalled what he told her about the Morgans earlier. Ah, I forgot all about this crucial matter when I’m famished.

Ian shook his head.

“Nope. I didn’t ask either, but Sean came back to the office in the evening when it was almost

time to get
off work. Simon and Sally
weren't with him,
so I guess they've been
grounded.

”

“If your old man kicks those two
reprobates
out of the company because of
this matter,
I'll respect him for being a
man!” Logan
sneered.

Ian shook his head again.

“That's not likely to
happen.

” With Leah

Zimmerman there to beg
for mercy on their behalf, this
matter will
probably end with just some
chastisement.

Logan, however, wasn't at all
bothered.

“No

matter. After this matter has
blown over,
there's still another issue, and
so on. There
must be something that will be
too much for

**your old man, so there'll be a
time when they
won
't get off.
"**

**Ian merely smiled without
commenting.
After a while, Sophia blurted,
"Do you guys
think I should say something on
the Internet
to help John out in putting the
public opinion
to rest? After all, we're still
friends despite
the divorce.
"**

**This reasoning had Logan
dumbfounded. Still,
he answered,
"Well, it won't do
any harm to
help him out a bit since he
actually didn't go
beyond the bounds of propriety.
It's just the
media making up drivel.
"**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 352
Pursing her lips, Sophia
pondered for a**

moment.

“What do you think I should say?

The public opinion is going rather strongly, so I’m afraid that they’ll turn their sights on me when I speak up.

”

After some contemplation, Ian suggested,

“Why don’t you ask Lorraine? She probably knows what to say to make an airtight statement.

”

Upon hearing this, Logan instantly nodded.

“Wait a moment. I’ll give Lorraine a call and ask about it.

” After saying that, he took out his cell phone and called Lorraine before placing it on the table on speakerphone.

Lorraine seemed to be rather swamped since they could hear someone else

speaking in the background. Logan was extremely courteous while speaking to his sister, smiling as he asked,
“Are you free now, Lorraine? I’ve got a question for you.”

On the contrary, Lorraine was very impatient with him, snapping,
“Hold it until I’m done with work.”

After saying that, she hung up right away.

A tad embarrassed, Logan chuckled dryly as he looked up at Ian and Sophia.

“Lorraine is busy. She’s always busy, so it’s already a miracle that she answered my call.”

Sophia and Ian shared a look, then lowered their heads and ate. Subsequently,

Logan put away
his cell phone awkwardly.
No one spoke during the rest of
the meal.

When they were done eating,
Logan promptly
cleared the table. Meanwhile,
Sophia went
over to the sofa and plopped
down. Turning
on the television, she then
chortled.

“Let me
tell you guys something. I came
to blows with
Matilda today.
”

Logan who was placing the
tableware into the
dishwasher in the kitchen
rushed out upon
hearing this.

“Who did you
come to blows
with? Did you win or lose? And
Matilda?
Who’s Matilda?”
Sophia turned and stared at him.
“John’s
mother.
”

It wasn't only Logan, but Ian was also stunned now. Both of them walked over to the sofa.

"Are you hurt, then?"

Ian looked her up and down.

Sophia waved a dismissive hand.

"I just lost a few strands of hair, but I'm otherwise fine.

Matilda, on the other hand, got a slap and a few kicks from me.

"

"You did quite a great job!"

Logan exclaimed.

He then came over and sat down on the sofa before starting mysteriously,

"I

heard quite a few things about John's mother, and that woman is actually not one to be trifled with.

"

Sophia arched an eyebrow.

"What did you hear about his mother?"

**After deliberating for a moment,
Logan
replied,
“It’s said that like John,
his father
was initially engaged to
someone else, but the
girl’s family later went back on
their word,
and the girl got together with
someone else.
Thus, his father had a blind date
with his
mother, and they got together.
”**

**He then
smacked his lips.
“It seems that
when John
was in his teenage years, the
woman with
whom his father was initially
engaged got
divorced. I’ve never asked
about the specific
reason, but that woman
suddenly realized
John’s father’s goodness after
so many years
and came back to look for him.
She knew full**

well that he has a family, yet
she still came
on to him.
”

Ian came over as well and
plopped down on
the other side of Sophia. The
gap between
them was negligible, so much so
that Sophia’s
nosy profile was reflected in
Ian’s eyes. Ian
then subconsciously leaned
close to Sophia,
likewise appearing all intrigued.
The two of
them were very close; Sophia
was turned
sideways, her back to Ian, so it
appeared as
though she was nestled in his
embrace from a
certain angle. Sophia, however,
didn’t notice
all that, her attention on
Logan’s words.
Logan didn’t pay any attention
to Ian either,
continuing surreptitiously,
“It
isn’t certain

whether John's father didn't realize the woman's intentions or he still had feelings for her, but he went out with her a few times.

Soon, John's mother found out about this and went to the woman's parents' house, cursing and smashing things.

”

When Logan had said that, he shook his head.

“Rumor has it that she lay into them and gave them hell, cursing the woman's parents as well.

” When the woman came back upon learning of the uproar at home, she happened to bump into Matilda who was still quite slender and agile at that time. Going up to her, Matilda then grabbed her hair and hit her violently. That woman probably knew that she was in

the wrong, so
she didn't fight back nor say a
single word,
merely taking the beating
silently. Without
waiting for William to come
over, Matilda
then left.

She was elegant during both
her entry and
exit. Even when she was hitting
the woman,
she tried her best to maintain
her image and
didn't allow herself to become
too
disheveled. Judging from this
matter, she's
actually a woman who's quite
swift and
resolute. I don't know what was
discussed
between William and her when
she went
back, but William then cut off
all ties with
that woman.

After thinking for a while,
Sophia said,
"The
woman deserved a beating, but

she shouldn't
have dragged her parents into
it.

" This is
precisely her problem. She just
has to involve
the person's parents. This was
also something
for which she disdained her.
Logan stared at her.

"Therefore,
you're truly
admirable to have beaten her
up.

"

Sophia's brows creased slightly.

"Actually, I
don't care how she rides
roughshod over
others at Constance Residence.
However, I
can
't tolerate it when she comes to
my
territory and criticizes me, even
going so far
as to hit me. I'm not a mellow
person, nor was
I born to be bullied by others.

"

Logan nodded in agreement

with her remark.

“Exactly! I’m of the same opinion. I’m born to enjoy life. Otherwise, why would I make a trip into the world? To suffer and put up with mistreatment? No way!”
Staring at him, Ian then turned to look at Sophia. This time, Sophia sensed him beside her and reflexively turned to glance at him.

However, they were so close that they almost kissed, scaring her so much that she quickly leaned back. Ian straightened as well.

“Sorry, I was a bit too absorbed in Logan’s story just now.”

Sophia chuckled.

“It’s okay.”

At this time, John was standing in the courtyard, staring at the three people inside

through the living room
window. From this
angle, Sophia seemed to be
leaning against
Ian, the two of them appearing
very much
intimate. I wonder if she turned
and kissed
him before they exchanged a
smile earlier.

Frowning, he closed his eyes for
a moment,
having nary a clue as to why he
stood here
and watched for so long.

There's nothing
interesting to see here. Without
going over,
he spun on his heels and left,
climbing back
into his car and speeding off. I
only drove
here because I lost my mind.

There's nothing
interesting here, nothing at all.
On his way back, a call came in
from Old Mrs.
Constance, asking him where he
was and why
he didn't come home after
work. John knew

that she was asking this question out of concern for him. After all, he didn't have to entertain clients much these days, and coupled with all his problems now, there weren't many places he could go. Thus, he said that he'd been wrapping up his work at the office and was now on his way home. At this, she murmured an acquiescence. "We'll wait for you to have dinner." John later hung up and threw his cell phone to the side. Going straight back to Constance Residence, he then parked at the parking lot but didn't alight immediately. He sat there, reclining against his seat while spacing out for a bit.

The Baileys issued a statement in the evening, but it was very simple, merely proclaiming that Isabelle didn't encroach on anyone's love life and thanking the public for their concern. In all honesty, this clarification is no different from making no clarification.

The Returning Ex Chapter 354
The Internet was now abuzz with various speculations about the Bailey Family's statement that John was gripped by the urge to turn a blind eye to them. Today, even after the Baileys came and discussed for a long time, nothing was decided. It's as though they're dissatisfied no matter the course of action, feeling that everything is A-OK

because of the date on my
divorce
certificate.

Worse still, Isabelle cried in the
meeting
room, putting on an aggrieved
expression!

However, he suddenly found
the sight of her
weeping extremely irritating. It
was as

though I was seeing Mom bawl.

While their
methods of expression varied, it
wasn't all

that different. Both wield tears
as a weapon

when tears are something I
detest greatly!

Unbidden, he thought of Sophia.

She never

cried. Even when she was
bullied so badly by

Mom back then, she never once
shed a single

tear. He sat there for a good
while until Old

Mrs. Constance called again
before he

hurriedly climbed out of the car.

Both Old Mrs. Constance and

**William were
waiting in the dining room.
Upon seeing John,
the former flashed him a smile.**

**“Go and wash
your hands before eating.**

**” John
actually had
no appetite, but he did as
ordered.**

**When he took his seat, Old Mrs.
Constance
sighed.**

**“Your father has briefed
me about
the situation at the company. In
my opinion,
if this matter truly can’t be
clarified, just
let it cool by keeping your
distance from
Isabelle. The public has eyes, so
they’ll see
the truth.**

”

**Lifting his head, John glanced at
William.**

**“Dad, don’t you think that the
Baileys’
attitude today and the
statement they**

issued are completely
perfunctory?" During
the negotiation with the Bailey
Family
earlier, he almost lost his
temper and
countered Old Mr. Bailey right
then and
there several times.
He just couldn't shake off the
nagging
feeling that Old Mr. Bailey
wanted to shift
the focus to himself and
Isabelle. Such
sneaky subterfuge that
inadvertently showed
truly had his temper flaring.
William nodded.
"I naturally
saw through
them. In fact, I contemplated
whether to
just go all out and announce
everything today
lest the Baileys put on a show,
but John, I'
ve
got to consider you.
" Glancing
over at Old

**Mrs. Constance, he said tactfully,
“If you have too many issues, your position in the company will definitely be affected and turn shaky. You’ll later be targeted, you know? I’m putting up with it now because I hope that you’ll be able to gain a foothold in the company after this matter blows over.”**

**After a long while, Old Mrs. Constance heaved a sigh.
“You don’t need to be so diplomatic in mentioning this matter before me. I, too, hope that John will take the lead when your generation steps down, so our thoughts are no different. Dylan is indeed quite capable, but he’s too**

gentle and easily
swayed. Nonetheless, he'll be a
good choice
to assist John in the future.
”

William looked at John.
“Naturally, I could
see that you were extremely
upset today,
but we indeed can't go
head-to-head with the
Baileys now. The public opinion
is currently
unfavorable to us, so it won't
look good for
you if the Baileys were to follow
suit.
”

At this, Old Mrs. Constance was
incensed
again.
“That wife of yours is
truly too much!
I've told you from the beginning
itself not to
indulge her too much, but you
didn't listen.
Look what huge trouble she'd
wrought now!
William, you know what? This is
all your

doing. It's you who dragged John into this mess.
”

John leaned back against his chair.

“Alright, alright, let's eat. Mentioning all these things would only lead to a headache.
”

He picked up his knife and fork. There were steak and salad before him, a combination he often ate in the past. He usually ate little for dinner, so a steak and salad were sufficient.

The Returning Ex Chapter 355
Nice! She has just added a new post, and it was a few seconds ago at that. This time, it was a photo of her, Logan, and Ian. The three of them were playing Monopoly, and they were all holding a stack of cards each,

grinning at the camera. Sophia was in the middle, while Logan and Ian flanked her on each side. After staring at the three of them for a long while, John exited the application and strode to the bathroom.

Meanwhile, Sophia giggled after she'd posted the picture.

"Ah, life is truly great! Who doesn't envy such leisurely days?"

With a stack of cards in his hands, Logan grinned.

"Looks like you've got quite the number of properties."
"

At the side, Ian chuckled, only to have Logan cutting him a glare.

"Ian, I'm warning you that I'll get angry if you continue helping her

out. She's now in the lead, so
you've got to
understand this—both you and
I have got to
turn the tables and take the
lead, so you
can
't keep helping her.
”

Ian nodded solemnly.

“Okay,
got it.
”

Intense fury swamped Logan.
Got it, huh? He
always says he got it, but he
always helps
Sophia! “Ian, tell me frankly. Do
you have
feelings for Sophia? We've been
friends for
so many years, yet you've never
been partial
to me. Look at how good you
are to her. I'm
about to get jealous!” he
growled.
Fanning the cards in her hand,
Sophia didn't
take his words seriously at all.
“Whoever is

good to me has to have taken a fancy to me?
What logic is this? I think you're rather good to me as well, so have you also fallen for me?"

Logan promptly leaned back.

"Don't simply spout nonsense! Are you hoping to have a scandal with me? I didn't encroach on your relationship with John, so don't make trouble for me. I don't want to be the second Isabelle."
"

At this, Sophia snorted.

"Let's get on with the game quickly. I've got Leicester Square here. Do you want it? No? If so, move on."
"

"Hah, you don't need to be so smug just because you've got Leicester Square! Just you wait! I've got King's Cross

Station waiting
for you here!” Logan exclaimed.
Upon hearing this, Sophia
lamented for a long
while. In the end, Ian failed to
stifle his
laughter and cracked up.
Subsequently, Logan
chuckled as well.

“What joy! I’m
always so
happy when I’m with the two of
you!”

“Me, too. I haven’t been in such
high spirits
for a while now,

” Sophia
murmured. When she
said ‘for a while’
, it’d indeed
been a very long
time for her; several years, in
fact.

Beside her, Ian chimed in,
“Same here. I
haven’t been this happy in a
long time.
”

The three of them looked at
each other, all
feeling a touch emotional.

While it was understandable in Ian and Sophia's cases since they both had somewhat woeful backgrounds, Logan was purely hypocritical when he claimed that he hadn't been this merry in a while.

The three of them played until a little over 9:00 at night before Logan and Ian headed home. Sophia saw them off at the door.

"I won't be going out in the next few days, so come over if you're free."
"

Having loads of time on his hands, Logan nodded as soon as he heard that.

"Don't worry, I'll come over tomorrow."
"

When they'd left, Sophia went

back into the house and locked the door before checking the windows. I'm living alone without a man here, so I've got to be extremely cautious. She then went back to her room and took a shower. When she came out, she glimpsed a missed call on the screen of her cell phone. It's a recent call from John. Finding it amusing, she stared at her cell phone for a long time. I don't quite understand his thoughts now, but I think I can analyze them. If all these things hadn't happened, he would've found the right time to announce our divorce to the public. Perhaps we would've then parted without hard feelings. However, this series of events forced his

hand

The Returning Ex Chapter 357

A prideful man such as John will naturally

find it chafing, so he's probably feeling

resentful. Hence, he'll be a touch reluctant

to let me go. For that reason, it's normal that

he's pestering me now.

Sophia then put down her cell phone and

applied some skincare products.

When she

was just about to lay down to sleep, a phone

call came in from John again.

After a

moment's contemplation, she answered the

call. Before she could say anything, John

blurted,

"Sorry, wrong number.

"

Such a dumb excuse and lousy acting skills

had her almost bursting into laughter. Mild

exasperation flooded her.

“Since it’s a wrong
number, I’m hanging up.
”

On the other end, John
hurriedly
interjected,

“Wait a moment!”

“What is it?”

John pursed his lips for a long
while before
asking,

“What were you doing
just now?”

All at once, Sophia was
perplexed as to what
he meant.

“I was taking a
shower. Why?”

Pausing for two seconds, John
then
answered,

“Nothing. I’m
hanging up, then.
”

Thereafter, he hung up on her.
Holding the phone in her hand,
Sophia blinked
for a long time. What was the
meaning of
that? And what’s happening

here? What was that insensitive John smoking? After a few seconds, she then put down her cell phone, turned off the lights, and lay down. However, she just couldn't sleep since she'd slept too much during the day. As she turned and tossed, she grew all the more energetic instead.

In the end, she gave up and fumbled for her phone. She went online to browse through gossip, only to see the statement issued by the Bailey Family. This statement feels as though they're avoiding the heart of the matter and dwelling on the trivial instead, having no substance to it. Next, she glanced through the comments below. Most condemned Isabelle, and while

there were some controversial
comments
claiming that it was true love
between
Isabelle and John, those were
severely
attacked by others.

Well, the Baileys aren't quite
bright, are
they? If they didn't want to say
that

Isabelle and John are friends,
they could'

ve
actually stayed silent. Now that
they stepped
forward and gave such a vague
statement,
it's easy to invite
misunderstanding.

Furthermore, there's nothing
else from them
save this sole statement, and
they even
announced that they won't
explain this
matter anymore. In reality,
their explanation
this time is pointless. Sophia
then browsed
for a while, but there was

nothing new; they were all news reports that were going with the tide.

Earlier, Lorraine sent Logan a message detailing what Sophia should say if she wanted to issue a statement.

She didn't provide a template, merely pointing out the aspects Sophia should emphasize if she wanted to help John out.

After pondering for a while, Sophia started composing her piece, mainly explaining the issues between her and John.

Referring to the statement issued by the Constance Family, she then improvised. She made no mention of Isabelle at all, merely speaking of the reasons her marriage with John collapsed, among which she gave voice to the

fact that they were of different worlds to begin with, so while she was very happy during their marriage in the past year, perhaps pain dominated. She couldn't integrate into the lives of the Constance Family, and she wanted greater freedom, so the divorce was a decision that was made after a lengthy discussion with John whereupon they both felt that it was best for each other. When she wrote this, she recalled the scene back when she signed the divorce agreement. Mild sorrow assailed her, but it was faint. After checking several times and ascertaining that there weren't any typos or awkwardness, she then issued the statement. This was her first time doing

such a thing,
and she felt a tad anxious after
doing so. I
wonder if anyone would notice
it. She inhaled
deeply. Sitting on the bed, she
turned and
gazed out the window, spacing
out slightly.

Meanwhile, John was
awakened in the
morning by Zack's call. The first
thing he did
was to glance at the time, only
to notice that
it was still very early. Having
only fallen
asleep in the wee hours last
night, his mind
was muddled right now, so he
was rather
disgruntled when he answered
the call.

"What is it?"

The Returning Ex Chapter 358

Zack quickly blurted,

"Go and
surf the
Internet for a bit. Sophia issued
a statement
last night.

”

At this, John chuckled.

“Don’t
tell me she
hailed me over the coals?”

“No, no, she’d never do that.

”

Zack then

clarified,

“She explained things

for you, but

I’m not sure how the public

opinion will be

today.

”

Sitting up, John leaned against

the head of

the bed.

“Alright, I’ll go and

take a look for

myself.

” He hung up the phone

and went

online to look at gossip. He

didn’t even have

to look for it, for it had already

been bumped

to the top. Sophia is

kind-hearted, after all.

As I said, she’s just a paper tiger.

She

merely dresses herself up with a prickly exterior, but she's actually a very gentle person.

He read the statement Sophia issued several times and concluded that her words weren't for the sole purpose of helping him out. I

think it's actually her true feelings for the most part. She disclosed that she wasn't happy living at the Constance Residence because she couldn't integrate into the lives of the Constance Family.

Besides, she divulged that she always felt somewhat unconfident when she went out with him since she'd never seen much of the world, finding herself at a loss when they went to high-end places. All these are probably things that she'd been

**bottling
within her, so she merely spoke
from her
heart.**

**Below this statement were
loads of
comments that expressed
sympathy for
Sophia. After all, she was a
village girl who
had the good luck of marrying
into a wealthy
family, yet she then realized
that it was a
world she couldn't integrate
into.**

**Thus, she was always on her
toes, living
cautiously every second of
every day. Her
statement was very
down-to-earth, and she
didn't try to conceal her
background either,
frankly admitting to the
shortcomings in her
background, education, and
experience. Such
honesty garnered her a horde
of random
fans.**

After reading this statement,
John knew
that while the public opinion
might not be
completely overturned, it was
indeed of
great help to him. Putting down
his cell
phone, he went to take a
shower before going
downstairs.

William was already downstairs.

While
descending the stairs, John
heard Old Mrs.
Constance lamenting,
“Sophia is
a kind-hearted child. Look how
Matilda bullied her,
yet she isn’t holding a grudge.
Your father
once said that she’s a nice
person, and
indeed, she’s an admirable
person.

”

Looks like they’re aware that
Sophia issued a
statement. When John had
gone downstairs,
he greeted,

“Grandma.

”

**Upon seeing that he was here,
Old Mrs.**

Constance promptly stood up.

**“John, you
know about the statement,
yes?”**

John nodded.

**“Zack called
earlier and
informed me about it.**

”

**Old Mrs. Constance murmured
an
acknowledgment before saying,
“I’m thinking
of going over to Sophia’s place
to visit her.**

**No matter what, we need to
thank her for
doing this.**

”

John didn’t object.

“You’re right.

**Regardless
of how big a help it’ll be to us,
I’m still
grateful to her.**

”

Chortling, Old Mrs. Constance

took his hand
and stroked it lightly.

“Well,
well...

” I just
knew that he’ll be on the losing
end when it
comes to matters of the heart,
and I seem
to have been proven right now.
Not quite comprehending her
meaning, John
merely smiled.

“Do you want
me to go with
you?”

“No, no, I’ll go by myself.

” Old
Mrs.

Constance waved a dismissive
hand. If he
goes with me, I may not be able
to speak
freely with Sophia.

At this, John nodded.

“Okay.

Have the driver
send you there.

”

Subsequently, William got to his
feet as well.

**“Let’s go and have breakfast.
”**

Meanwhile, when Sophia turned on her phone upon waking up in the morning, her cell phone was inundated with unread messages and missed calls. Hmm, this looks about the same as the previous time. Actually, she had a rough idea what they were about without even looking at those messages. Ignoring everything, she went to take a shower. When she came out, her cell phone had gone silent. Glancing at the messages, she saw that they were from Ian, Logan, Robin, and Zack, in regards to the statement she issued.

The Returning Ex Chapter 359

Without replying to their messages, Sophia went downstairs with her cell phone in hand.

After eating a simple breakfast,
she then lay
down on the yoga mat and
stared at the
chandelier on the ceiling. Back
when I was in
the village, I had endless tasks
every day.

At that time, I wondered how
nice it'd be if I
could just lie down peacefully
like this and do
nothing one day. Now, this
dream has come
true, but I find that it's actually
quite boring
to just lie down leisurely.

However, just a few seconds
after she'd lay
down, a car stopped in front of
her house.

She warily sat up at once, for
she couldn't
help thinking that Mrs.
Constance was back
after having lost to her the
previous time.

When she caught sight of the
person who
alighted from the car, her brows
slowly

creased.

It's Old Mrs. Constance walking over with

someone supporting her! After a moment's

deliberation, she pivoted and sprinted

upstairs. She moved quickly, so

Old Mrs.

Constance just happened to reach the door

when she came down again.

Thus, she went

over to open the door.

"Madam.

"

Old Mrs. Constance chuckled.

"You'

ve

changed your address of me pretty quickly.

You're no longer calling me

Grandma, huh?"

Sophia smiled.

"Please come

in.

"

Old Mrs. Constance was helped

into the

house by the servant. She

hadn't been here,

so she looked around as she stood in the living room.

“This wasn’t done by John, was it? It doesn’t look like it.”

Sophia grunted in affirmation.

“He did all the permanent fixtures, but I found the ornamental fixtures not quite to my liking, so I changed them.”

Old Mrs. Constance nodded.

“It’s good that you changed them. It looks great now.”

Sophia then ushered her to the sofa to have a seat. After thinking for a while, she said,

“I have no plain water here, only soft drinks. Would you like to have any?”

At this, Old Mrs. Constance chortled.

“Sure. I haven’t drunk any in a long

time. I remember that I was rather fond of drinking those colorful drinks back when I was young.

”

However, her family forbade her from drinking such drinks, so she later gave them all up.

Sophia hurriedly went over to the refrigerator and took two cans of soft drinks for her. Holding a can in her hand, Old Mrs.

Constance scrutinized it.

“What flavor is this? I haven’t seen this in a long time, so I had no idea that the packaging has changed so much.

”

“It’s orange. There’s a grape-flavored one here. Which one would you like?” Sophia held out the can in her hand.

“I’ll go for orange, then. I like oranges quite a bit.”

Glancing at Old Mrs. Constance, Sophia took out a box from the side and said gingerly,

“Grandma, this was from you back then. I’

ve mulled over it for a while and decided that I

can ’t keep this. I was planning to return it to

John, but I haven’t found the right time to do so.

Now that you’re here, I think I should return this to you.

” The item she was handing to Old Mrs. Constance was the jade pendant she gifted her back then.

Old Mrs. Constance’s gaze fell on the velvet box. After a long while, she asked,

**“Have you
misunderstood something? I’m
not here
because of this.
”**

**“I know,
” Sophia replied.
“You’re probably
here to thank me for helping
John out.
Actually, it’s not a big deal.
When this matter
blows over, I can then relax, so
I’m not really
helping him. Rather, I’m helping
myself.
”**

**Her frankness had relief
suffusing Old Mrs.
Constance. Taking her hand and
placing it
onto her own palm, she sighed
softly.**

**“No
matter what, the Constance
Family owes
you.
”**

Sophia hastily chuckled.

**“No,
not at all. The**

Constance Family doesn't owe me anything.

Conversely, you've given me a lot.

" At least, it was John who gave me this house I'm living in.

Without all this, I might be forced to return to my hometown, and I'm not enthusiastic about going back to that place where I'll have to rely on the weather to make a living.

Since she'd said as much, Old Mrs. Constance

was at a loss for words. After musing for a

while, she murmured,

"John is

actually a very

simple-minded person. All

these years, he has

been focusing on work

wholeheartedly and

neglected other things. Take

Isabelle, for

instance. Do you think he has

feelings for

Isabelle? I don't think so.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 360

If a person has feelings for someone, he'll be sad when he loses her. However, when John was asked to call off his wedding with Isabelle, he wasn't at all heartbroken. Later, he even put in much effort in preparing for his wedding with Sophia. At that time, I was quite distressed on his behalf, feeling that he'd sacrificed too much, but he wasn't at all bothered, merely saying that his grandfather's happiness took precedence. Old Mrs. Constance commented, "When a person has feelings for someone, he'll feel aggrieved when he has to break up with her. However, John wasn't at all affected back then.

”

Sighing, she then continued,
“He isn’t a
person who plays his cards
close to his vest,
so if he truly has feelings for
Isabelle, he
would’ve long since shown it
and told us
outright. But he didn’t. He has
never said
anything, so it means that he
doesn’t like
her.”

As Sophia listened to her, a
faint smile
played on her face. Actually, all
this has
nothing to do with me anymore.
I no longer
care whether he likes Isabelle.
Back then, I
had wanted to keep them apart
out of
resentment, but now, not only
are the
circumstances an issue, but my
mentality
itself has also changed entirely.
After all, he’ll belong to
someone else sooner

or later. The question of who that person is actually hasn't much to do with me. Hence, why should I waste my time and poke my nose into it? I'd be better served spending that time on myself.

Later, when Logan arrived at Sophia's house, he saw the car parked before her gate from afar. He initially thought that it was John, but he then saw that it was the matriarch of the Constance Family upon reaching the courtyard. He was acquainted with her, so he swaggered in.

"You're here, Old Mrs. Constance?"

Startled, Old Mrs. Constance turned and stared at him for a long while before she finally gathered her wits about her.

**“Why
are you here, Logan?”
Grinning, Logan walked over
and sat down.
“I’m friends with Sophia, and I
came to visit
her.
”**

**Only now did Old Mrs.
Constance suddenly
recall William saying that he
bumped into
Sophia with Logan when he ate
out with the
Baileys. At that time, she even
told John to
persuade Sophia to keep her
distance from
Logan. She detested his
abhorrent character
since his clubhouse was
involved in all sorts
of illicit activities.
That place had been raided
several times,
yet he never changed. Such a
stubborn
person would easily stray from
the right
path, so those who associated
themselves**

with him would be easily led astray. She glanced at him, her face neutral with a smile.

“You two are acquainted? Fate truly works in mysterious ways.

”

After seconding that, Logan asked,

“Is John doing okay? I noticed that the public opinion on the Internet had shifted slightly after Sophia issued her statement.

”

Old Mrs. Constance murmured in affirmation.

“He’s okay. This matter will fade in time, so it’ll be fine after letting things cool for a while.

”

At this, Logan nodded.

“You’re right.

”

Sophia had her eyes lowered, saying nary a

word. Actually, she didn't know what to say.

Logan was the kind of person who'd keep the conversation going, so he spent a long time chatting with Old Mrs.

Constance indiscriminately. In the end, it was Old Mrs.

Constance who called a halt. She glanced between Sophia and Logan before getting to her feet in the end.

"I'll leave you two to your devices. Please excuse me.

" She decided not to stay and put Sophia in a difficult position since it was apparent that she hadn't much to say to her considering her intense silence.

All at once, Sophia sprang up with the velvet box in hand.

"Grandma, please take this back.

It's truly a heavy burden for me to keep it.
”

Old Mrs. Constance turned and glanced at the box before finally taking it from her.

“Alright, then. I hope I'll have the opportunity to again give this to you in the future.
”

**The Returning Ex Chapter 361
Sophia burst into laughter, yet she said nothing. There probably won't be such an opportunity anymore. Then, she went with Logan to see Old Mrs. Constance to the car, and the two of them stood at the gate as they watched the car drive away. In the blink of an eye, Logan's solemn expression earlier vanished, and he instantly asked cheekily,
“Why**

did she come
over? Was it to thank you or to
help John win
you back?"

Sophia glared at him.

"What's
wrong with
your brain? Just shut it.
"

The two of them walked toward
the house,

and Logan exclaimed at once,

"Oh yes, let me
tell you something. Back when
the scandal

broke about John and Isabelle, I
had

someone tail Isabelle. Guess
what I
discovered?"

How am I supposed to guess
this? Ignoring
him, Sophia went into the
house right away.

Following eagerly after her,
Logan then
answered his own question,
blurting,

"Isabelle
met up with someone. The
person who did the

tailing for me was brilliant, for
he recorded
the conversation between them.

Do you want
to listen to it?"

Stunned, Sophia's head
snapped back, and
she stared at him.

Meanwhile, over at Morgan
Group, Ian's mind
was sluggish after going
through documents
the entire morning. When it
was almost time
for the lunch break, Mr. Zimmel
came over
and said that he was
entertaining a client
this noon, asking him to tag
along. He'd be
doing a lot of entertaining in
the future, so
he would have to adapt to it
now. However,
he'd initially planned to go over
to Sophia's
place at noon and look in on her,
so he
hesitated for a while.
At this, Mr. Zimmel urged in a
lowered voice,

“Just go and have a look. It’ll benefit you in the future. Your position will only be secure if you can retain clients.”

Thus, Ian nodded.

“Alright, then.

” When lunch break came, he then went out with Mr. Zimmel. The two of them got into the car and drove right to the entrance of a restaurant.

Ian truly loathed the task of entertaining

clients, so he asked,

“Doesn’t such gatherings usually take place at night? Why is this done at noon?”

Chuckling, Mr. Zimmel replied,

“Mr. McCoy is leaving tonight, so this is the only available time. Don’t worry, I’ve already notified the company, so we don’t need to

**go back to the
office in the afternoon.**

**” In
reality, this
wasn’t Ian’s concern. He merely
didn’t want
to be here.**

**Mr. Zimmel alighted from the
car first,**

**followed by Ian. The private
room was
already occupied since almost
everyone from
the other party had arrived.**

**An old-timer at entertaining, Mr.
Zimmel**

**greeted everyone the moment
he entered
the room, laughing and making
small talk.**

**Then, he introduced Ian as Vice
President**

**Morgan, saying that he’d just
joined the**

**company and was still
familiarizing himself
with the business, even
deliberately**

**emphasizing that he was Sean’s
brother.**

Upon hearing this, the crowd’s

**gaze instantly
changed, and they showed him
great
enthusiasm. Forcing a smile, Ian
greeted
everyone.**

**When they sat down to talk
business, Ian
mostly remained silent. In fact,
he didn't
quite know what to say either,
his mind
having wandered off long ago.
By a stroke of coincidence, John
was also
entertaining a client this noon.
It was initially
William who was supposed to
come, but he
heard that the other party was
Focker when
it was almost time for lunch
break, so he
immediately offered to take
over. He once
had contact with Focker, and
that old man
was no decent person, bringing
with him a
bottle of spiked wine and even
persuading**

him to drink a glass. This was something he never forgot.

John arrived at the restaurant first, with

Focker only showing up after he'd waited for

almost half an hour. Grinning widely, Focker

came over and grabbed his hand as soon he

entered the room.

"It's been a

long time,

President Constance!"

John nodded.

"It's indeed been

a long time.

"

They hadn't seen each other ever since their meeting at the bar back then.

I've been

rather busy these days, so I

haven't taken

the time to give him a taste of his own

medicine.

Oblivious to his thoughts,

Focker's face was

wreathed in a huge smile.

The Returning Ex Chapter 362

There wasn't anyone else here since Focker wasn't fond of having too many people. John didn't mind either as he summoned a server over and ordered a feast. In the relatively huge private room, he and Focker then proceeded to eat and drink. Neither mentioned the incident at the bar back then. Focker merely remembered that John left the bar with a woman that day, but he paid no attention to the woman's countenance since he was under the influence of drugs, his excitement palpable. Instead, he only had eyes for the woman in his arms. The two of them ordered a few bottles of wine and started drinking without inhibition. After guzzling down a few

glasses of wine,
Focker's nasty habit reared its
head.

"You
can
't be going back to the office
after
drinking now, huh? How about I
bring you
somewhere nice to have some
fun later?"

John chuckled.

"I'll bring you
somewhere to
have fun later. After all, it can't
always be
you making arrangements for
entertainment.

"

Upon hearing this, Focker
laughed heartily
and pointed a finger at him.

"You're a smart
one, President Constance. I love
dealing with
smart people.

"

John merely smiled without
saying anything.
If one drank a lot, he would
definitely have

to go for a bathroom break, so John then left the private room under the pretext of going to the washroom. As soon as he walked out, however, he gave Zack a call. When Zack received the call, he immediately said, "Everything is ready."
"

Murmuring an acknowledgment, John promptly hung up. He then went to the washroom and lit a cigarette by the sink. Although he'd been pushing drinks on Focker, he himself drank quite a bit as well, so his stomach was feeling a tad unsettled now. After finishing a cigarette, he then stubbed it out and threw the cigarette butt into the trash can. The moment he turned around, he caught sight of

Ian who was walking in.

Both of them were stunned for a moment.

His face is slightly flushed, so he must have

drunk quite a bit as well.

Looking at him, John asked,

“You’re here to entertain a client?”

After murmuring an affirmation, Ian then

went over to the sink and washed his hands.

Now, John was no longer in a hurry to leave.

“How’s it going with your family?” He heard

that Simon and Sally had been summoned

home by Bryce, but he didn’t know how it

ended.

Ian knew that it was him who got the

evidence for Simon and Sally’s misdemeanors

that was now in Logan’s hands, so he still

helped him indirectly even if he did that for

Sophia's sake. Thus, his tone
was amiable
when he answered,
"They were
dressed down
and asked to return the money
they
pocketed both outside and
within the
company. Then, the matter is
considered
closed."
"

John snickered.
"Sure enough.
It's exactly
per my guess."
"

Leaning against the sink, Ian
hugged his
shoulders.
"What about you?
Sophia stepped
forward and spoke up for you,
so things
should be much better for you,
yes?"
At the mention of Sophia, the
atmosphere
between them shifted subtly.
John grunted

in affirmation.

“Yeah, things are
much better
now.

”

Thereafter, both of them went
silent,
neither having any idea what to
say. Out of
the blue, John recalled the
scene he
witnessed in Sophia’s courtyard
last night.

He just couldn’t quite get over it,
so after a
brief contemplation, he began,
“You...

”

Staring at him, Ian cocked an
eyebrow. John,
however, trailed off, swallowing
the rest of
his words on second thought.

At this, Ian
smirked.

“I’m going over to
Sophia’s place
after this. Is there anything
you’d like me to
convey to her?”

John snorted.

**“It’s okay. I can
just go over
and look for her if I have
something to tell
her.
”**

**Ian nodded.
“True enough.
”**

**At long last, John spun on his
heels and left.**

**“Please excuse me.
” His**

**expression was
initially amicable, yet it’d all but
vanished
when he’d exited the
washroom. He’s still
going over to Sophia’s place in
the afternoon?**

**Looks like their relationship is
really close.**

**When he returned to the
private room,
Focker was on the phone with
his wife. His
tone was tender when he said
that he was
entertaining a client outside
and might be a
bit late in going home.**

The Returning Ex Chapter 363

The person on the other end didn't suspect anything amiss. As John walked past Focker, he could vaguely hear the other person reminding him not to drink too much and to watch out for his health. Focker fervently concurred, yet when he raised his eyes to look at John, he had a smirk on his face.

John snickered as well, sitting down while he waited for Focker to end his phone call. Mrs. Wolfe was quite a long-winded person, nagging for a long time before she hung up.

After hanging up the phone, impatience instantly showed on Focker's face.

"Women are just garrulous!"

John chuckled.

"It's nice that

someone

cares.

” After saying this, he abruptly remembered that Sophia used to call him back when they just got married. It seemed that every time she called, he was drinking while entertaining. She was a tad cautious when she called, merely reminding him to drink less. At that time, they actually weren’t all that close, so he felt rather perturbed at her word of caution, finding it discomfiting. Having no one to remind him now, however, an inexplicable feeling of envy flooded him. Taking out his cell phone, he opened Facebook again and re-sent Sophia a friend request. He’d never done such a thing before,

**nor did he understand what
was wrong with
himself now. Now, he just felt a
tad restless
and inexplicably agitated,
having the urge to
do something, yet not knowing
what to do.**

**Focker had long since finished
eating, so**

**John suggested that they
adjourn to the
next destination. There was a
car waiting
downstairs, and they got in
together. When
the car had started moving, he
happened to
spot Ian and his entourage
leaving the
restaurant through the
rear-view mirror.**

**This fella is going over to
Sophia's place when
he's done here. Why on earth is
he going
there, reeking of alcohol and
cigarette
smoke? His expression went
glacial.**

The car drove along leisurely

before finally
coming to a stop in front of a
hotel. A touch
puzzled, Focker turned to look
at John.

Chuckling, John said,

“I’ve
already booked a
room, so you don’t need to
register with your
name.

” At this, Focker breathed
a sigh of
relief.

The two of them went in right
away and took
the elevator up. When they
stepped out of
the elevator, Zack was already
waiting,
standing outside a room. Upon
seeing John
and Focker approaching, he
smiled.

“It’s been
a long time, Mr. Wolfe.

” Focker
merely
flashed him a smile in return.
Then, Zack
quickly knocked on the door.

Subsequently, the door was opened from the inside, revealing a beautiful girl standing there. All at once, Focker perked up. John then went into the room with him. There was another woman in the room, standing by the window. At the sight of him, she sashayed over and reached out to take his arm.

“Hey,
why are you so late?”

John smirked.

“I just finished lunch earlier, and there was a bit of traffic on the way, so this is considered fast.

”

The woman thumped him on the chest.

“You
rogue! I’ve been waiting for you
anxiously.

”

At the side, Focker gazed at John with a

lascivious look on his face. After all, such a thing between men didn't require any explanation. The girl in his arms seemed much younger than John's, so he was very much satisfied. Caressing the girl's face, he asked,

"Are you of age?"

At the side, John burst out laughing.

"We don't do anything that violates the law, Mr. Wolfe."
"

Chuckling, Mr. Wolfe's eyes roamed the girl's body.

"My bad."
"

Meanwhile, Zack remained waiting at the door, leaning against the wall with a leg bent.

After waiting for a while, John came out with his jacket off and two of his

shirt buttons
unfastened. Otherwise, he
seemed fine. Zack
stared at him for a moment
before asking,
“Are you okay?” With a glare
from John,
Zack instantly shut his trap.
The Returning Ex Chapter 364
As John walked away, he said,
“Wait for a
while here. When they come
later, you can
leave.
” Zack instantly
responded with an
affirmation.
Exiting the hotel, John got into
the car. The
driver then asked,
“Where are
we going, Mr.
Constance?”
John mulled it over for a while,
but he just
didn’t know where to go. It
seems that there
aren
’t many places I can go either.
After a
brief hesitation, he slowly

recited an
address.

Meanwhile, at Sophia's house,
Logan kept
hanging around, making her
feel a tad
irritated. She'd asked him
several times why
he hadn't left, but Logan put on
a guileless
face.

"Why? You don't regard
me as a friend
anymore? Are you finding me a
bother?"

Revolted by his pretentiousness,
Sophia spun
on her heels and went upstairs,
no longer
interested in looking at his face.

Sprawled on the sofa
downstairs alone, Logan
watched television merrily, so
much so that
Sophia could hear his laughter
from upstairs.

This rat b*stard is truly
unrestrained in his
guffawing. Will my neighbors
misunderstand
when they see this man coming

to my house
every day when I'm an
unmarried woman?
After listening to his
merry-making in the
room for a while, she then
walked over to the
window.

Gazing into the distance, her
mind went to
the recording Logan played
earlier. It turns
out that some of those who are
playing up
the issue on the Internet is
Isabelle's doing.

This woman is truly not that
bright. She
shouldn't be having people
commenting that
it's true love between her and
John at this
juncture. When this is too
prevalent, it'll be
even easier to establish her
reputation as a
homewrecker.

Smirking, Sophia also thought,
She would'
ve
been better served to have

people
commenting that there's
nothing between
them. After all, it's only when
she
whitewashes herself would her
path be
broader and breezier in the
future. She
really shouldn't be jumping into
the muddy
waters of being a homewrecker,
for even if
she manages to get out in the
end, she'll
never be pure once more.
Still, I wonder whether John is
aware of
this. Sophia had the urge to tell
John about
this, but she was also a tad
hesitant. So what
if I tell him? To make him hate
Isabelle? She
ruminated for what felt like an
eternity while
standing there.
Then, she caught sight of John's
car, but the
car didn't drive over to her
house. Instead, it

stopped a near distance away.
Thereafter, no
movement could be discerned.
No one
alighted from the car; the only
thing was
that the engine was turned off.
She stared
fixedly at the car for a long
while. After a
moment's deliberation, she
then went
downstairs.

Logan was still sprawled on the
sofa, a leg
resting on the sofa's armrest.
Now, he was
still watching television,
laughing
uproariously. Wearing a long
face, Sophia
walked past him, only to have
him promptly
sit up.

“Hey, hey, where are you
going? Are
you going out? I'll go with you.
Are you going
to shop for groceries? I'll help
to carry the
groceries. If you go alone—”

“Just zip it!” Sophia strode out of the living room without a backward glance, making a beeline for John’s car. The driver knew her, so after a moment’s contemplation, he opened the door and alighted from the car upon seeing her approach. Then, he even considerately wound down the window on John’s side.

Going over, Sophia had both hands stuck in her pockets as she stood outside the car door. She gazed at John, who was in the car, reclining against the seat with his eyes closed, his cheeks tinged with a slight flush.

At a single glance, she could tell that he was drunk. Mild surprise swamped her. Firstly, John’s alcohol tolerance has always been

good, so I wonder how much
he'd imbibed
that he ended up in such a
drunken state.

Secondly, why is he foxed at
this time? Is it
because he doesn't have much
work, so he's
taking the afternoon off?
Logically speaking,
people go out and drink at
night.

John seemed to be asleep since
he'd been
motionless all along.

After watching at the side for a
while, the
driver went over to Sophia.

"Mr.

Constance

entertained a client at noon.

Then, he told me

that he wanted to come here,

but he also

said not to go too near and just

park a

distance away,

" he murmured

in a whisper.

Sophia chuckled.

"Mr.

Constance has probably drunk too much, so the alcohol has muddled his mind. You should just drive home and have him sleep it off.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 365

The driver was a touch reluctant.

“I don’t dare go against Mr. Constance’s orders.
”

John was usually taciturn and rather aloof in nature, so people around him generally had a healthy fear of him. He was the kind of person who rarely spoke unnecessarily, and his decisions were final without needing anyone to help him change his mind.

After staring at John for a while, Sophia sighed.

“Never mind, then. You’re not in my

territory anyway, so just stay if you'd like to.

" After saying that, she then sashayed away.

When she'd left, John, who was in the car, slowly opened his eyes. His eyes were slightly red, but they still appeared lucid.

Meanwhile, the driver then climbed back into the car after some time.

However, he didn't glance over his shoulder at John, merely taking out his cell phone and surfing the Internet for gossip.

At first, John stared at the back of the front seat. Then, he slowly turned his head and gazed in the direction of Sophia's house.

The door to Sophia's house was opened, but he couldn't make out who was inside since it

was quite a distance away. A car was parked in her courtyard, but the fence blocked its view, so he couldn't see it clearly either. It's probably Ian. At this, he heaved a sigh.

Nonetheless, John didn't stay long. When Sophia went back to the window after going through her driving test questions, his car was already gone. He has probably left.

After standing by the window for a long while, she took out her cell phone, only to see that John's friend request was still there.

Actually, it's really pointless for him to do this. If he keeps pestering me, we'll only be going around in circles. In the end, she didn't accept it. As before, she exited the application and pretended as

though she
hadn't seen it.
Meanwhile, Logan was having
loads of fun
alone downstairs. He'd put on
music loudly,
singing and dancing by himself.
Her patience quickly coming to
an end, Sophia
went out of her room and stood
on the
second-floor landing.

"Can you
please lower
the volume? You're so d*mn
noisy!"

Still bopping downstairs, Logan
looked up at
her.

"Come down and dance
with me!"

Sophia merely stared at him
without saying a
single word. Grinning, Logan
then added,

"Lorraine just phoned me
earlier, asking me
to go home for dinner. I told her
that I'm at
your place, and she invited you
to my place.

”

Stunned, Sophia’s first reaction was to decline the invitation. However, when the words were just at the tip of her tongue, she suddenly felt that it seemed rather rude to refuse. Thus, she pursed her lips. “I’m recently embroiled in a scandal, so I’ll take a rain check. After all, I don’t want to drag you all into this mess.

”

“Am I the type of person who’s afraid of a scandal? I’ve got even more scandals than you. Besides, you’ve got a positive image in this scandal. Look at mine. I’m about to become the face of a crime crackdown!”

Despite Logan’s words, the pride on his face was evident.

Sophia couldn’t figure out why

he was being
so optimistic. Is the undisguised
joy written
all over his face real when he's
bringing up
such negative press?

Logan lifted his eyes to look at
her.

"Seriously, just come over to
my house. I'll
call Ian as well. The two of you
are my only
friends, so I want to bring you
both home for
a visit.

" Surprisingly, his eyes
seemed to be
shining like stars.

After staring at him for forever
and a day,
Sophia nodded.

"Okay.

" I think I
should go
and thank Lorraine in person.
Upon hearing her acquiescence,
Logan's
bopping abruptly stilled.
Eagerly sprinting
over to the sofa, he leaped over
with a hand

propped on the back of the sofa.
Then, he
snatched up his cell phone on it.
“I’ll give Ian
a call, and we’ll set out for my
house when he
arrives. Well, honestly speaking,
I’
ve never
brought any friends home!”
Sophia laughed silently at his
antics. Why is
this Young Master Jefferson
acting so much
like a young pupil?

The Returning Ex Chapter 366
When Logan called up Ian, he
was already on
the way here.

While dropping by at the
company just now,
Ian had bumped into Sean, and
both of them
were chattering about for a
moment.

In a nutshell, Sean was
explaining to Ian the
incident regarding Simon and
Sally.

Not long ago, both of them
were caught red?handed for

using the company's name to invest in some other company.

Furious, Bryce felt that both Simon and Sally were playing tricks.

Hence, both had their authorities reduced.

With that, Sean deliberately asked Ian to help him out by taking up some of the responsibilities.

Obviously, Ian knew of Sean's underlying intention—Sean was attempting to redirect the fire toward him.

Since Simon and Sally had been punished, their responsibilities had fallen into Sean's hands.

Considering they would think of all ways to gain back their authority, Sean would surely be targeted.

However, by distributing some of the tasks to Ian, Sally and Simon, who

didn't like Ian
from the start, would choose to
target him
instead of Sean.

While they were focusing on
targeting Ian,
Sean, on the other hand, could
focus on
settling half of the
responsibility given to
him.

By then, the die would've been
cast—the
authority given to Ian would
likely be
returned to Sally and Simon,
while Sean still
got to hold his own share of
authority.

Clearly, Sean was only taking
advantage of
him.

However, Ian was not a fool to
fall for such a
trick. With a smile, Ian turned
down the
offer and said that he could
barely cope with
his current responsibility.

True enough, Ian was
overwhelmed with his

current work and couldn't handle more.

Hearing that, Sean didn't insist and told Ian to take things slowly.

Leaning against the car, Ian picked up Logan's call and was told to drop by Jefferson Mansion.

Hesitated, Ian was wondering whether it was appropriate. No doubt, he was close with Logan, but he had yet to step in Jefferson Mansion.

He had also met the four Young Ladies of the Jefferson Family, but it was only a nodding acquaintance.

Besides the fact that they weren't that close to begin with, Ian was uncertain whether they would look down on his identity.

When Ian was still absorbed in his thought, Logan concluded,

**“All right
already! Since
you
're on the way, we might as
well go to my
place together. That's settled!
Sophia and I
will be waiting for you at her
place.
”**

**Saying that, Logan hung up the
phone.**

**Punching on his forehead, Ian
slowly put down
his phone.**

**Meanwhile, when Logan was
entertaining
himself downstairs, Sophia was
upstairs
having a quick wash and putting
on light
makeup.**

**Just then, Sophia figured she
couldn't visit
empty-handed, but it was too
late for them
to buy something along the
way.**

**Walking down the stairs, Sophia
gazed at
Logan and said,**

**“I’m telling you
now. The gifts
I’m about to bring to your place,
those were
given to me by Matilda. I don’t
have time to
buy any gifts.
”**

**Surprised for a moment, Logan
waved his
hands and said,
“You don’t have
to bring
anything over. We’re a family,
so there’s no
need for such formalities.
”**

**Having said that, Sophia still
went up to one
of the rooms to pick up a couple
of gifts.**

**“I
don’t need it anyway. You
reckon these will be
fine?”**

**All these were indeed good
stuff, but Logan’s
family probably didn’t lack any
of it.**

**Anyhow, Sophia thought she
might as well**

still bring something over.

“I’ll

bring these,

then.

”

While waiting for Ian to arrive,

they placed

the gifts into Logan’s car.

With Logan driving, they passed

by Sophia’s

shop on the way. Casting a

quick glance at the

shop, the workers were still

around, and

Sophia noticed that the

renovation was

almost done from the outside,

leaving only

the interior parts to be

completed.

Taking in a deep breath, Sophia

felt

inexplicably excited, as she was

about to

start her own business very

soon.

As soon as they arrived at

Jefferson

Mansion, Sophia was taken

aback upon

getting out of the car.

**How immeasurably rich was the
Jeffersons?**

**In the garden, there were
artificial hills,
fountains, and even a fish pond.**

The Returning Ex Chapter 367

**Admiring the countless fishes in
the pond,**

**Sophia couldn't tell what type
of fish they**

**were, but she thought they
looked really**

pretty.

**As soon as they stepped into
the mansion,**

**servants had come out to greet
and inform**

them that the four Young

Mistresses had

arrived.

**Feeling a little nervous, Sophia
thought of**

the first time she had visited

Constance

Residence.

**Back then, she was just an
amateur, and**

**every step taken was uneasy for
her.**

**"Don't worry, my family won't
bite. They are**

nice people,
” assured Logan as
he glanced at
both Ian and Sophia.
With that, Sophia recalled
meeting Old Mr.
Jefferson and the third Young
Lady,
Lorraine Jefferson. Both of
them were really
nice.

Following Logan’s lead, they
stepped into the
large living hall. Old Mr.
Jefferson was
sitting on the couch, whereas
the four Young
Ladies were sitting at the
opposite.

When they entered, the fourth
Young Lady,
Lysa Jefferson, was
bad-mouthing Logan,
saying that his clubhouse was
reported to
the police again.

Hearing that, Logan
reprimanded,
“What are
you saying? My clubhouse
wasn’t reported.

**That person was just drunk and
was talking
nonsense. I'm a decent
businessman, so don't
accuse me wrongly.
"**

**Darting a glance at Logan,
Lorraine scoffed,
"Decent businessman?"
Standing still, Sophia and Ian
didn't move
forward.
Noticing the both of them at
the door,
Lorraine rose up from her seat.
"Ian, Sophia,
c
'mon over and have a seat.
We've been
expecting you.
"**

**To show hospitality, Lorraine
held Sophia's
hands and saw the ring on her
finger. With a
serene smile, she said,
"I see
that you still
have your ring on.
"**

Startled, both Sophia and Ian

**gazed at
Sophia's finger at the same
time.**

**Smiling, Sophia explained,
"This
is not a
wedding ring. It's just a ring I
bought for
myself.
"**

**With a smile on her face,
Lorraine gently
reminded,
"I see. If it really was
the wedding
ring, the media would probably
make a big
scene out of it.
"**

**Thinking it through, Sophia
realized the
underlying meaning in
Lorraine's words.
Lorraine was simply reminding
her about the
people who were unaware of
the whole
situation, and might mistake it
as a wedding
ring on her finger.
Since they had divorced, people**

might
assume that Sophia still
harbored feelings
for her previous marriage.
Hence, the saying about parting
ways in
peace would unlikely make
sense.

“My bad for not putting that
into
consideration,
” admitted
Sophia as she took
off the ring and placed it into
her pocket,
smiling.

Since it was still early, there
were some
fruits and snacks served on the
table.

They would probably proceed
to have a meal
after a short chat here.

Out of courtesy, Lorraine led
Sophia to take
a seat on the couch.

Though Old Mr. Jefferson didn't
do much, he
was all smiles.

Gazing at Sophia, the first
Young Lady,

Lynett Jefferson, said,
“You
must be Logan’s
friend? Considering you’re a
friend of his,
you must be very tolerant.
”

Dumbstruck, Sophia and Ian
didn’t know how
to react. Somehow, the
Jefferson Family
didn’t seem very kind toward
Logan.

Initially, Logan was quite
excited on the way
here, but now he was seen
pulling a long face.

Redirecting the topic back to
Sophia,
Lorraine chuckled.

“I’ve seen
the news on the
Internet. Don’t stress yourself
over it. Those
are nothing much compared to
all the
conflicts within the
entertainment world. You
stay strong and chin up, OK?”
Nodding her head, Sophia did
think she was

mentally quite strong.

“I’m
fine.
”

“Seeing how good your appetite
was, you did
look like you weren’t bothered.
Anyhow,
you
’re not the person they were
criticizing
anyway,

” Logan chimed in.

Darting a glare at Logan,
Lorraine said,

“Don’t
interrupt!”

Glaring back at Lorraine, Logan
didn’t dare to
say another word.

The Returning Ex Chapter 368

In a nutshell, Lynett explained
what was
discussed over the Internet. She
mentioned
that it was wise of Sophia to
have stepped up
and explained on behalf of
John.

At the very least, things had
turned for the

better.

“Regarding this incident, it will be wise to settle as it is. You’ve done your part by explaining, so you don’t need to be bothered by the comments over the Internet. Besides, there might be a backlash if you spoke too much.

”

“Alright, I understand.

” Sophia nodded.

Turning her gaze toward Ian, Lynett said,

“I

heard you’ve started working at the Morgan Group. How’s everything? Have you gotten used to it already?”

“To be honest, I haven’t adapted to it yet.

There’s still so much stuff I do not know of,

”

Ian replied with a smile.

Hearing that, Logan was all

**hyped up and
moved closer toward Lorraine.**

**“Lorraine,
didn’t you mention investing in
a talent show?**

**Why not consider Ian? I think
he’ll be great.**

”

**With that, Sophia immediately
turned to look
at Lorraine.**

Surprised, Lorraine gazed at Ian.

**“Do you
wish to participate in the talent
show? You’**

re

not planning to work?”

**Before Ian could reply, Logan
had replied on
his behalf,**

“He’s quitting for

sure! If he can

**be an artist, who needs the
Morgan Group?**

**Besides, Sean is the head of the
company.**

**Instead of working under Sean,
Ian might as**

**well find another path that suits
him better.**

”

Previously, Lorraine had heard
Ian sing and
thought he inherited his talents
from his
mother. His voice was unique,
and he was
really natural in expressing the
song.

If he would participate in the
talent show, he
would indeed perform really
well.

Upon thinking about it, Lorraine
nodded her
head in approval.

“If you
participate in the
talent show, I’ll guarantee that
you can be
one of the top.
”

For such an investment, most of
the top-notch entertainment
companies would
recommend their own
candidates to
participate in the competition.
Thus, it
wouldn’t be difficult for
Lorraine to put Ian
forward.

Then again, if there was a strong competitor in the talent show, it would be difficult for them to place Ian up to the top by force because it might stir up a negative effect.

Hence, she dared not promise the moon.

Seeing that Ian was hesitating, Sophia gave him a nudge on the leg.

“Give it a try! I’m sure you can do it!” she encouraged.

Without replying, Ian smiled.

“There’s no need to rush because the program has yet to be confirmed. You still have a little more time to think about it.

Once you have made up your mind, feel free to contact me,” suggested

Lorraine, a smile on her face.

Once again, before Ian could

reply, Sophia
acted like Logan and answered
on his behalf,
“Great! We’ll contact you once
we have come
to a decision.
”

“It’s nice to see the three of you
getting
along so well together,
”

beamed Lorraine.
Really? Sophia thought they got
along pretty
well, too.

During mealtime, there was a
variety of food
served on the table, and Sophia
couldn’t even
name some of the dishes.

Flustered, Sophia thought of
the time when
she had a meal with John.
She was afraid that she would
do anything

wrong and humiliate herself.
Taking the seat next to Sophia,
Logan said,
“Don’t worry. Make yourself at
home and help
yourself with anything.

”

“How I wish I had a little sister
instead of
this sloppy little brother,
”

grumbled Lysa.

Without being intimidated by
Lysa, Logan
started his complaints about
her.

Lifting an eyebrow, Sophia
gazed at the food
on the table.

In comparison with the
Constances, both
were considered relatively big
families, but
the atmosphere here with the
Jeffersons
seemed very different. Though
none of the
sisters’ husbands were present
today,
somehow, Sophia could tell that
even with
them around, the mood around
the house
would still be way better than
the Constance
Family.
In contrast, regardless of how

many family members in the Constance Family, the atmosphere around the house was overall tense.

The only pleasant time she could ever recall was during Mr. Owen's birthday, wherein everyone had plastered a smile on their face only when she tried to liven up the atmosphere.

Gazing at Old Mr. Jefferson and the four Young Ladies of the Jefferson Family, Sophia thought everyone here got along with each other really well.

The Returning Ex Chapter 369
Sophia couldn't help but wonder who would be so blessed to marry Logan. After dinner, everyone gathered to sit around the garden as there were rattan chairs by the fish pond.

Supporting Old Mr. Jefferson,
Logan slowly
led him to take his seat, while
the servants
served tea.

Although it was evening, the
sky wasn't pitch
black yet, so it was an enjoyable
moment to
sit around admiring the artificial
hills,
fountains, as well as the fishes
in the pond.

In the past, Sophia thought that
she had
been living the life of Riley, but
now, she
realized she had yet to see the
rest of the
world.

Now, everyone was just
chewing the rag.

Leaning against the chair,
Lorraine said,

“Actually, before that incident
happened, the
Bailey Family had contacted me
once.
”

Surprised, Logan was the first to
react.

“What? Why did they call you?”

Lorraine chuckled.

“What else?

They called

to seek an opportunity for a

collaboration. To

**be honest, I felt they weren’t
really sincere**

**because ultimately, the core of
our business**

is very different from the

Baileys’ business.

**If I’m not wrong, they intend to
contact**

Lydia through me.

”

The second Young Lady, Lydia

Jefferson, was

in charge of the overseas

market sales. From

the looks of it, the Bailey Family

intended to

expand their business overseas.

With a snort, Logan grumbled,

“The Baileys

have just started a business

relationship

with the Constances, and now

they are

approaching our family? How

daring of them.

”

Giggling softly, Lorraine continued,

“A few days later, that incident over the Internet happened. Since then, the Baileys have not contacted me.

”

Gazing toward Sophia, she said,

“Then again, even without that scandal, I don’t reckon our family will work with the Baileys.

”

At that, she let out a long sigh.

“In terms of business partners, I prefer to work with people that are kindred souls.

As for the Baileys...

” She shook her head.

“No can do!”

Out of curiosity, Sophia asked,

“Why not?”

Lorraine cast a glance at Sophia, saying,

“The

Baileys are not honest folks.

About the

recent scandal, didn't you

notice that the

news was somewhat stirred

intentionally?"

Previously, Sophia had heard

from Logan—

Isabelle had hired paid posters

to bombard

the Internet with messages.

Hearing that, Sophia pursed her

lips and

didn't utter a word.

With a grin, Lorraine said,

"After all, the

Baileys and the Constances did

agree on the

arranged marriage, but it was

eventually

called off because of you. So, it

is no

surprise that they were

unhappy about it.

"

One of the scariest things to

have in life was

probably an uncontented heart.

If one didn't

feel content, they could be so

blinded to an

extent that they might even get
their hands
on something which they didn't
even like.

What was the point of insisting
if it only
brought harm to oneself and
affected people
around?

"Which is why I said, the Baileys
and I are
not kindred spirits, so I prefer
not to do
business with them,

" Lorraine
concluded.

Slowly nodding her head,
Sophia said,

"I see
now.

"

Meanwhile, Old Mr. Jefferson
was chatting
with Ian and mainly asking
about the recent
happenings in the Morgan
Family.

In a reserved manner, Ian
briefly said that
he was still quite new to the
company and

there was still a lot to learn. As
for within
the Morgan Family, everything
seemed
harmonious.

Taking a gander at Ian, Lorraine
lowered her
voice to speak with Sophia.

“If
Ian wishes to
seek another path in life,
participating in the
talent show will be a good
option. After all, it
gets more difficult to remain in
the Morgan
Group over the long run.

”

Gazing at Ian, Sophia agreed,
“Indeed, it’s
not easy for him.

”

After a long chat with the
Jeffersons, the
sky had turned dark, so Sophia
and Ian
decided to make a move.
Initially, Logan wanted to leave
together, but
he was grabbed by Lorraine by
the collar.

“When was the last time you spent the night here? Don’t just drop by and leave all the time. You should stay around to accompany Dad more often.”

Gnashing his teeth, Logan dared not say another word.

With that, Lorraine asked the driver to send Ian and Sophia home.

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Once they got in the car, Ian asked the driver to send Sophia home first as he was not in a rush.

With no objections, Sophia began to talk about how adorable the Jeffersons were.

As soon as the car arrived at Sophia’s home, she got off, and Ian followed after.

Surprised, Sophia asked, “What’s the matter?”

With a smile, Ian said,
“Nothing.
You go on in.
I’ll stay until you get in.
”

Sophia chuckled.
“Why? You’re
afraid there’ll
be thieves in my house? That
won’t happen.
”

Saying this, she walked toward
her house.
As usual, the door was locked
and could only
be unlocked with fingerprints.
Gazing back at
Ian, she assured,
“It’s fine. You
can go now.
”

After thinking about it, Ian
turned and got
into the car.
Closing the door behind her,
Sophia slipped
on the indoor slippers.
However, before she reached
the staircase,
her phone rang.
Getting out her phone from the

bag, she
smiled as she saw it was Ian
who called.

As she turned to look outside,
she saw Ian
was out of the car and running
toward her
house.

Puzzled, she went to open the
door and
asked,

“What—”

Before she could finish her
sentence,

however, Ian put away his
phone and signaled
her to hush up, whispering,

“Wait for me in
the car.

”

The driver had gotten out of the
car as well.

Frowning, Sophia was confused.

“What’s
wrong?”

Pointing upstairs, Ian said,

“I

saw someone.

”

Startled, Sophia asked,

“Someone? Where?”

In my house?"

**"Yes, upstairs. You'd better go
outside and
wait,**

" whispered Ian.

**Slightly trembling in fear,
Sophia thought it
was no joke to have someone
waiting to seize
you at home.**

**Nodding her head, she went out
of the living
room while signaling the driver
to come over
and help Ian out.**

**Who knew who that person
was? And with
Ian alone facing that person,
she felt
worried.**

**Once the driver went into the
house, Sophia
didn't get into the car but
scanned through
the yard and grabbed a stick at
the corner.**

**Previously when she was
cleaning the house,
the mop was spoiled, left with
the stick.**

Swaying the stick around,

Sophia thought
this would work as a good
defense tool, so
she went back into the house.
When she saw that Ian and the
driver were
already slowly walking up the
stairs, she let
out a cough to hint Ian that she
should go up
first.

Surely, that person knew she
was back, and
he would suspect if she didn't
appear.

Disregarding Ian, Sophia said,
"Oh god, I'm
so tired! Such a busy day."
"

With that, she walked up
vigorously while
holding the stick in her hands.
With Ian following closely and
quietly behind,
Sophia walked toward her room,
but she
stopped abruptly at the door.
Since she was living alone,
before she left
the house, she would often
leave the room

door and windows open to promote ventilation.

However, the door was now closed.

Holding on tightly to the stick, Sophia went to open the door.

Scanning through the room, she didn't notice anything different, and the room still looked organized and tidy.

Stepping into her room, Sophia whined on

purpose,

“Ah, another boring day with nothing much to do.

”

Saying that, she walked over to check out the bathroom, but there was no one inside.

Surprised, Sophia wondered where else could the person hide.

Turning around, she saw Ian standing beside the closet.

Nodding her head, Sophia

guessed that was
the only place left for the
person to hide.

Carrying the stick with her, she
stood at the
side and immediately opened
the closet.

This closet was rather huge and
was filled
with Sophia's clothes.

Since she had decluttered some
of her old
clothes, the closet space was
sufficient.

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A man could still hide himself in
the closet.

The moment Sophia opened the
door, a man
pounced out. He probably knew
that Sophia
had noticed him.

Thankfully, Sophia was not
standing at the
front, so the man didn't
manage to pounce on
her. Before he could react, Ian
gave him a
strong kick from behind. The
man didn't
expect someone else besides

Sophia, so he was taken aback by that blow. "Let me at him!" said Sophia as she aimed the stick right at him. After the previous warm-up practice with Matilda, Sophia felt that she had already gotten used to this. Standing beside, Ian didn't need to step in at all.

While getting hit and stomped by Sophia, the man wanted to grab the stick from her, but Sophia didn't give him the chance, giving him one blow after another. Initially, Ian was quite worried, but seeing how it all turned out now, he began to relax.

Gawking at the scene, the driver was completely struck dumb while standing there.

Later, the man was probably in so much pain, so he just hugged his head and covered his face down on the floor. Though

**the stick was
not as thick, it could still hurt a
lot.**

**Not holding back, Sophia
treated the man as
Matilda. Honestly, she couldn't
go all out in
beating up Matilda, as she was
advanced in
age. Besides, Matilda had been
pampered by
her family all these years, so
she might lose
her life if Sophia went all out.
Since Sophia
didn't manage to vent all her
anger during the
last round, she didn't hesitate
at all this
time. After a good whack-up,
she felt
relieved.**

**In the end, it was Ian who
stopped her.**

**"Enough already. You'll kill the
person if this
goes on,
" said Ian with a sullen
expression.**

**Tidying her messed-up hair,
Sophia declared**

with both hands on her hips,

“I

worked in the

**farm when I was young, so I’m
really strong.**

**Back in my village, if there was
a thief, we**

**would beat the hell out of him
before**

anything else!”

**Seeing the man shrinking at the
corner, Ian**

**thought it was funny. Frankly
speaking,**

**Sophia was a rather skillful
fighter. A couple**

**of times, that man had
attempted to evade**

**the stick and make a run for it,
but**

**everytime, he was blocked by
Sophia.**

**With a snort, Sophia glared at
the man on**

the floor and growled,

“Back in

those days,

all the middle-aged women

from my village

dared not come up against me.

”

Since young,
she had been living with her
grandpa alone, so
they were an easy target for
bullies.

The Returning Ex Chapter 372

At first the man was covering
his face, but
upon hearing what Ian said, he
gradually put
down his hands.

“If I’ll be
honest, can you not
report me to the police?”

What a coward! How did he get
in? Sophia
simply couldn’t understand it.
Ian nodded.

“It depends on how
honest you
are.

”

After he sat up slowly on the
floor, the man
dared not stand up but
remained seated in a
crossed leg position. From his
looks, he did
look young. Trying to get on
Ian’s good side,
the man said,

**“I’ll spill, so
please don’t turn
me in. I didn’t take anything, so
you lose
nothing. And look at me; I’ve
been beaten up
so badly.
”**

**Hearing that, Sophia reached
out for the
stick and roared,**

**“Quit your
nonsense! Spill
now before I give you another
good whack!”**

**“No no no! I’ll speak! I’ll speak
now! Someone
gave me money and ordered
me to come here,
but I wasn’t asked to steal
anything. The
person said you live on your
own and if I get a
chance, I should beat you up
and leave,
” he
spluttered.**

**“Beat me up?” Sophia was
surprised.**

**“That’s
all?”**

Nodding his head, the man had an honest expression.

“Yes, that’s all! Beat you up and send her a picture as proof. She will then send me the money, and it was not a small sum at all.”

Chuckling, he continued, “That was indeed a large sum of money, so I was tempted. If it were another person, they would be tempted to do so too.”

Drawing in a long breath, Sophia said, “Dude, this must be your first time doing such a thing.”

Dumbstruck for a moment, the man clicked his tongue. “This is indeed my

first,
” the man
admitted and his face
reddened.

Gazing at Sophia, Ian asked,
“Can you guess
who would do this to you?”

“Of course!” Sophia had a
person in mind.

“John’s mother. She’s the only
person who
would do such a foolish thing.
”

Knowing Mrs. Constance, she
probably didn’t
know who to approach to help
her, and since
these matters needed to be
done secretly,
she probably found some
random someone to
do the dirty job for her.

However, the
person she had found was
rather similar to
her—a dimwit who couldn’t get
things done.

Unaware of the conflict
between Sophia and
Mrs. Constance, Ian was
completely

dumbfounded.

**“Why will Mrs.
Constance do
this to you?”**

**Sophia and John were officially
divorced.**

**Obviously, the scandal over the
Internet had
affected John’s reputation, but
all of it
wasn’t Sophia’s fault.**

**Furthermore, Mrs.
Constance shouldn’t have done
such a terrible
thing toward Sopia.**

**With a smile, Sophia sat on her
bed.**

**“Well,
that’s a long story.
”**

**Frankly, Sophia didn’t really
want to talk
about it, because Mrs.
Constance was in fact
being whacked by her, so it was
kind of
humiliating for John’s mother.
Besides,
Sophia thought it didn’t look
good on herself
too.**

Gazing at the man, Sophia asked,

“The person who hired you—do you remember what she looks like?”

Nodding his head, he said,

“I remember! We met just this afternoon. How can I forget? ”

“Do you mind telling me your name?” asked

Sophia as she continued to stare at him.

Without hesitating, he blurted,

“You can call me Husky.

”

Oh, wow! That’s a rather memorable name.

After giving it some thought, she said,

“Husky, I have a favor to ask. If you can help me with it, I won’t report to the police and you can leave.

”

Hearing that, Husky immediately agreed

without a second thought.

“Alright. State
your condition.
”

For some strange reasons,
Sophia thought
this person reminded her of
Logan. Somehow,
there were some similarities
between the
two. Then, Sophia turned to ask
Ian,

“Can you
help me find a picture of Mrs.
Constance? I
need him to verify something.
”

Fortunately, finding the picture
would be
easy peasy.

The Returning Ex Chapter 373

As it was such a grand event
during John and
Sophia’s wedding, almost
everyone from the
Constance Family appeared
over the news.

Picking out his cell phone, Ian
did a quick
search on the Internet and
managed to find

Mrs. Constance's picture.

Showing it to

Husky, Ian asked,

"Is this the

one who hired

you?"

After just one glance at the

phone, Husky

exclaimed,

"Yep! That's the one.

From how

she speaks, I find her plain

wicked. She

ordered me to hit you real hard

and make

sure it's on the face.

"

Hearing that, Sophia had a

smirk on her face.

Back then, Sophia thought Mrs.

Constance

was really awful. Now, Sophia

felt that Mrs.

Constance was simply a

blockhead, and she

would forever stay as one, even

when she got

up in years.

Nodding her head, Sophia said,

"That's

settled. I'll call a person over

and you can tell
him everything you know. After
that, you can
leave.

”

With that, Sophia had called up
John.

Once the line got through, John
almost
picked up immediately.

“Sophia?”

Clearly, he had never expected
that Sophia
would take the initiative to call
him up.

“Yes, it’s me. Are you busy
now?”

After saying that he wasn’t busy,
he asked,

“What’s the matter? Is there
something
wrong?”

“Yes there is, and I need you to
come over.

Is it convenient for you to drop
by now?”

Hesitating for a moment, John
asked,

“Is it
important?”

Was it really important? Well,

instead of
John, she could still call up Old
Mrs.

Constance to inform her about
this.

However, before she could
answer, John
replied,

“Alright, I’ll come by.
”

Upon hearing his reply, Sophia
didn’t say a
word and hung up the call.

Casting a glance at the Jefferson
Family’s

driver, Ian said,

“Since we don’t
know how
long this will take, you can go
now.

”

In a daze, the driver felt as
though he was in
a drama scene, and he was all
so curious to
know what would happen next.

As much as he
wished to find out what would
happen next,
he simply could not stay around
since they

had dismissed him.

Nodding his head toward Ian and Sophia, the driver left.

As soon as he left the house and got in the car, Logan called him. Before the driver could say his greetings, Logan's voice sounded from the phone.

"Have you or have you not sent Sophia home? What's taking so long?"

"Young Master Logan, there's a hiccup here at Miss Gwendolyn's place. I'd just come out,

"

reported the driver.

Without asking anymore questions, Logan said,

"Really? In that case, I'll drop by then.

"

After he had hung up, the driver thought about it for a second, but he still eventually

drove off.

Not long later, both Logan and John arrived at Sophia's place almost simultaneously.

One after the other, they had parked their cars by the road.

Gazing at Logan, John had his eyebrows knitted together.

On the other hand, Logan appeared slightly nervous.

"Something happened here at Sophia's place. You heard about it already?"

"Something happened you say?" asked John, sounding surprised.

Staring at John, Logan shot back, "Duh. Why are you here then?"

Ignoring Logan, John turned around and dashed into the house.

Scanning through the halls, John didn't see anyone, so in just a few steps, he

immediately ran up the stairs.
Noticing that
the bedroom door was opened,
he barged into
the room. The moment he
stepped in, he was
startled.

Sitting on the bed was Sophia,
while Ian was
sitting on the couch. Also,
another stranger
was sitting on the floor beside
the bed.

Seeing that Sophia was all
relaxed and
sitting there, John, who was
initially worried
sick, felt his heart sink.

“Why
did you call me
over?”

Sophia smiled.

“You’re finally
here.
”

In the next second, Logan came
barging in.

“Sophia! My Sophia...

” When
the sight in the
room entered his eyes, he was

dumbstruck.

“Why are there so many people here?”

Frowning, Sophia asked,

“Why are you here?”

Taking a quick look at Sophia, Logan found

that there was nothing wrong here at all.

The Returning Ex Chapter 374

As Sophia had misunderstood John, she

darted a glare at him.

“Why? Do

you mean to

tell me that I shouldn’t bring this up because

I wasn’t hurt?”

Blinking his eyes, John

exclaimed,

“That’s not

what I meant.

”

Seeing that, Ian rose up from his seat.

“If it

wasn’t me who found out about it, that

person would have already succeeded.

”

Agreeing to the statement,
Sophia chimed in,
“Exactly! Ian noticed there was
someone in
my room and warned me about
it. Otherwise,
I would have been the one who
got beaten
up.

”

Pulling a long face, Sophia
complained,
“Your
mother had caused me a lot of
troubles.
Admittedly, she lost out to me a
couple of
times, but I can assure you—she
was the one
who started it every single time.
So what if
she can’t win against me? Does
that mean she
can backstab me?”

Taking in a deep breath, John
said,
“Let me
handle this. I’ll promise to give
you an
explanation on this and I won’t

brush it off.

”

Gazing at John, Sophia felt she didn't really need an explanation from him; all she wanted was to inform John of Mrs. Constance's doings. Up till now, Sophia couldn't understand why Mrs. Constance would do such a thing to her. She really didn't seem to have learned her lesson. Licking his lips, Logan walked over.

“John, was it really your mom who did it? Was it even necessary to go to that extreme? The scandal about you over the Internet has in fact got nothing to do with Sophia. She couldn't possibly push all the blame on Sophia for those things those people had said!”

Logan could only make wild

guesses as he
wasn't aware of the whole
situation.

Unwilling to explain further,
Sophia turned
to John and said,
"Considering
the fact that
your mother had the nerve to
do it now, I
have a bad feeling that she'll do
it again.

John, I don't think I'll be that
lucky all the
time, and I simply can't force
myself to
forgive her every time.

”

Letting out a heavy sigh, Sophia
continued,

"This is the first time and it'll be
the last. If
this happens again, I don't care
how the
netizens will react to it. Believe
me; I'll do
anything.

”

Raising his hand, John wanted
to tidy up
Sophia's hair, but he held back

in the end.

“There won’t be a next time.

Believe me.

”

“Alright. I’ll believe you this time.

” Sophia

then smiled.

After that, John didn’t stay around but left immediately.

As soon as he got out of Sophia’s house, he called up William. Initially, William intended to continue working overtime in the office, but the moment he heard John’s voice over the call, he knew that John wasn’t in a good mood. Thus, he assumed that it was due to the scandal on the Internet, so he asked, “What’s wrong? Did something happen?”

“Come home. We’ll talk then,

”

said John directly.

**Before William could reply,
John had hung up
the phone.**

**William knew his son well; if it
wasn't
something important, John
wouldn't have
acted that way. Without further
ado, he had
packed up his stuff and drove
home.**

**Once William reached home, he
saw John
sitting on the couch together
with Old Mrs.**

**Constance. The moment
William stepped in,
he asked,**

**“What’s wrong? Did
something
happen again?”**

**Without looking at William,
John said,**

“Yeap.

**Something happened. It’s not a
major issue,
but it can’t be called a minor
issue either.**

”

**Casting a glance at his mother,
William saw**

that she was befuddled as well.
As soon as
John got home, he didn't utter a
word and
was just sitting there, remaining
silent
throughout the process even
after she had
tried to initiate conversation
with him for
three times.

Frowning, the old lady asked,
"John, what's
the matter? Say it out.
Regardless of what
the problem is, we'll think of
something.

"

Leaning against the couch, John
let out a
deep sigh.

"It's about Mom.

"

"Your mom?" the old lady
asked in a direct
manner.

"Then, I guess it must
be something
bad.

"

With a sneer, John said,

**“Indeed,
it really is
something bad. Because of the
previous
incident, Mom must have felt
humiliated by
Sophia, so she holds a grudge
against her.
Today, she had hired someone
to intrude
Sophia’s house when she
wasn’t at home. The
person had gone in the house
through the
window, and was waiting in the
house for the
chance to beat Sophia up.
”**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 376
“What?!” Old Mrs. Constance
rose up from
her seat, and she didn’t look
pleased at all.
She knew it was something bad,
but clearly,
she didn’t expect it to be this
bad.
“Is she
insane? Why would Matilda do
something like
that at this point in time?”**

Dumbstruck, William had a sullen expression as he gazed at John.

“Is Sophia alright?”

“She’s fine.

” John shook his head.

“Fortunately, Ian was with her. He noticed that something was odd, and so that person didn’t succeed.

”

Clenching her teeth, the old lady said,

“Even though nothing bad happened, this is simply not a minor issue. What... What if...

”

Holding his grandmother by the hand, John

comforted her by saying,

“Grandma, don’t you worry. I think Mom did it because she was beaten up by Sophia last time. She just wanted to vent her anger by

getting someone
to hit Sophia too. Mom didn't
have other
motives.

”

“But that's still wrong!” the old
lady snapped.

In the next second, she lifted
her head to
look at William.

“This is all your
fault! Look at
your wife! If you don't do
something, she's
going to wreak havoc!”

Doing a facepalm, William
complained,

“Do
you think I want it to happen?
I'll give her all
the money she wants if she
would just stop
stirring up a sh*tstorm!”

Shaking her head, the old lady
said,

“You'

re

just too nice to her. Lucky you,
because she's
still not as bright. If she
brightens up one

day, who knows what bigger problems will she cause!”

Just like the incident this time, that dimwit,

Mrs. Constance had found another blockhead to do the dirty deed for her.

Next time, if she managed to find a smarter fella, Sophia wouldn't stand a chance.

If Sophia ended up in trouble, the Constance

Family would end up in trouble too. Obviously, both John and William had thought about it.

While the three fell into silence, Old Mrs.

Constances spoke up suddenly.

“I think there's nothing we can do with Matilda. If we confront her, she will just sulk and complain as she usually does. Now, we need to take the last resort.

”

Looking at his mother, William

could vaguely
guess what she wanted to do.

“Mom, what do
you plan to do?”

Standing up slowly, the old lady
sighed.

“William, since you can’t do it,
I’ll decide for
you. I’ll drop by the Flintstone
Residence
later. It won’t be nice if you two
show up, so
don’t come with me. I’ll settle
this myself.
”

With that, she turned around.

“Don’t ask me
how I’m going to settle this,
because you
can
't solve this. Just take care of
the
company and leave this to me.
”

Without asking further, William
looked as if
he understood what his mother
meant.

After going upstairs, the old
lady had
changed into formal clothes and

even put her
hair up nicely in a bun.
The servants helped the old
lady down the
stairs, and they too, had
changed.

Jumping to his feet, William
asked anxiously,
“Mom, can you please tell me
your plans? I
just don’t feel at peace.
”

Casting a glance at him, Old Mrs.
Constance
announced,
“Stay here and wait.
I’ll tell you
when I get back.
”

With that, she walked out
together with the
servants.
Taking a quick glance at his
father, John
comforted him by saying,
“Let’s
just wait.
Grandma knows what she’s
doing.
”

When the old lady walked out,

**the driver had
already been waiting. Once
they got in the
car, the servant had told the
driver to go to
Flintstone Residence.**

**In fact, Old Mrs. Constance
rarely visited
the Flintstones; even Matilda
rarely paid a
visit to her own family. Similarly,
the
Flintstone Family rarely came
by as well.**

**Although both families were
connected
through marriage, their
relationship wasn't
that pleasant.**

**Overall, the Flintstone Family
was a big
family, and Matilda acted the
same when she
was with them. Hence, Old Mrs.
Constance
could tell that the Flintstones
couldn't stand
her too.**

**Leaning against the seat, Old
Mrs. Constance
turned to look outside.**

The Returning Ex Chapter 377

The traffic thinned out when night came, and they came back to Flintstone Residence not long later. After the servant rang the doorbell and talked to the guy inside, they opened the gates for the car. Matilda was in her room, frustrated. She tried to call the mercenary today, but nobody took the call. Did they do it? At least give me an update! She kept pacing back and forth until her servant came knocking.

“What is it?” she said impatiently. The servant said, “Old Mrs. Constance is here. You might want to see her.”

Matilda was stunned.

“She’s here?”

Isn't it supposed to be William?

"Is William here?" she asked.

"No. Only her and her servant,"

the servant replied flatly.

Matilda felt annoyed. She left the Constance Residence because of the fight with William.

Why's he asking his mom to pick me up?

When she recalled the look of disdain Old

Mrs. Constance gave her during the fight

with William, she was vexed.

Deciding to put on airs, she said,

"No. I won't go down unless William's apologizing."

The servant waited for a little while longer before going away, leaving Matilda alone and fuming. William had never done this to her.

No matter what happened, he

would always
end up apologizing if she got
angry, but now
he slapped her just for Sophia.
The thought of that irked her.
William wasn't
the only one to slap her that
day; Sophia did
too. Nobody had ever done that
to her in her
life, so she couldn't let it slide
this easily, not
unless William apologized and
repented for
his actions.

Thus, Matilda stayed in her
room, and a while
later, the servant came
knocking again.

"The
madam wants you downstairs,
miss.
"

My mother wants me down
there? All the
more reason she didn't want to
be there. Her
mother kept chastising her
during dinner
earlier, saying she was a socially
inept and

ungrateful lady.

“At this rate,
you’re going to
run yourself into a wall.

”

Matilda was frustrated to hear that. How could she say that when I’m the one who’s hurt? She wouldn’t go down now, or else her mother would reprimand her in front of Old Mrs. Constance. I’m not an idiot. There’s no way I’m going down just for that.

“No! Just leave me alone!” she shouted. Hearing this, the servant left again. As she lay on her bed, Matilda took her phone out, wanting to call William. No, if I do that, that means I’m giving up. At the thought of that, she held her urge back and put her phone down.

A while later, someone banged

on the door.

This is someone else. Before she could say

anything, her mother demanded,

“Get out right now!”

Matilda snorted silently. Oh, so she’s coming

to me instead, huh? She ignored her mother,

remaining on the bed, and after a few more

bangs, everything went quiet.

A few minutes later, however, Matilda heard

someone unlocking the door, then it was

opened, and in came her mother, looking cold.

Matilda sat up, her expression icy.

“Do you have to go this far?”

The Returning Ex Chapter 378

Natasha looked disappointed.

“I can’t believe

you

’re my daughter. How did you manage to

get divorced at this age? Do you have any idea how embarrassed I am?" Matilda was about to get into a big fight with her mother, but the sudden announcement took her by surprise.

"What are you talking about, Mom?"

Natasha sneered.

"I said you're getting a divorce, so what are you going to do about it?"

Mrs. Constance herself came personally and said she wants you and William to finish the paperwork as soon as possible.

They'll give you your share of the wealth, so don't worry about it.

"

Matilda forced a smile, refusing to believe it.

"Yeah, right, as if they'd do that. Others aside, I know William won't.

”

Natasha looked at her in disbelief.

“His mother came here herself. That’s saying something. Also, how can you be so sure William isn’t tired of you? Matilda, I’m your mom, and even I can’t stand you. How do you expect William to put up with you?”

Matilda didn’t want to believe this, and she insisted,

“No. I know he isn’t tired of me. He isn’t!” Fetching her cell phone over, she quickly called William, but nobody picked it up after a long while, and her face fell.

She made multiple calls, but nobody picked it up, so she put her phone down. Looking up at her mother, she turned a tad panicked.

“Mom, what did my mother-in-law say?”

Natasha stared at her for a while, then she sighed, her voice cold still.

“She said you and William aren’t a good match. Plus, they don’t think they have what it takes to please you, and the Constances have problems of their own, so they have no time to handle your matter. Mrs. Constance wants you to go through the divorce paperwork with William as soon as possible. They’ll come up with the agreement, and she promised you’d get your dues.

”

“I’m not getting a divorce!” she exclaimed, her eyes wide.

“No, no, no!”

Natasha didn’t know what she should do with

Matilda.

**“I asked you to come
down earlier so
I could help you, but you didn’t
take the
chance. Well, you’
re on your own now.
”**

**Because of her daughter’s wilful
actions,**

**Matilda embarrassed her in
front of Mrs.**

**Constance. This fool! She’s on
her own now!**

Then Natasha left.

**Matilda was still sitting on the
bed, stunned.**

**She couldn’t believe William
would dump her,
for she knew the kind of person
he was.**

**After all, they were married for
years.**

**Matilda could understand why
her mother**

**said William couldn’t put up
with her**

**anymore. She was a drama
queen sometimes,**

**but they still got through it all
these years.**

Why not now?

A moment later, Matilda quickly changed her clothes and went downstairs, but the living room was deserted. She quickly went to the garage, calling William at the same time, but he never picked up no matter how many times she called.

If it was in the past, William would only not take her calls when he was having an appointment or a meeting. Also, she didn't think William was in the dark about his mother coming here to talk about the divorce.

In other words, if he knew about this, then him not taking her calls meant... Best not to think about it. Cutting off her line of thought, she quickly drove toward Constance

Residence.

This was no time to care about her pride.

She drove at top speed and ran two red lights so she could arrive sooner.

After she rang the doorbell, the butler came to take it.

When he saw it was her, he let her in.

The Returning Ex Chapter 379

After she drove inside and came out of the car, she saw Jennifer lounging in the garden.

**“Hello, Matilda,
” she greeted neutrally upon seeing her.**

**Matilda would have ignored her in the past, but today, she greeted back,
“Hi.**

Out here alone?”

**Jennifer was surprised, murmuring an acquiescence before saying,
“Yes, I am.**

”

Matilda nodded and went to the main residence. There wasn't anyone in the living room save for the servant, who looked surprised to see her here.

"You're back, madam."
"

Before Matilda went upstairs, the servant said,

"Are you looking for your husband? He isn't home."
"

"He's not?" She was taken aback.

"No, but the old madam is upstairs. She said you should go to her room if you need anything."
"

Matilda stood there for a minute, and she understood what was going on. William's mother knew she would come back for

William, so she told him to go out for a while.

Thinking of this, she sighed.

“Fine. I’ll go to her, then.

” She then went upstairs.

Belinda was in the room, still in the same clothes she wore to Flintstone Residence.

She was sitting on the sofa, a big photo album with many pictures in it in her hand.

Barely anyone developed photos these days, so those photos were taken years ago.

Belinda smiled as she flipped through them, her gaze warm, and the moment Matilda came in, she knew it was her.

“You’re here. Take a seat.

” She didn’t even look up.

Matilda was still fuming. She pulled a face and only went to sit after a few

moments,
but Belinda's attention was still
on the
photos. Flipping to one of them,
she said,
"Look. This was taken during
your wedding.
It's almost thirty years since
then.
"

The photo was sealed in the
album, still in
decent condition. Matilda
looked at it, but
she didn't remember taking this
photo. Wow,
I was young. I was really slim.
She was
smiling at the camera along
with William, who
looked dashing. Looking back at
the photo,
she felt puzzled, but she said
nothing still.
Belinda touched the photo and
lamented,
"Time flies."
" She chuckled.
"In
just the blink
of an eye, thirty years have

passed. When I
looked through these photos, I
was taken
back to the first time I saw
you.

” She looked
at Matilda.

“You were reserved
back then,
and you didn’t like William. I
thought that
was the end of it, but then you
said you can
work it out with him.

” She
looked at her
gently.

“I really liked you back
then. You
obviously didn’t like William,
but you gave it a
shot anyway, saying he was a
nice guy. I know
you were just trying to make
things less
awkward, so I thought you were
a good girl.

”

Belinda had looked into Matilda
back then.

She was gorgeous and had a

few suitors.

Besides, some of the families in the city did

consider her as a wife candidate for their

sons. When she picked William to 'work it

out,

' Belinda thought she just didn't want him

to feel awkward, so she felt some affection

toward her.

On the other hand, Matilda felt nervous

seeing her talk.

Eventually, Belinda closed the album and

shifted the topic.

"I heard you

hired

someone to hurt Sophia.

"

The Returning Ex Chapter 380

Matilda was surprised that

Belinda found out about it.

"H-How did you find out?" she

stammered.

Belinda looked at her, not a hint

of anger
shown.

“Have you ever thought
of the
consequences?” she asked
calmly.

Matilda didn't know how to
answer that since
she truly never thought of the
implications;
she only wanted to vent that
time.

Belinda sighed.

“Just get a
divorce. Whether
you
're a good match is not up to
me to judge,
but we can't pay for your
shenanigans
anymore, Matilda.
”

“No, I won't,
” Matilda said.

“I
won't get a
divorce, never!”
Belinda knew Matilda would
behave this way.
Standing up, she went to put
her album back

before continuing warmly,
“You
can do that,
of course, but dragging this out
won’t be
good for you.
”

After placing the album back to
where it
belonged, she turned around.

“Your
mercenary has sold you out. If
the news
outlets know about this, you
should know how
disastrous it can be.

” Putting on
a smile,
Belinda continued,
“You hired a
man for this
task? I think what you had in
mind wasn’t
just a simple beat up.
”

At this, Matilda pursed her lips,
not saying a
word. If there was one good
trait about her,
it was her honesty.
When she hired that young thug

for this job,
she did have some other torture
ideas in
mind. Even so, she wouldn't ask
the guy to
rape her. To be exact, she didn't
want to
think about that, nor did she
dare to; all she
asked was for him to beat her
up and nothing
else.

Belinda looked at her.

"You
know what Sophia
is like. Even if nothing else
happened, she's
going to come after you just
because of this.

Both our families are going to
get dragged
down too.

”

Matilda took a deep breath.

"But it failed,
right? If you guys know about
this, then he
must have failed.

”

Belinda couldn't help chuckling.

"That's not

the point. I didn't tell your mother about this just now. If she were to find out about what you did, I think she'd be livid. If I told her I want you and William to get divorced then, she might even take my side instead of yours.

”

Matilda was stupefied. Her mother wasn't the subject of her concern; her father was. Because of his deteriorating body, Alphonse was in a perpetually grumpy state, and he scolded her many times after she went back to his house. Sometimes, in the heat of the moment, he'd ask her to get divorced so William could get a better wife. Alphonse had always been a grumpy guy, but despite so, he had a sense of justice. If he

found out what she did, he'd
kill her.

Staring at her, Belinda
continued,

“Seeing
that you and William were once
a loving
couple, I'll at least leave an
option open for
you, for I don't want this to end
messily. You
don't want to get into an ugly
fight too,
right? After all, it won't bode
well for you if
you do.
”

Matilda still didn't want to give
up.

“Does
William know what you're
doing? What about
his opinion? Does he want to
get a divorce,
too? Just because of this?”

Belinda thought about it before
answering,

“You can take it that way if you
want,

Matilda. But honestly, this is
just a trigger, a

last straw of sorts. It's
disappointment after
disappointment with you,
Matilda, and he
can
't take it anymore.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 381
When she came back earlier,
Belinda told
William what she did. He most
likely
expected that, so he didn't
object. Instead,
he stayed quiet. Belinda noticed
he looked
sad, but she knew he must be
tired of this
marriage too. The problems
weren't new, and
he had endured it for a long
while now.
Matilda shut up.
Looking at her, Belinda said,
“William's not
here today. Go back to your
room if you want
to stay the night.
” Matilda
stood up a
moment later, her expression

still defiant.

Belinda sighed. Even now, she still thinks she's right.

When she went back to her bedroom, aside from the things she took with her, it still looked the same. She went to sit on the sofa, her mind buzzing. Belinda made it clear that William had decided to divorce her. At the thought of that, she covered her face in horror, unwilling to think about how her life would be like after the divorce. Her family wouldn't take her back. They were already complaining when she only moved back for two days, but she couldn't live alone either, for she would bump into people she knew. It would be impossible for her to face them, and she'd have to give them a wide

berth, just like when she met
Jessica earlier.

She thumped the bed angrily,
then her phone

rang. Matilda thought it was
from William,

but no; her family was calling
her, and she

knew why. Matilda ended the
call and tossed

her phone aside. Except for
William, she

didn't want to take anyone's
call.

At the same time, John was also
in his room.

He heard his mother going into
her room, but

he didn't have time to care
about her.

He was holding his phone,
hesitating whether

he should call Sophia. What
should I say to

her though? What his mother
did could

potentially cause a disaster, but
they were

lucky it didn't, or else Sophia
would be out

for their blood. It would be bad

if that happened, but for now, a peaceful solution was possible. John was flummoxed. Ever since Sophia married him, she never went against Matilda, so he wondered why his mother hated her so much. She just had to sabotage her, even when she had already gotten a divorce with him. I don't get it. In the end, he put his phone down without calling her. He thought he was not being himself now. Usually, he wouldn't be this hesitant, for he had come across more serious problems than this one, but never did he feel so frustrated. Taking a deep breath, he went to have a cold shower. After that, it cleared up his mind. Coming out of the bathroom, he wore his

shirt while
facing the mirror in the cabinet.
With his
thoughts clear, he chalked his
feeling of
frustration and unnerve to his
sudden
reversion to single life.
Even if he hated the marriage
with Sophia,
he got used to that life after a
year. Even
though they had gone through
the
paperwork, their lives were still
connected.
It wasn't until now did they cut
ties, then
that feeling of frustration
started welling up
within him. I'm probably just
not used to this.

The Returning Ex Chapter 382
After he was done changing,
John looked at
his reflection for a while, then
he nodded. He
felt like he understood what
was happening,
and everything was clear now.
A moment

later, he went downstairs.
John stood before the main
residence, the
night breeze caressing him. A
while later, he
went to the backyard. He did
this out of
reflex, for Sophia once told him
she went to
the bamboo forest with Dylan
in the
mountains behind the
backyard.
John knew that forest. He went
there when
he was a kid, though he thought
there wasn't
anything special about it. Now
that he
thought about it, it had been
years since he
went there. When he got to the
backyard, he
saw that the door was opened,
much to his
surprise. However, he didn't
think much and
went toward the forest. With
his cell phone's
flashlight illuminating the path,
he went

inside. A short while later, he noticed a bright light before him. When he got closer, he saw someone standing there.

“Dylan?”

John asked instinctively.

He was right; it was Dylan.

Dylan greeted him

back and asked,

“What brings you here?”

John went up to him, not

answering his

question. There wasn't anything

here in the

forest, not even a place to sit.

And as for

Dylan, he was standing in the

clearing, looking

at the Constance Residence. It

was higher

ground here, so it lent them a

good vista,

enough to see the whole

residence. Lights

were on, for night had

descended. From the

looks of it, the residence took

up a big plot

of land. At this, John went to

stand beside

Dylan.

**“I didn’t expect you to be
here.**

”

**Dylan gave it some thought
before saying,**

**“Just taking a stroll after
dinner.**

”

**John grunted. He turned his
flashlight off,
putting his hands in his pockets.**

A while

later, he said,

**“Remember the
thing you**

asked me in my office? I

actually read your

lips.

”

Dylan didn’t feel awkward.

“Is

that so? I was

just curious.

”

John smiled.

“I’m not sure what

you meant by

the question. Were you asking

if I regretted

getting a divorce or hiding it?”

After a pause,

he said,

“But no matter what

the question

was, my answer remains the

same: I don’t

regret it. There’s nothing to

regret.

”

He wouldn’t think too much

about the things

he did, for there was no point

mulling over or

regretting the things that had

happened.

Instead, he’d be better off using

that time

to handle the situation at hand.

A smile

flashed across Dylan’s lips, but

the cloak of

night concealed it from John.

“Is

that so?

That’s good to hear,

” Dylan

remarked.

John looked at the residence,

then he

reiterated,

**“I don’t regret it. I
never
regretted it.**

**” He was probably
saying that to
Dylan and himself. After that,
silence
descended, lasting for nearly a
minute.**

**Shifting the topic, Dylan then
said,**

**“I heard
you went to welcome Mr.
Wolfe this
afternoon.**

”

John grunted.

**“I met him before,
so we know
each other. My dad had
something to do, so I
went there myself.**

”

Dylan sighed.

**“I heard that
guy’s a scoundrel.
All the people who talked to
him disliked the
guy.**

”

John scoffed dismissively.

**“I
don’t talk to
him much, so I can’t attest to
that. Since we
only talked about business,
quality and
efficiency were all that
mattered. Other
than that, I don’t really care.
”**

Dylan nodded.

**“You have a
point.**

**” Then the
conversation went dead.**

The Returning Ex Chapter 383

**A while later, Dylan looked at
the time.**

**“It’s
late. I should be going back.
”**

John grunted.

**“You go ahead. I
want to stay
here for a bit.
”**

**Dylan nodded at him before
strolling back
along the dirt path leading back.
John saw
him off as he walked into the**

night. When he was fully engulfed by the darkness, he looked back around the clearing. Sophia probably came here back then. He put his hands in his pockets, holding his phone for a while before calling Zack, and it was immediately picked up. Zack knew what he wanted to ask, thus responded quickly, "Don't worry, boss. Focker hasn't been up to his antics. He won't be up to anything for a long time."
"

John grunted.

"What about Roselia?"

"Oh, her? She left after the deed was done. And she looked happy. Where did you find her, boss? She's a pro."
"

John only snorted, not answering his

question.

“Keep an eye on Focker. If he doesn’t rile anything up in the next couple of days, there shouldn’t be any problem.

”

“Alright, boss.

” He was about to ask something else, but John hung up. A moment later, John took a deep breath and went back to the residence. The servants had already gone to sleep when he came back to the main building. Halfway through going upstairs, John came back down to take a bottle of red wine. He hadn’t been able to sleep over the past couple of days, so he needed the help of alcohol. After coming up to the second floor, he saw Matilda standing outside his room. She was in

her pajamas, her head hanging low, looking dejected.

“Why are you here, Mom?” He went up to her.

Matilda jumped to the side, shocked.

“Oh, you weren’t in your room?”

John opened the door and went inside.

“I went out just now. What’s the matter?”

Matilda came in, wanting to talk about what happened, but she couldn’t get it out. John

opened the wine bottle with a corkscrew and poured some into the glass on the bedside, then he looked back.

“Is it because of your divorce?”

Matilda looked at him.

“So you knew. John,

**you can
't just stand there and watch as
I get
divorced from your dad. I'm
your mother, so
you have to help me to stop
this.
"**

John sighed.

**"And how am I
supposed to do
that? You expect me to
dissuade Grandma
from doing this?"**

She quickly sat beside him.

**"You have to stop
this divorce. What if someone
knows about
this? A divorce is such a
humiliating matter.
"**

John smiled.

**"But everyone
knew about my
divorce. And you know who
spread it.
"**

**Matilda opened her mouth, but
it took her a
while before she said,
"That's**

not the same.

”

“I don’t think so.

” John arched
his eyebrow.

“If you hadn’t texted the Baileys,
we

wouldn’t be in this situation

now. If you had

just talked to us before you did
anything,

Grandma wouldn’t have to do

this. Mom, you

only cared about yourself,

never about the

family.

”

Hearing this, Matilda frowned.

She wanted

to retort, but nothing came out.

John didn’t want to dwell on

this any longer.

“Don’t worry. Dad won’t date

anyone else for

at least a couple of years, so

you still have a

chance. If you can just mellow

out a little,

you can still come back. But if

you don’t, Dad

will get a divorce no matter

**what. It's only a
matter of time.
”**

Matilda stood up, livid.

**“Do you
even care
about me? You don't even want
to help me!**

**How can you just stand there
and watch? I'm
your mother!”**

The Returning Ex Chapter 384

**“Let's not get worked up. I'm
tired, and I
don't want to fight,
” he said
calmly.**

**“Mom,
there's a price to pay for
anything you do.
Take what you did for example.
Putting aside
our family, do you think
Sophia's going to let
you off the hook after what you
did? If you
get involved, our family's going
to get
dragged into this, and by
extension, the
company. Think about the**

**domino effect that
will happen, the PR disaster,
and the things
that you have to face.**

”

**Matilda’s mouth formed a
comical O. That
idea never crossed her mind,
for she never
thought anything two steps
ahead; she never
had, and she never would.**

John smiled.

**“Grandma’s angry
because you
sabotaged the whole family.
We were close
to being snapped into oblivion.**

”

**Matilda blinked, saying nothing.
However, the
look of realization on her face
told John she
knew what went wrong.**

John patted her shoulder.

**“Mom, talk to Dad.
This is between you two, so
nobody can or
should interfere.**

”

That was a wake-up call for

**Matilda. Now
that she thought about it, they
had been
interfering with John's marriage
all this time.**

**His grandfather insisted on him
marrying
Sophia, then he died. After that,
she became
a saboteur in John's
relationship with Sophia.**

**Matilda was clear that the bad
state of their
relationship was largely thanks
to her. And
now, her son was telling her
nobody could
interfere with her marriage. I'm
a joke.**

**John looked at her for a while
before saying,
"Dad's not coming home
tonight. He said you'll
be in a bad mood, so he wants
you to calm
down. He'll see you tomorrow
or the day
after. Talk to him then.
"**

**Matilda was quiet. A while later,
she said**

almost inaudibly,

“Okay.

” Then

she left and

closed the door. After that,

John sat down

and finished his wine in one
gulp.

On the other hand, Sophia went
through her

routine like nothing had

happened today. She

was even humming a song, then
a moment

later, her phone rang. It was

from Logan, and

she sat down before her
dressing table.

Doesn't he get tired, calling me
every day?

Does he think I'm as dumb as
he is? Is that

why he keeps pestering me?

She turned on

the speakerphone.

“What do

you want? It

hasn't even been five seconds.

”

Delighted, Logan started
blabbering,

**“Sophia,
I ain’t gonna let anyone rough
you up and get
away with it. I got the... the...
What’s his
name again?” He went away,
and Sophia heard
him asking,
“What’s your
name?”**

**In the next second, she heard a
guttural
scream, one directed at the
phone.**

**“Sophia,
it’s me, Husky! Save me!”
Sophia was stunned, asking
immediately,
“Husky? You captured him?”**

**Logan announced proudly,
“You’re my friend.
I’m taking care of you, so
nobody’s going to
get away with it after they
roughed you up! I
ain’t letting them go even if you
do!”**

Sophia laughed.

**“You know,
you should
capture John’s mom in that case.**

**She's the
mastermind.
”**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 385
Logan froze up. He was brash,
but he wasn't
stupid. If he did anything to
Matilda, his dad
would kill him.
After he shut up, Sophia said,
“Let him go. I
don't want any trouble.
”**

**Logan gasped.
“But I'm doing
this for you.
Man, you're ungrateful.
Everyone knows my
temper. If anyone tries to hurt
my friend,
they can get out of the city.
”**

**Sophia didn't deny that, for him
protecting
Ian was evidence enough. He
even went to
Morgan Residence to help Ian.
Chuckling,
Sophia said,
“Logan, I would
have walloped**

him back then if I wanted to.
Are cards all
you can think of? At least look
before you
leap.
”

Logan snorted. Before he could
say anything,
Husky bellowed,
“Please,
Sophia! I’m sorry! I
won
’t do it again! Save me! I can’t
take it
anymore!”
Sophia frowned.
“Aren’t you
annoyed? Let
him go. My eardrums are
popping.
”

Logan clicked his tongue,
obviously objecting
to her decision. Even so, he said
nothing and
hung up. Sophia put her phone
down and
chuckled. Logan can be
adorable sometimes.
After Sophia washed her face
again and was

about to sleep, Ian texted her,
telling her to
lock the doors and windows.

Subsequently,
Sophia told him she had done
that.

She always locked them before
she slept,
only keeping them open during
daytime for
air circulation. It never crossed
her mind
that someone would break in
though.

She slept through the night
soundly and
forgot everything Matilda did to
her the
next day. Contrary to the
Constances, she
never planned on sabotaging
them with this.

‘Don’t cross that bridge till you
come to it’
was her motto. Thinking too
much about
something that hadn’t
happened yet would
bog her down.

She woke up early the next
morning and

skimmed through her driving lesson text.

Then she watered her flowers and went to take a look at her shop. The renovators worked fast, for everything was done when she arrived.

It wasn't a big place to begin with, so Sophia only needed to improve the airflow, and it would be ready for business. She couldn't wait.

Logan came again in the afternoon, and Sophia saw him in her yard when she came back. He looked annoyed when she returned.

“What are you thinking? How can you leave your windows open? What if someone breaks in again?”

Sophia rolled her eyes.

“I don't think

Matilda's going to pull the same

trick, so
relax.
”

Logan almost yelled.

“What if a
burglar
breaks in and steals your stuff?
Haven’t you
learned your lesson?”

Sophia went to open the door,
then they
went inside. On the way to the
living room,
she asked,

“Did you let Husky
go?”

“As if.

” He glared at her.

“He’s
working in my
club.

”

Sophia was surprised.

“What?

You gave him a
job?”

Logan spat.

“Yeah right. He’s
working for
free! It’s his punishment, get it?
He has to

pay the price. If you let him off the hook this easily, he'd be up to the same trick next time. You gotta drill it into his head.
”

Sophia chuckled, then she shifted the topic, asking, “Did someone report your club?” She heard Lysa mentioning that on her visit to Jefferson Mansion.

The Returning Ex Chapter 386
Logan looked offended.

“That was just some nonsense a drunk guy made up. I’m an honest businessman.
”

Sophia arched her eyebrow.

“How did you settle it? I heard you get police raids frequently.
”

Somehow, that irked him even more.

**“Man,
those police are idiots. They
buy into every
report they hear. I’m a
law-abiding citizen,
but they keep doing this. For
what? Nothing.**

”

**And that woman must have
beef with me.
She’s in every surprise check.
He could still
remember that policewoman’s
disgusted face.
She obviously has no boyfriend.
Wait, she’s a
guy herself.
Sophia sat down on the sofa.
“I’ll be having
my driving exam two days later,
so I’ll be out
for the whole morning.**

”

**“Driving exam? I can go with
you. I have
nothing to do anyway. And you
can
't go alone,
since you’re a celebrity now. I
can be your
bodyguard.**

” He wiggled his eyebrows.
Sophia stared at him for a while before asking curiously,
“Don’t you have any other hobbies? I get the feeling you’re pestering me.”

Logan was taken aback, then he bellowed but said nothing—not that he could talk about this easily anyway since he knew that he was infamous himself. Nobody would be friends with him. Even though John was a good acquaintance who invited him to his wedding, he knew John wouldn’t really be friends with him. Even if he did, his family wouldn’t allow him to. Thus, technically speaking, he had zero friends.
That was why Ian and Sophia

were precious
to him. He couldn't fool around
with Ian since
he had work, so only Sophia
was left.

Sophia stared at him for a while
longer, then
she gave up on him answering.

"Right. I'll be
cooking now.

" She stood up.

This guy's here for a free meal.

Why else?

As she went to the kitchen,
Logan followed
behind.

"There's something I
want to tell
you.

"

Sophia wore an apron, and she
gave one to
Logan, for there were many
aprons around.

Taking the apron from her, he
wore it and
went to peel the garlic.

"I saw
John's mom on
the way here.

"

Sophia grunted.

“And?”

“I saw her driving alone,

” he

continued.

“She

stopped in front of a park and

went inside.

”

That’s saying nothing, though.

Sophia didn’t

say anything.

Logan continued,

“I took a

closer look and

saw her crying. She kept wiping

her tears as

she went.

”

Sophia looked back at him.

“Tears? Are you

sure you weren’t seeing

things?” Why was she

crying? Oh, because she failed

to sabotage

me after spending all that

money? Oh,

delightful.

A moment later, Logan looked

at her.

“No, I

don't think so. Maybe John
went back and
told his family about what
happened, then
they scolded her, so she cried.
”

Sophia shook her head and
went on cleaning
the vegetables.
“No, I know his
mom better
than you do. The Constances
are usually soft-spoken, so
persuasion is their forte, not
reprimands. His mother isn't
someone who'd
listen to reason, so she
wouldn't care.
”

Logan was confused.
“But she
looked really
sad when I saw her today.
”

Matilda must
have driven to the park all by
herself and
walked inside.
The Returning Ex Chapter 387
She stared down on the ground
and kept

wiping her tears away, a stark contrast from her usually haughty self. Sophia waved him down.

“Let’s not talk about her anymore. She makes me feel sick. We know she’s going to get into trouble one day.”

Logan was splattered by the drops of water from her hand. Seeing this, he took one step aside.

“Did you do that on purpose?”

Sophia smiled, not answering his question.

She took some tissue and wiped it all over his face. At the same time, Logan stared at her, and his smile faded.

“Have I ever mentioned you look like someone?” he asked calmly.

“No.

” Sophia was surprised.

“Who do I look

like?”

Logan gazed into her eyes, the intensity almost terrifying.

“If you say I look like your first love, I’ll stab you. I’m getting really close to this knife here.”

Logan shook his head.

“No, not my first love.”

With his head lowered, he put the peeled garlic in a plate and washed his hands.

“I have something for you to see here.”

He wiped his hands on the apron and took his phone out of the pocket. Contrary to his dandy self, he didn’t download many apps in his phone, and most of them came preinstalled. Navigating into his

photo album,
Logan clicked into a photo and
pointed at the
woman in the middle.

“See. You
look just like
her.
”

Sophia frowned at the photo he
showed
her—it was a photo in a photo.
There were a
bunch of people in that photo.
A couple sat in
the center, and the woman was
holding a
baby while surrounded by four
kids. A
moment later, she looked up at
Logan.

“Is
this your family photo?”

Logan nodded.

“I only have this
one, though.
”

Sophia looked at the photo
again. The woman
Logan was pointing at was
probably his
mother. She never heard

anyone talking
about her. Even during her visit
to his
residence, she only saw his
father. After
looking at the photo, she said,
“Do we look
alike? I don’t think so.

” Aside
from their age,
they shared no similar features.
So why did
he say so?

However, Logan nodded in
objection.

“No, I
think you look just like her.
”

Sophia pursed her lips and
nodded.

“Fine.
Maybe we do look alike in some
parts. I’m
probably too used to seeing
myself, so I’m
not sure how everyone sees
me.
”

After that, Logan put his phone
away.

“From

the moment I saw you, I
thought you two
looked alike.

”

Sophia smiled. She was about
to ask how his
mother was doing, but she
stopped herself
before that. I’ve never seen her,
so she’s
probably deceased. Best not
talk about this.

With Logan’s help, the meal
was done quickly.

Right after Sophia had served
the food, she
saw a car stopping outside the
yard, then out
came William and Matilda.

Sophia placed the
food on the dining table before
going to the
door. She knew why they were
here.

Logan saw them too when he
came out, then
he went back into the dining
room. They
probably won’t want me
around in this case.

Sophia was already in the living

room when
William and Matilda arrived at
her doorstep.

Then, she smiled at them.

“Come in,

” Sophia

told William. William sighed
before entering,
followed by Matilda, whose
expression was
inscrutable.

The Returning Ex Chapter 388

William looked at her quietly,
not sitting
down.

“Sophia, we only found
out what
happened last night. It was
already late, so
we didn’t want to disturb you.
We’re here
today to apologize. No matter
what, it’s our
fault.

”

He then gave Matilda a look.

She still looked
inscrutable, but she said,

“Sorry

for what

happened yesterday. It was my

fault.

”

**Despite her words, she did not
look**

**apologetic at all, and Sophia
gave her a look,
sneering.**

**William knew what she meant,
so he glared at
Matilda.**

“Apologize properly.

”

**Matilda took a deep breath and
continued
softly,**

**“I was too rash yesterday,
and I’m
aware that my actions have
inconvenienced
you. I’m sorry.**

**” She didn’t look
at Sophia, for
even at this point, Matilda was
still prideful
and refused to bow down.**

Sophia clicked her tongue.

**“It’d
look bad on
me if I don’t let it slide now,
wouldn’t it?”**

She shrugged, smiling.

**“But I
don’t want to
let it slide, so what should I
do?”**

William quickly said,

**“We’re
just here to
apologize, and we don’t expect
you to forgive
us. It is our fault, Sophia.
”**

**“Oh, please don’t say that,
”**

Sophia said.

**“I
am not a saint, but I don’t put
the blame
where it doesn’t belong. If you
had known
what would happen, I trust that
you would
have stopped it. But you didn’t,
so that means
you didn’t know either. I’ll only
need the
mastermind to be held
responsible.
”**

**Matilda looked up at Sophia,
her expression
frustrated. She came here**

reluctantly, and
Sophia could see that too.
Hearing this, William sighed.
“You’re a good
girl. It’s a pity John isn’t married
to you.
”

Sophia agreed, adding on to his
words,
“It’s
his loss.
”

Matilda frowned, but only for a
moment.

Sophia ignored her.

“Let’s end
this here. I
know I shouldn’t make this too
big, so don’t
worry. If you’ll just leave me
alone, this’ll
probably be the last time I will
talk to you
and your family.

” Subsequently,
she took her
apron off.

“Mr. Constance, I’ll
be more than
happy to invite you for a meal if
you’re here

alone, but if you're not, I'll have to ask you to leave.

”

She wasn't being too nice, mocking Matilda at every chance she could. At her words, William nodded. It was normal that she wouldn't be nice to them, so he left. Sophia saw them off, and as they went out, they started talking. From the looks of it, William seemed unhappy. Sophia sneered, then she went back to the dining room. Logan was still in there, so he heard everything they said. He was texting when Sophia came in, and he said, “I got news. John's mom has been staying in her family's home all this while. Not sure if she'll go back to the Constance Residence or

keep staying
at her home.
”

Then he smiled.

“Say, do you
think John
knows about his mother coming
here today?”

A moment later, Sophia took
out her phone.

“He actually texted me just
now.

” John’s
message came right when his
parents came
over.

The Returning Ex Chapter 389
Occupied with his parents, she
didn’t read
his message, but she could now.
John didn’t
say anything much, just that he
would come
over later to talk. Sophia wasn’t
sure what
they could talk about, for
everything that
needed to be sorted out had
been sorted out.
Then, she deleted the text and
looked at

Logan.

**“Finish your lunch and
go back. I’m
taking a nap.**

”

**Logan took the utensils and dug
in.**

**“Yeah,
yeah, I know.**

**” He wasn’t an
idiot. He knew
John must have said something
in the text,
and now Sophia wanted him to
leave.**

**He wasn’t interested in what
they were going
to talk about, so he left after
having his
lunch. Before he did, Logan
reminded Sophia
to lock the doors and windows.**

**She grunted
impatiently at him, and only
then did he leave.**

**After his departure, Sophia
texted Ian,
asking him about Imelda,
Logan’s mother.**

**Then she went to turn on the
TV and became**

a couch potato, texting Ian while watching the show, her legs dangling in the air.

Ian replied quickly. He didn't know much about the Jeffersons, but he told her that Imelda died in a car crash when Logan was still a baby, so technically, Logan had no recollection of his mother.

Sophia stared at the message for a while before replying, 'Okay.

' He says I look like his mother, but I don't think so. She put her phone down. Is that why he's so nice to me?

Logan is always a happy-go-lucky guy, but even he lost someone before. She sighed.

The front door was locked when John arrived. He tried to unlock it with his

fingerprint, but nothing happened, of course. She forgets to do everything else, but not deleting my fingerprint data? When Sophia heard the sound, she went to take the door.

“What do you need to talk about?”

John looked around for a moment.

“My parents came here, didn’t they?”

“They did.

” Sophia went back to the sofa.

“They say they’re here to apologize, but your mom looked like she was going to kill me instead.

”

John couldn’t defend his mother. Matilda was a stubborn mule who wouldn’t admit she was wrong even if she did apologize, so despite

William saying it was for an apology, he could imagine how she behaved during the process.

A moment of silence later, he went to sit before Sophia.

“I promised you could ask for anything if you helped me settle the Infinity Group. That promise is still valid, so name your request. I’ll do it if it’s within my ability.”

Sophia looked at him quietly. So this is why he’s here.

John thought she didn’t understand what he was saying, so he repeated, “You can ask for anything you want. Money, assets, properties, you name it.”

Sophia smiled and stared down at the sofa, caressing the pillow beside her

reflexively.

“Nope. I was going to ask for money, but then I realized you gave me enough to live my life out comfortably when we got divorced.

If I asked for more, there’s no way I would be able to spend all of it, and they’d turn into stacks of useless paper, so I don’t want money.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 390
Slowly, she looked up at him.

“With that in mind, I came up with an idea. Why don’t we cut all ties with each other from now on, John? I think it’s great for both of us.

”

John paused, then he frowned at her.

Sophia was smiling.

“I noticed we’re still entangled after the divorce.

Well, part of it
is because of me. I was
reluctant to let go,
thinking if I worked hard
enough, you might
just...

” She put an
infinitesimally small
distance between her thumb
and index
finger.

“

...like me this much. But
then I
realized I don't need you to love
me. Instead,
I think I'm better off without
you.

”

John now had a dark look on his
face.

However, Sophia was beaming.

“Really, John.

I think you might lead a better
life without
me, just like how I am doing
now without you.

You can marry someone like
Isabelle,
someone who can help you
with your work and

family. Then, you'd be a great
guy, husband,
and father even. I've been
standing in your
way all this while.

”

The more she spoke, the less he
wanted to
hear.

“How do you know what I
need?” he
asked.

His words had Sophia pausing
momentarily.

“Oh, right. I've been talking
nonsense again,
haven't I? Who am I to tell you
how to live
your life? It's up to you, ha ha
ha.

” That was...

an awkward laugh.

John closed his eyes and sighed.

“This might
sound ridiculous, but I thought
you used to
like me, Sophia.

”

Sophia kept on with her
awkward laughter.

“That's ridiculous. I never liked

you. I don't
like anyone now,
" she replied,
attempting to
make herself believe in that.
He stared at her for a while,
then he
resigned.

"I said you can ask for
anything you
want, but I don't think I can
give you
anything aside from money, so
why don't I
just give you that?"

Sophia shook her head.

"It's
fine. You gave
me more than enough, and
your mother's
already complaining. If you give
me more,
we
're going to get entangled
deeper.

"

John snorted.

"Entangled
deeper, huh?" he
repeated what she said, then he
stood up.

“Before I came, I thought I had a lot to talk about, but now that I thought about it, it’s nothing important. I’ll be leaving now, then, so have a good day.”

Sophia nodded.

“Sure. Good day to you, too.”

Hm, he’s straightforward this time. It hasn’t even been ten minutes. When John went to open the door, he paused for a moment, staring down at the fingerprint lock, then he left. Before he even exited the yard, Sophia closed the door. She leaned against the door, panting, wondering what the look he gave her a while ago meant. It looked like he had hatched a nefarious plan and decided to go on with it.

That jerk is cunning. Is he going to use his art of business on me?

Sophia waited until John had left before she went to the window. She crossed her arms and looked outside, thinking that there was more to that visit than it seemed. That night, Sophia went to her shop. Since it's already dark, the paparazzis should have stopped their activities. The shop was closed, so Sophia opened the door and went inside.

**The Returning Ex Chapter 391
All the renovations were done, save for some details. Sophia then went outside and looked at the sign above the shop. She had decided to call the shop 'No Response.'
,**

**That sounds perfectly sad.
Sophia chuckled.
After walking around for a**

while, she went home and took a bath. When she came out, someone commented on her post on Facebook. Not long ago, she posted a picture of her shop, and Zack popped up to show support at the first chance, but this time, the comment had nothing to do with the post. 'I can't believe you did that,' he commented. Sophia didn't understand what he meant. She took no part in the renovation, so the comment wasn't related to that, and she was sure of it. A moment later, she texted Zack to ask what he meant, and it took about one second for him to respond with a phone call. Sophia took it, though she was surprised. Shortly after, she could hear the

smile in his
voice.

“I didn’t know you can do
that, Sophia.

”

That sounded more like a praise
than
mockery, much to Sophia’s
surprise.

“Did I do
anything?”

Zack clicked his tongue.

“You
don’t know?

Fine, I’ll tell you, then, but keep
it a secret.

This is only for your ears.

”

“Just spit it out. You know I can
keep
secrets.

” Sophia was getting
impatient.

Zack cleared his throat, then
said,

“I

overheard President William’s
call today.

”

John’s dad? What’s this got to
do with me?

Sophia kept quiet and listened to Zack.

“I think he called his wife, telling her he can’t take it anymore. He even said it’s not only because of you.

” Then he chuckled.

“That sounds like a divorce. The way I see it, he’s saying you played a part in this divorce.

That’s unbelievable. Not only did you manage to get a divorce with your ex-husband, but you broke his parents up.
”

Sophia sneered.

“Well, I have nothing to do with that. That’s all her. She’s too much of a drama queen, and only an unbelievably patient guy like John’s dad can put up with her. If it were anyone else, they would

have ditched
her twenty years ago.

” She then
asked
curiously,
“But why do they
want to get
divorced? I mean, yeah, it’s all
the rage now,
but they’re old.
”

“Beats me. If the Constances
are hit with
another divorce scandal after
yours, their
reputation will hit rock
bottom.

” He clicked
his tongue.
“They’re probably
going to stay
apart for a while. Even if they’re
getting a
divorce, it’s going to take a
while.
”

Sophia thought he had a point,
and she
sighed regrettably.

“Aw, I want
to see her

face once John's dad ditches her.

It's going
to be priceless.

" That old hag
has always
looked down on me. I want to
witness the
moment she gets the taste of
her own
medicine. Since they were on
this topic,
Sophia asked about how work
was going on
his side.

It was a casual question, but
Zack
misconstrued it, thinking she
wanted to know
about John.

"It's been a couple
of days since
we saw the Baileys here.
Everyone's trying to
avoid the court of public
opinion. Of course,
that includes Isabelle. All she
can do is call,
so relax. Not like calls can spark
love.

"

Sophia smacked her forehead.

“Alright, stop.

**I don’t want to hear anything
about him.**

”

**Despite her protests, Zack
continued,**

**“He’s
been going through the wringer
these days.**

”

Zack sighed.

**“I have never seen
him so
frustrated and short-fused.**

”

**The Returning Ex Chapter 392
John didn’t have a good temper,
but he used
to keep it in check. At most, he
was just
unfriendly, but now he would
hurl things
around. Whenever Zack went to
John’s office
now, he would be greeted with
documents
sprawled on the ground, while
John would be
smoking beside the window,
obviously
frustrated. He was vastly**

different from
how he was before.
Sophia frowned.

“Why are you
telling me
that? I don’t think I have
anything to do with
that.

”

Zack chuckled.

“If you say so.
He did this to
himself, really. You’re doing
good ignoring
him.

”

Refusing to talk about this,
Sophia shifted
the topic, saying,
“I went to the
shop, and
the renovations are almost
done.

”

Zack grunted.

“Yeah. It’ll
probably be done in
two days. They’ll brush up on
the details, and
you
’ll have to let the place air out

for a few days. They used recyclable materials, but it's still harmful.

”

Sophia nodded.

“Understood.

Tell me when the renovation is done, then I'll make the payment.

”

“Your ex-husband has paid for it, so it's fine,

” Zack quickly replied.

Sophia clicked her tongue. Of all the things that could happen. Even so, she said,

“Just tell me the cost and I'll pay John back. I

don't need him to do this, so just let me pay.

”

After a pause, Zack said,

“I'll ask him after everything's done. If you still want to pay

him, that's your choice. Let's see what he says.
”

Sophia grunted, and after a while of small talk, she ended the call. Feeling bored, she went to read the news online. As expected, the news about the Constances had less coverage now that they chose to ignore it. Comments were still coming in, but at a smaller magnitude now. John and Isabelle were handling their own companies, so all the news outlets could capture was how they were working. With nothing to go on, the media could only conclude that they weren't affected by public opinion. Now everyone would think that the earlier reports were just speculations.

At this, Sophia smiled and put her phone down. It's going to blow over soon, and I can get on with my life.

On the other hand, John went home after work, while William got back sooner than he did. When John looked around to see if his mother was here, Belinda said, "Stop looking around. She didn't come."
"

John looked at William, but before he could say anything, William said, "Your mother's staying with her family. We've decided to go through the paperwork next Monday, but we
'll keep it a secret until the time is ripe."
"

John pursed his lips, not replying. William didn't look too happy, obviously upset that he

had to get a divorce at this age.

At the side, Belinda sighed.

“Don’t think too

much about it,

” she told

William.

“If Matilda

can change, you guys can get

back together,

but if she can’t, then no harm in

getting a

divorce.

”

John waited for a while before

going to the

dining room. He had no

comments about his

parents’ divorce. They were

already adults,

so he expected them to know

what they were

doing. Plus, they had more

experience than

he did, so there was no need for

his opinion

or comment here.

William followed John into the

dining room a

while later, but he had no

appetite. After

looking at the food served on

the table, he
turned around and went out.
“I
won’t be
eating today.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 393

John was equally sick of the
food, but
instead of leaving, he said,
“Make something
else next time. I’m getting sick
of this.

” The
servant quickly obliged.
The old lady looked at the food,
and when
she saw all the beef in it, she
smiled. It was
a quiet meal, for she could see
that John
wasn’t happy either. However,
she broke the
ice.

“Oh, someone told me it’s
going to be
Kate’s eightieth birthday in a
few days.
They’re going to hold a big
celebration. We’ll
be invited too. Do you want to

go?”

John never liked these events,
so he
frowned.

“Not really.
”

His grandmother said okay,
then she
continued,
“Logan might attend
too. I heard
his father is planning to
introduce him to the
guests there.
”

John looked at her, surprised,
but Belinda
stared down into her plate.
“Logan and
Sophia seem to get along well.
”

John tried to see what his
grandmother was
thinking, but since she wasn't
looking back, he
could get no answers. A while
later, he said,
“Mrs. Blackwell is your friend,
isn't she,
Grandma?”
“Yes, she is, but we don't keep

in touch that
much now. You know how old
people get. We
don't like moving around,
" she
lamented. Kate
was older than her, so she
stayed at home
most of the time because of her
deteriorating health.

"Will you go, Grandma?" John
asked.

"Of course I will.

" She smiled.

"I
was going to
take you too, so I'm asking
about it now.

"

John kept eating his steak.

"I'll

see how the
day works out then.

" That was

an indirect
agreement.

Belinda smiled.

"Tell me after
you're done.

"

Then, everything quieted down.

John only had a few more bites before putting his knife and fork down. The old lady then followed suit.

“You can go upstairs if you’re done. I’ll be down here for a bit.

”

John grunted, then he nodded at her and left for his room. For some reason, he was exhausted despite not having done anything on this day. After staying in his room for a while, he went to William’s room.

William was scrolling through his phone on the bed, looking relaxed, but he sat up once he saw John.

“Did something happen?”

John shook his head before going to sit on the sofa.

“I want to talk about something.

”

John never talks with someone unless something has happened.

William put his phone down.

“What is it? Do you have any questions?”

John smiled.

“I guess so.

” He

organized his words before asking,

“Are you upset about the divorce?”

William was shocked that he would ask this question, so he frowned for a moment before answering,

“I’m not happy, but I’m not upset either, honestly.

” After all these years of suffocation under Matilda’s reign, he felt like he had gotten freedom, as if a weight was

finally lifted off his shoulders.

John gave it a thought.

“You

guys were

married for almost thirty years,

right?”

“Yes.

” William sighed.

“We

helped each other

a lot over the years, so it’s going

to be hard

leading separate lives. But you

know what

your mother is like. If we keep

going on at

this rate, we’re bound to be at

each other’s

throats eventually. It’s better

this way.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 394

John could understand that, but

he was here

for something else.

“Grandma

told me you

guys weren’t in love when you

were married.

”

William smiled.

**“She really tells
you
everything, huh?” Released
from his burden,
William told him openly,
“We
spent the first
five years arguing, but then we
settled down.
I think the love only started
budding from
that point.**

”

**“Five years? That’s a long time,
”**

**John
mumbled.**

**“Yeah, it was,
” he replied.**

**“We
took a longer
time than most couples. Some
of them
started falling in love right after
the
marriage, but we were different.
Your
mother has a big attitude. It
was impossible
to fall for her.
” Then, he**

**guffawed. The
divorce didn't seem to affect
him adversely.
Instead, he looked happier than
ever.**

**That was when John slowly
looked sterner,
and he frowned.**

**"Why are you suddenly asking
me this
though?" William queried.**

John sighed.

**"Nothing. I just
feel puzzled.**

"

William looked at his son.

"About what?

Sophia, or Isabelle?"

**A serious expression crept up
on John's face.**

"Isabelle?"

**William crossed his hands on his
legs.**

"You

**went to the golf course with
Isabelle that
day.**

"

To that, John grunted.

"Yes. I

told you that I

had to inspect a sample product
for future
supply purposes.
”

When he heard that, William
shook his head.

“You’re still inexperienced, so
you don’t know
what happened.

” It wasn’t until
William saw
how the Baileys responded did
he realize
what happened. Slowly, he
went to the
window.

“You shouldn’t have
gone out with
Isabelle alone. No matter what,
you two
meeting alone is bad, given the
condition.
”

Then, William changed his tone.

“Forget it.

Now that we’re at this point,
it’s useless to
talk about it. Just put it in the
past.
”

That was John’s plan anyway;

he wouldn't be
paying attention to it now that
it had
happened.

William looked at him.

"Just be
more careful
after this.

"

"I understand.

" John then stood
up.

After talking about the
collaboration with
the Baileys for a while, John lost
his patience
and left William's room when
he realized that
they hadn't touched on
anything important.

Even after he came back to his
bed, John

was still frowning. A moment
later, he

clutched his chest, his heart
pounding

furiously. I seriously dislike this
feeling.

His parents only fell in love with
each other

after five years, but he got the

divorce
after one year. That meant that
he had
barely interacted with Sophia
then, so he
didn't feel like he could fall for
her. After
being in the business world for
so long, John
knew he was a paranoid guy. It
wasn't easy
for him to love someone, but
how else could
he explain the weird emotions
he was
feeling? It's not like I'm not
used to being
alone.
He let out a sigh and took out
his cigarettes,
wanting to ease his frustration.
As he lit his
cigarette, he texted Zack, asking
about the
following itinerary even though
he knew it by
heart already. Zack was
surprised, but he
sent him the detailed schedule
anyway.

The Returning Ex Chapter 395

There wasn't anything important happening, but after thinking through things for a while, he texted Logan.

At the same time, he was playing poker in his clubhouse with three of the waiters. Logan wondered if they were letting him win on purpose or if they were truly stupid. Either way, winning too easily doused his motivation.

He would always get whatever card he wanted, so the game was pointless.

When Logan received the text, he waved the waiters away, much to their gratitude. They quickly left the room, rejoicing in this mercy.

Then, Logan read the text and sent a voice message.

'Yeah, I'm going with my old man.

Are you going too?' Logan was

an impatient man, and he called John after sending the message. This guy never texted me first.

This is a surprise.

It didn't take long for John to pick it up.

Logan leaned back against the chair.

"Didn't expect you to ask me that.

What? You want to be my partner for the banquet? Sorry, but

we

're both guys. It's going to disgust

everyone, and I have a partner already, so

you have to look for someone else.

”

John was still thinking about how he should ask who his partner was when Logan told him about it, so he took the chance.

“You have a partner? Who is it?”

Logan snorted.

**“I hope you
won’t get angry
about this.
”**

**That was just saying his partner
was Sophia.**

So, John sneered,

“Sophia, huh?

Did she

agree to it?”

Logan chuckled.

“Of course she

did. She

helps me out every time. You

guys can’t

imagine how close we are.

”

“Is that so?” John replied

calmly.

Oblivious to the annoyance

brewing within

John, Logan continued,

“We’re

close friends.

Sophia’s my cup of tea, and she

sees me as a

friend. Remember your uncle’s

birthday

celebration? She gave my tea

utensil to him.

We’re as tight as a family can

be.

”

John froze.

**“So the tea utensil
was yours.**

”

**“Obviously. You can only get
good stuff like
that from me.**

**” Logan sounded
proud.**

**“You
saw it too, right? It’s good stuff.
She took it
the moment I offered it. No
hesitation at all.**

That’s how close we are.

”

**He doesn’t feel awkward
bragging about how
friendly he is with my ex-wife.
John chuckled
silently. Even though Logan was
closer to
Sophia than he was with Ian,
that also
eliminated him as competition.
He was the
type who would try to be
friends with
everyone he met, which**

ironically pushed
everyone away from him.
John didn't want to talk about
this further,
so he asked Logan when would
he go to the
banquet. After all, he heard the
Blackwells
were going to hold an all-day
event, and there
would even be a prize-drawing
session at
night.

Logan hadn't thought of that,
but now that
John was asking, he said,
"Probably earlier
than expected. Being tardy
would be rude.

"

He cares about manners? What
a surprise.

John grunted.

"I see. Okay.

That's that,

then.

"

Logan stopped him before he
could hang up.

"Why'd you text me? I thought
you wanted

to go with me.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 396

John smiled.

“You thought
wrong.

” Then, he
hung up.

Logan kept calling out to him,
but the call had
ended, so he looked at his
phone and said,

“You could have talked a bit
more. We have
time.

” However, his request
was met with
silence.

The next morning, John went to
tell his
grandmother that he could go
to the banquet.

“Good.

” Belinda nodded.

“We
should be early
on that day.

”

John nodded.

“Okay.

” After a

quiet
breakfast, John went to work.
On the way
there, Isabelle called him,
saying she had
sent a resupply document to
him. There was
no need to call him over
something so trivial,
so he only gave a noncommittal
grunt.

Isabelle didn't hang up
immediately.

"Are you
still on your way?"

John grunted again, then
Isabelle chuckled.

"Lucky. I am already here, and
early too. I
even worked overtime last
night. To think I
used to envy you white collars.
This is hard
work."
"

John disliked small talk,
especially when they
were people he wasn't close
with. So, he
didn't even bother to grunt this
time.

Isabelle didn't notice that at first, and she continued, "When I had a migraine from overtime last night, I think I can understand how stressful your lives must be. Everyone thinks the typical white collar's life is easy. Work for a few hours and make a lot of money, but we pay the price too. That's why we reap the rewards."
"

John still remained silent, and now Isabelle knew something was off. "Are you still listening, John?" she called out to him. Only then did John grunt once more. Now, Isabelle noticed his reluctance to speak, so she smiled. "Are you driving? I'll hang up

then. Drive safely.

” John said

okay, and

Isabelle hung up.

After that, he tossed his phone

aside, his

expression as calm as ever.

On the other hand, Sophia went

to observe

the shop’s renovation progress.

The

renovators told her it would be

done on this

day, so all she had to do was to

let the place

be properly ventilated, then she

could open

for business. They hadn’t

started on the sign

yet, but it was an easy job, so

Sophia then

told them her shop’s would-be

name.

The renovators were surprised.

“That does

not sound like a good name.

”

‘No Response’—she made it

sound like nobody

would come to her shop. It was

a dark name,

but it was real, and she had to learn how to accept reality, no matter how ugly it was.

After Sophia said it was fine, the renovators said they'd do it. A moment later, she asked them about the fee.

They were surprised to hear that.

"Mr.

Constance has paid a lot in advance. We still have some left over, so we're paying him back.

"

John had paid them before they started work, telling them to ask for more if they needed it, and to pay him back if there was excess.

Sophia nodded.

"I see. How much did he pay you guys? I should be the one to bear the cost, so give his money back to

him.

”

The renovators didn't know what was between her and John, but they told her the price anyway, and Sophia transferred the money to them right away.

“Give John his money back and tell him I won't have him pay for what I should be doing.

” The renovators said okay, and they didn't ask anything more. Sophia checked her shop for a moment and left, feeling that everything was well.

The Returning Ex Chapter 397

The renovators worked fast.

After Sophia transferred the money to them, John called her a few hours later, asking what she meant by this. What? Isn't it obvious? Sophia

played dumb by asking back,
“What are you
talking about?”

“Why’d the renovators give me
back my
money and say it’s what you
want?”

Sophia grunted.

“Oh, that?

Yeah, it is. I’m
supposed to pay for the
renovations, not you.
I don’t want you to pay for it.
Makes me feel
insecure.

”

He sneered.

“Now you’re
feeling insecure?”

Sophia said,

“Yeah, I let you pay
for it
because I didn’t know better.
Now that I do,
I’m going to put my foot down
on this. Can’t
expect you to pay for
everything.

”

John knew she wouldn’t back
off, so a few

moments later, he said,

“Fine.

”

Then, he hung

up.

Sophia was surprised. What’s
that supposed

to mean? A short while later,

John arrived at

her house. For some reason,

she quickly

locked the door and leaned

against it, feeling

scared. John looked angry when

he alighted

his car, much to her confusion,

but she

thought she had to lock him out

for her own

safety.

John tried to open the door, but

to no avail.

“I know you’re in there, Sophia.

Open the

door.

”

She would not do that, but she

knew it was

impossible to hide.

“Why did

you come here?”

she replied.

“I told you I don’t
want to have
anything to do with you
anymore. And I don’t
owe you any money now, so
leave.

”

John sneered.

“Open the door.
We need to
talk.

”

Sophia didn’t want to, for she
recalled how
John gripped her chin in a fit of
anger last
time. When she remembered
how it took
days for the feeling to go away,
Sophia
unconsciously rubbed her chin.
She didn’t
want to feel that again.

“No.

This is my home,
and you’re not welcome here.
Leave.

”

“How dare you,
” John said

coldly.

Sophia didn't feel as scared now that John was locked outside, and the fact emboldened her.

"Just leave, or a new scandal might pop up if someone finds out you're here. We have enough problems as it is.

" Then, she

continued,

"I'm sick of this.

John, because of you, I can't even take a step out of my house.

What more do you want from me?"

When he heard that, he froze.

He was going

to open the door by force, but he stopped

after that. Eventually, he left, and Sophia

heard the revving of his car.

Hence, she

slowly nudged to the window so she could see

what was going on outside.

When she saw him
going into his car and leaving,
Sophia heaved
a sigh of relief. Is he mad?
After that, Sophia kept the door
locked for
the rest of the afternoon. She
usually kept
the windows open, but now she
closed them
all; not because she was
worried about
thieves, but because of John.
She was
worried he might choose to
come in through
the window if the front door
was a no go. If
Husky knew that, John, being
smarter than
he was, could do it too.
However, her concern was
unfounded. John
didn't come again that day, nor
in the
following days. Also, he sent no
text nor
made any calls. At the same
time, the
Constances had stopped
harassing her, while

the media had quieted down about this.

The Returning Ex Chapter 398

The peace was too unsettling, which felt

inexplicably weird to Sophia.

John was giving

her the silent treatment again

as usual, but

this wasn't like any other time.

This time,

they were cutting all ties.

Sophia thought this was fine,

for they would

come to this sooner or later.

Given their

relationship, it was best if they

had no more

contact. The sooner we cut ties, the better.

True to his word, John didn't

come anymore,

while Logan kept pestering

Sophia these

couple of days. He wanted her

to go with him

to a birthday banquet.

Sophia's first reaction was of

rejection.

With how things stood now, she

couldn't

attend an event like that publicly. Any event Logan took part in would also invite other powerful people or public figures.

She didn't know them, but they might know

her. If she were to go with

Logan and

someone recognized her as

John's ex-wife,

it'd be awkward for everyone.

However, Logan didn't think

that much. He

told her he didn't like events

like that either,

but his dad insisted on taking

him there for

some experience. Refusing to

be killed by

boredom, he wanted to bring

Sophia along; at

least she could provide some

fun.

Sophia bought that excuse the

first time,

but now it annoyed her.

"Your

dad's right.

"

She nodded.

“You should be going around more. Don’t just play poker or chess all day.

Go out. Have an adventure.

”

After his first attempt’s failure,

Logan

started pleading.

“Aw, can’t you

just come

with me? Lil’ old me here’s

going to get bored

alone.

”

Sophia could imagine how

Logan looked right

now, pouting as he pleaded

with her to go

with him, his gold chain

dangling. Godd*mmit,

that’s disgusting.

She was about to stop him, but

then Logan

started talking normal. That

style of

speaking disgusted him too.

“I

know what

you

're worried about, but just be
you. You
don't have to care what
everyone thinks. I
mean, everyone hates me, but
that doesn't
stop me from being happy. I can
do whatever
I want, and nobody can stop me.
If they
think I'm annoying, they can
piss off.
”

Sophia stopped herself from
talking, waiting
for Logan to continue. When he
did, he said,
“That divorce was not your fault.
You don't
have to be scared of them. Just
tell them to
f*ck off if they don't like you.
Those
*sshholes are just jealous.
”

When she heard that, she
laughed. Logan
didn't mince his words, but
Sophia thought he
had a point.
Logan decided that Sophia

would go with him
now that she wasn't refusing
the invitation.

"So that settles it. I'll get you
the dress. You
don't have to do anything. Just
go with me,
and we'll crash the party.
"

Then, he hung up.
Sophia wasn't worried about
attending events
like this, for she went with John
once. The
only reason for her reluctance
was her worry
of being recognized, but there
was nothing
to be concerned about. Now
that Sophia had
thought it through, she stopped
dwelling on
this matter.

After days of not contacting Ian,
she
wondered how he was faring in
his company.
She had nothing to do after
dinner, so
Sophia called him, but to her
surprise, Ian

was on an appointment. Even though she had a wild imagination, Sophia couldn't imagine how Ian was like in this scenario. He had always been soft-spoken, which made it impossible for her to see him talking loudly.

That was like imagining John as a gentle, warm man, and Logan as a mild-mannered guy.

The Returning Ex Chapter 399
Ian was speaking loudly to her, asking if she was asleep.

He's drunk. So, Sophia grunted and said,

"Not yet, but I will soon."
"

"Don't sleep just yet.

" Ian stopped her.

"I'll go to your place after I'm done here. I want to talk."
"

“We can talk here.

**” She arched
her eyebrow.**

**There’s nothing we can’t talk
about on a call.**

Ian smiled.

**“I want to do it face
to face.**

”

Sophia smiled too.

**“Sure, but
don’t drink too
much. I’ll be waiting.**

”

**That was more than enough
said. She ended
the call and went to wash
herself up as well
as tidying her place up. About
thirty minutes
later, Ian called her, saying he
was done with
his appointment and was on his
way here. She
grunted.**

**“Did you have a lot to
drink?”**

**“No. I’m a bad drinker, but I
know how to
control myself. I never drink too
much.**

” Ian
laughed.
Feeling reassured, Sophia said,
“I’m waiting
right here.
”

When they ended the call,
Sophia turned on
the TV in the living room. The
door was left
open so she could see Ian later.
As it was
already late, Sophia had bathed
and changed
into her pajamas. She sat on the
sofa holding
her legs, leaving her hair to dry.
Some distance away from the
house, John
saw this, which made him
frown.
His driver looked back.
“Sir, we
've been here
for half an hour. Aren't you
going over?”
John didn't reply to his driver
but merely
kept on looking at Sophia. The
car wasn't
parked too far, so when Sophia

came out to
take a look around, he thought
she would see
him, but she didn't. Her bad
eyesight
obscured him from her.
Since then, John had stayed in
his car
quietly. He came here two days
ago as well
and saw her watering her plants
happily.
She's been living happily
without me. The
divorce made her livelier.
Another car stopped before
Sophia's house a
while later, and the lights in the
yard showed
Ian in the car. John snorted. No
wonder she
keeps her door opened and
stays awake. So
she's waiting for him.
Sophia saw Ian the moment he
came in, and
she stood up.
"I made some tea
for you. Have
some. It helps with the
hangover.

”

What greeted Ian when he came in was a pot of tea on the coffee table. He sat down across from Sophia and stared down at the tea.

“You made this for me?”

He smiled.

Sophia nodded.

“Yeah. I didn’t even touch it.

Having tea this late at night might keep me up, so I made this only for you.

”

Ian picked up the cup. The warmth was just right, and he downed half of the tea in one go. He actually didn’t drink too much liquor, for he was a bad drinker. If he went all out, it’d be disastrous. Then, he put his cup down.

“Today was not a good day, but your call made it better.

”

**During the argument with his father earlier in the morning, Bryce, in his rage, said,
“You’re just like your wench of a mother.
”**

**Offended, Ian snapped,
“Good.
If I were anything like you, I’d kill myself.
”**

Thanks to that, his mood was in the gutters.

Not even the appointment earlier managed to cheer him up. Mr. Zimmel had tried his best to hype the atmosphere up, but but to no avail. Thus, he thought it would be a bad day, until Sophia called him.

The Returning Ex Chapter 400

**“For some reason, I thought about the time you and I went to the Morgans’ company when you called,
” Ian said.**

Why did he think of that?

Nothing big happened. As a reply, she smiled.

“And? Were you thinking of Simon and Sally?”

**“No,
” replied Ian.**

**“Only you.
”**

He kept on staring at Sophia. Sophia was about to say nothing happened that day, but the serious look on Ian’s face and the gentleness in his eyes made her bite her tongue. Oh no, that look in his eyes. I don’t like it. She gasped.

**“Why the serious look? It’s making me nervous.
”**

A few moments later, he smiled.

**“I know you knew I was using you that day.
”**

Sophia said nothing as she

pursed her lips,
her silent surprise an
affirmative answer, so
he sighed.

“I did think of using
you that day,
and you found out about it.
”

Nonetheless,
since she didn't ask, he didn't
say.

A moment later, Sophia smiled.

“It's fine.

That wasn't a big deal. I was
happy I could
help.

”

The look in his eyes became
gentler, and he
sat up slowly.

“I've seen many
people over the
years, but you're the first who
helped me
without asking for anything in
return.

”

Sophia was confused. What's he
talking
about? Something's off about
him.

Still, Ian didn't take his eyes off her.

"Sophia, I've kept my feelings hidden all this time. But today, I want to tell you all about it. Sophia, I—"

"What a surprise, Ian. You're here too?"

someone quipped by the door.

Sophia almost jumped up from shock, and she

looked back. Standing at the doorstep was

none other than John

Constance with his

hands in his pockets, who had showed up

from nowhere. Sophia's mouth formed an O.

This guy's gone for days now, so what's he

doing showing up all of a sudden?

Now that he was interrupted, Ian couldn't

say what he wanted to, so he frowned at

John.

John came up to them slowly, smiling.

**“I
thought I’d drop in and say hi
since I was in
the neighborhood.
”**

**Sophia frowned. So what?
There’s no need
for a surprise visit.
John sat beside Sophia and
looked down at
the coffee table, where a teapot
and teacup
sat. A moment later, he looked
away and said,
“Just done with your
appointment, Ian?”
Ian grunted as a response.**

**“Yes.
I’m
surprised to see you here too,
John. You
seem free.
”**

**To that, John chuckled.
“That’s
because I
don’t have much to do now.
With all the time
I have, of course I’m taking a
stroll.
”**

Sophia turned around and
whispered,

“What
are you doing here?”

From the corner of his eyes,
John shot her a
look.

“I told you I’m in the
neighborhood. It’s
a coincidence.
”

As if. I’m not an idiot. This place
is like a mile
away from the nearest road.

There isn’t a
shortcut here anywhere. She
pursed her lips
and looked away. It had been a
few days
since he last came here, and
Sophia thought
he must have calmed down.

At the same time, Ian finished
the rest of
the tea. He had a lot to say, but
now he
couldn’t say a word.

John then went to the kitchen
to take a cup.

When he came back, he poured
himself a cup

of tea and leaned back against the sofa while crossing his legs, making himself at home.

The Returning Ex Chapter 401

Annoyed by his behavior, Sophia ignored him.

“Where were we?” She turned to Ian.

“You said you want to tell me something. What is it?”

Ian smiled.

“Forget it. I’ll tell you when I have the chance.”

John looked up at Ian, and he raised his cup.

A faint smile appeared on his face, but

Sophia was oblivious to it.

“Okay,” she said.

The atmosphere quickly turned awkward, for Ian and John both said nothing, while Sophia didn’t know what to say as well. Then, John

looked at Sophia's phone that was on the table, and he picked it up.

"You've been using this for a while now.

"

"What are you doing?" Sophia protested.

"I remember buying this for you.

" John held it tightly.

Sophia was surprised he remembered that.

Before she married John, she was using a no-name phone. She complained about it being laggy, so John asked Zack to change it right away. Or maybe it was because he thought it dragged his class down. Either way, Sophia glared at him.

"So you're going to even take back the phone now?"

John smiled. Then, he tried to unlock her phone, but the password was

incorrect. I

**knew it. She doesn't even
defend against
Husky, but her guard is all up
against me.**

**Thus, he tossed the phone back
at Sophia.**

**"No. It's just something I
remembered.
"**

**Sophia took her phone and put
it away.**

**"I transferred some money to
you,**

**" John
continued.**

**"I'm a man of my
word. Reneging on
a promise is not my style.
"**

**Surprised, Sophia quickly went
to check her
account and found that John
had transferred
some money to her this
afternoon. He's
generous. This is a lot of money.**

**"What's the
meaning of this?" She looked at
him, upset.**

John became serious all of a

sudden.

“It’s
your reward. Did you forget
what I said?”

Sophia looked at her phone.
Unwilling to dwell
on this matter further, she
nodded after a
while.

“Fine. This is the end
then. We owe
nobody anything.

” You can stop
coming over
now.

John gave her a cryptic smile,
while Ian
closed his eyes, looking
resigned. Now, he had
accepted what had happened,
so he stood up
and announced,

“I should go
back now. It’s
late.

” Then, he looked at John.
If it were the old John, he would
have taken
the cue from Ian and left as well,
but now,
for some unknown reason, he

ignored it.

“Safe trip,
” he told Ian.

Sophia was annoyed.

“Didn’t
you hear? It’s
late, so you’re leaving too.
”

John stared down and sipped
his tea.

“After
I finish my tea.
”

Ian gave John a look before
turning back to
Sophia.

“Good night, Sophia.
”

He knew John
wouldn’t do anything to Sophia;
not like she
would let him do as he wanted
anyway.

Sophia sent Ian off at the yard,
and before
he left, Ian reminded her of the
usual stuff.

At the same time, John picked
up Sophia’s
phone. It’s unlocked. Good.
Meanwhile, Sophia was still

talking to Ian.

“Yeah, yeah, I know. Do you really don’t want to say what’s on your mind? Is it urgent? Do you need my help? Tell me if you need any help. It’s fine.”

Ian smiled.

“Nothing. It’s okay. I’ll be leaving now.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 402
Sophia nodded.

“Safe trip.

” Then, she waited until Ian was gone from her sight before returning to her home, the smile having faded from her face.

When she came back, John was nowhere to

be found. Sophia grumbled,

“Why’d that jerk have to run around.

” She went inside and called him, but there was no

response.

Sophia looked up to see that the lights

upstairs were turned on.

Quickly, she went up

and found John in her room,

looking around

beside her bed. She went inside,

unhappy.

“Why did you come to my room?”

John glanced back at her but

said nothing. He

was here to see if there was

anything else

besides her stuff, but the room

was still the

same. Even though he knew she

wouldn't date

anyone else, with Ian being

here, he had to

check. If not, he'd feel

concerned. Then, he

went toward Sophia.

Sophia took two steps back and

glared at him.

“What do you want?”

Centimeter by centimeter, John

closed their

distance and leaned toward her.

All it would

take was for him to take one more step, and he would have kissed her. Sophia inched backward.

“Why are you getting so close to me? This place is big enough for the both of us.”

“Why are you blushing?” John smiled.

“Because I’m angry. My face turns red every time I get angry.”

” Sophia gritted her teeth.

John smirked.

“You let him in even at this

hour? Aren’t you bold?”

“I let you in too, didn’t I?” She snorted.

“I’m different from him.”

” He smiled.

“Of course,

” she retorted.

“You’re in the past, but he’s not. He has a

chance.

”

John was stumped, and his expression froze up.

“You really know how to talk back.

” He nodded somewhat helplessly. The more I say, the more she snaps back. She won’t back down, huh?

Sophia looked at him coldly.

“Why? I can’t talk back even when you’re wrong? Where’s my freedom?”

John frowned at her, though he didn’t get angry. Never would he expect Sophia to be this hard to argue with. After being in the business world for years, he had a way with words. Most people would shut up when they argued with him, no matter how good of a speaker they were. However,

Sophia was an anomaly; for every word he spoke, she would counter with a hundred. John raised his hand, but before he could do anything else, Sophia covered her chin and neck before taking a step back, much to his surprise. Looking at him on full alert, Sophia demanded, "What do you want to do?"

A while later, John sighed and put his hand down.

"Nothing. It's late. I'm leaving."
"

When he was done, John went outside. Sophia followed him closely and quickly locked the front gate after he exited the yard, then she came back inside and locked the door. A frown appeared on her face as she fell into

ponderance. Sophia was surprised about how John was behaving this day. Usually, he'd be cranky and gloomy as well as frowning all the time. But he smiled today. If her memory served her right, he didn't have any alcohol. If that's the case, then he must be sick. She turned off the lights and went upstairs. When John came back to his car, the driver had already fallen asleep. Not bothering to wake his driver up, he went into the backseat and glanced over Sophia's house.

The Returning Ex Chapter 403
The first floor's lights were out, but not on the second floor. A while later, he saw Sophia pulling the blinds down. John sighed, then he lit a cigarette.

He was in a good mood on this day, for he managed to stop Ian's confession in time. Even though he didn't know why he felt good about that, he did know Sophia didn't cross him even though she was rude. These couple of days had been frustrating for him, but he didn't know the reason. Everything vexed him, though that feeling was gone now. He then tossed his half-smoked cigarette away and took his phone out. There was a new friend request for him, and it was from Sophia. He praised himself for this smart move, then he changed his profile picture and name. Since Sophia was having her guard up against him, if she noticed him adding her back, she'd block

him again. But she isn't really smart though. Having her guard up is all she has. John then patted the driver on the back. The driver stirred and woke up. "You're back, Sir."
"

John grunted. "Let's go."
"

On the other hand, Sophia was looking at her bank balance. She was in a dilemma now that John transferred more money to her. If his mother finds out, she's going to cause a ruckus again. D*mn that old hag. Sophia wanted to hit something at the thought of Matilda. Then, she logged in to her Facebook. Logan had sent her pictures of dresses and asked her to pick one. Man, his aesthetics is

just... Sophia thought the dresses looked tacky, so she told him she'd personally take a look the next day.

'Will John attend the banquet too?' she then texted Logan.

Logan called her back.

"I think so. This is for the best, I think. Once you guys meet up and talk a bit, those paparazzis will have a new scoop, then both you and his names will be cleared.

"

She snorted.

"How thoughtful of you.

"

Feeling bored, she then went through her friend list. There wasn't much to see though, since she could count her number of friends with two hands, but then she

paused. When did this guy pop up? When did I add him? She had no recollection of that. So, she tried to look into his profile, but she didn't think she saw that profile picture before, nor was his name familiar. Her friend list had never shrunk, but she had indeed added some of the Constances before. Those guys haven't unfriended me? She frowned. Logan continued, "It's fine. Just face him as you would. I think this is your chance."

”

“Yeah, yeah. I think so too.

”

Sophia tried to scroll through his wall, but nothing came up. That night was spent chatting with Logan and checking this new guy, then she drifted to

sleep halfway through.
She woke up the next morning,
dazed. After
lying for a while more, she went
to pull the
curtains back. Nice weather
today. She
snapped a photo and posted it
on her wall.
It wasn't like Sophia to post on
her wall, for
she had no friends, but then she
uploaded
more frequently recently. She
wanted John
to see her posts, but he
probably never
scrolled through his feed. That
guy
downloads these apps for
nothing. After
tidying up, she went to see
Logan. At the
same time, Logan was still
sleeping in his
clubhouse.

The Returning Ex Chapter
404 Sophia felt
vexed. Before she went to meet
him, she
asked the waiter to wake him

up, for she
didn't want to see him naked.
After being
woken up and told about her
arrival, Logan
looked confused, but he put it
aside. He wore
some shirt and came out, his
feet bare, his
hair unkempt.

"What brings you
here,
Sophia?"

Sophia sat cross-legged on the
sofa.

"The
dresses. You sent the pictures
to me last
night, so I'm here to pick one.
"

"Oh, but the dresses are still in
the shop. I
got the pictures from the
manager. Give me a
minute. I'll take you there after
I brush
myself up.
"

Before Sophia could say
anything, Logan went
back up. It didn't take long for

him to come
back down in new clothes,
though his gold
chain remained around his neck.

Sophia
clicked her tongue.

“You never
go out without
that, huh?”

Logan prized his gold chain.

“You won’t
understand. Let’s go.

” He

brought Sophia to a
haute couture boutique that
was classier than
the one John brought her to,
but it didn’t
have the same atmosphere.
The manager knew Logan, so he
quickly
welcomed them when they
arrived.

Logan put on airs as he said,
“Take everything
you showed me last night
here.

”

The manager said yes and asked
his staff to
move all the dresses here.

There were a lot
to choose from, and all of them
were
showcased on mannequins.
Before the staff
managed to move all the
mannequins, someone
in the lobby said,
“Please come
with me, Miss
Bailey.
”

The Bailey name always caught
Sophia’s
attention no matter where she
was. She
reflexively turned to look at the
lobby, and in
came two women led by the
staff. This was
the VIP room, which meant only
special
individuals could come. And
she’s a Bailey.
Yep, must be Isabelle.
A few moments later, Isabelle
and her
mother came in with the staff.
They were
shocked to see Sophia and
Logan, their

expressions stiffening up.
Sophia and Isabelle were
involved in the
earlier scandal, but their
identities were
different; Sophia was John's
wife, while
Isabelle was seen as a mistress.
Thanks to
the rumors that spread, Isabelle
looked
awkward whenever she met
Sophia.
On the other hand, Sophia gave
Isabelle one
calm glance and looked back.
After
everything was shown before
her, she
pointed at a black dress.
"This
one, please.
"

The manager looked surprised,
and he looked
at Isabelle.
Before Isabelle could say
anything, her
mother said,
"Mr. Ronald, we
came here first

yesterday. I believe we told you
this one's
nice.
”

Sophia looked at Mrs. Bailey.
“Same here.
And I said everything's nice.
”

She grinned at
her.

“If we go by your logic,
does that mean
I've reserved everything here?”

Logan chimed in,
“Mr. Ronald, I
believe I
clearly said all of these are fine,
right?”

Indeed, Logan had said this the
day before.

Sophia hadn't decided on the
dress, so he
said all of them were fine, but
they would
only make the decision on this
day. Joseph
Ronald, the manager, looked
troubled, but he
nodded.

“Yes. You did say so,
Mr. Jefferson.

”

Mrs. Bailey looked vexed.

Sophia smiled at Isabelle.

“Oh,

you like this

too, Miss Bailey?” So we have

the same

tastes both in fashion and men.

The Returning Ex Chapter

405 Before

Isabelle could say anything,

Sophia said,

“If

you want it, you can say it. I can

give it to you

if you want. It’s just a dress. No

big deal.

”

She then told Joseph,

“Mr.

Ronald, give this

to Miss Bailey.

”

The color drained from

Isabelle’s face. They

might be talking about the

dress, but she

knew what Sophia was saying.

Of course, Mrs.

Bailey knew it too, so she

frowned.

**“What do
you mean ‘give it to her’? It’s
not yours to
begin with. Know your place.
Taking what’s not
yours never ends well. See?
You’re already
divorced.**

”

**Sophia was going to let her
temper flare, but
Logan was quicker, for he
calmly went to the
mannequin and tore the black
dress apart at
the seams. Then, he arched his
eyebrow.**

“Yeah, it never ends well.

**” He
arched his
eyebrow.**

**“For example, I might
just ruin it.**

”

**Joseph looked shocked, but he
said nothing.**

Meanwhile, Logan chuckled.

**“If
we can’t have
this dress, then nobody can.**

”

That made Sophia chuckle. No wonder they say he's a troublemaker. He was behaving like the day he rioted at the Morgan Residence.

This is the real him.

Mrs. Bailey pointed at him, her hand trembling with anger, but Logan merely sneered at her.

"Do you have anything else you like?" he asked Sophia.

There was another red dress beside. She thought it looked decent, so Sophia pointed her chin at it.

"This one.

" Then, she looked at Isabelle.

"Do you like this one as well? I can give it to you.

"

Isabelle said nothing. If Sophia was alone, she wouldn't have backed down,

but Logan
was here too. Everyone would
avoid crossing
him if they could, including her.
She wasn't
scared of him per se, but he
could be
annoying. Embarrassing herself
because
Logan wouldn't let her go was
not on her
agenda.

Since Isabelle was not saying
anything,
Sophia told Joseph,
“Looks like
Miss Bailey
doesn't like this. Pack this up
for me then.
”

Joseph quickly asked his staff to
pack the
dress, then Logan and Sophia
went to pay for
it. When the bill came, Sophia
wanted to foot
it herself, but that made Logan
feel insulted.
“I've never let any woman foot
the bill. Not
on my watch.

”

Sophia smiled.

“Treat me to a meal then.

”

Thanks to John, Sophia was a rich lady now.

That guy’s really wealthy, Sophia thought.

Before this, she thought her marriage with

John was an unhappy one, but now she

realized she got something huge out of it. If

it was in the past, she couldn’t have afforded

this.

Logan was still disgruntled, for he thought

that Sophia only agreed to attend the

banquet because of him. If he let her pay for

her own dress, it’d be an insult to his pride.

Hence, he pushed her hand down, refusing to

let her pay.

“No. You treat me to a meal, or

**you can cook something for me.
We'll be even
then. There's company here, so
I can't back
off on this no matter what.
”**

**He's referring to Isabelle and
her mom, huh?**

**At the same time, the Baileys
came over, and
Sophia kept her phone.**

**Isabelle came to pay for the
dress she
picked, ignoring Sophia.**

**Meanwhile, Logan had
also paid for the ruined dress,
then he went**

**past the Baileys, sounding
delighted, much to
Mrs. Bailey's chagrin.**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 406
This was probably the first time
someone
disrespected her, or rather,
what Logan did
could be considered humiliation.
She stared
at them as they left, then when
Logan was
about to exit, he looked back at
her and**

sneered. The mockery she felt made her face fall.

Sophia went out first, and she called out to Logan.

“Let’s go, Logan.”

Their car was parked at the boutique’s doorstep. It was almost peak hour now, so many users were parking dangerously. When they came to their car, they saw a traffic officer issuing a fine for one of the cars there. The owner quickly came to explain himself.

He said he had to leave for an urgent matter, but there were no spaces, so he had to park this way. The officer refused to listen to his explanation, and he kept on with issuing the fine. When Logan saw that, he frowned at

the officer and snorted before going into the car.

Sophia was reminded of something else.

“Do you hate them? Because of the surprise checks they pull on your club?” Logan revved the car and drove away.

“No. Just one in particular. She can’t even find anything, but still I get yelled at. That woman is just here for trouble. That gets on my nerves.

”

“Someone actually yells at you?” Sophia smiled.

“Even Mrs. Bailey keeps quiet in your presence. She’s braver than Mrs. Bailey is?”

Logan was reminded of a particularly annoying face. If it weren’t because she was a woman,

he would have sabotaged her.

“Don’t talk
about her.

” He looked disgusted.

“I don’t
want my mood ruined. Let’s
grab some grub.

”

They went to a restaurant, then
Logan
started blabbering about a lot
of things. One
of it was the talent show his
sister invested
in.

“It’s almost done. The
mentors were
decided, and all of them are
giants in the
industry. It’s going to be a hit, I
tell you.

”

“What about Ian? Did he say
anything?”

Logan shook his head.

“Not yet.

I talked to
him last night, but there’s no
reply yet.

”

He’s probably still hesitating.

Sophia thought
about the thing he was going to
say before
John's interruption last night.

Was it related
to this show? So why did he
stutter? Sophia
smiled.

Was he feeling guilty because
he was going to
take part in this show right after
I helped
him get his position? Oh, he
worries too
much. I don't care about that.

He should
know about that. Besides, I've
always
supported him doing what he
wants. I
thought it's obvious.

"Let me
talk to him,
" she
said after a moment of thinking.

It was still morning after they
had their
meal, so they went to Sophia's
shop. Thanks
to the renovation being mostly
done, it was a

different place from before. The renovators said the sign would be done by afternoon.

Even Logan thought it was a decent job.

Wanting to share the results, Sophia called

Robin and invited her over.

Robin was getting bored being at home alone, so she quickly

came after taking the call.

When she came,

Logan could imagine himself playing games

with his friends, and he couldn't hold his itch back.

While the ladies were talking in the shop, he

called Ian, but nobody picked it up the first

time. Logan looked at the time.

It's almost

noon though. Then, he made another call, and

it went through this time.

The Returning Ex Chapter 407

"Hello, Logan,

" Ian greeted him.

“Hey, are you at your company?

Oh, guess

what? I’m with Sophia here at

her shop,

and—”

Ian interrupted before he could

even finish

his sentence.

“Give me a minute.

I’ll be there

right away.

”

“Hey, Ian!” He wanted to ask

him what was

going on, but Ian had hung up,

leaving him

hanging and confused. Can he

come out even

when it’s still working hours?

It didn’t take too long for Ian to

come, and

Logan went to meet him with a

smiling face.

“Hey, Ian!” Then, he came to an

abrupt stop,

for Ian didn’t look good.

“What’s with the

long face?” He stared at Ian.

“Who pissed

you off?”

Ian sighed.

“Let’s talk inside.

”

**When they came in, the ladies
were talking
about their business plan.**

**Sophia then
grinned at Ian.**

**“This is my
empire now. How
do you like it? Not bad, eh?”**

Ian nodded.

“It is.

”

**Oblivious to Ian’s mood, Sophia
gushed,**

**“I
think so too.**

”

**A while later, Logan led Ian to
the
window side and sat down.**

“What happened?”

**Ian took his cigarette out, but
he put it back,
thinking this wasn’t the**

**occasion. After
letting out a sigh, he replied,**

**“I’ve quitted
the company job.**

”

“You quit?” Logan was

surprised, but
delightfully so.
“Great! You can
take part in
Lorraine’s show then!”
Ian pursed his lips, his gaze
complex. This
was why he argued with Bryce.
He wanted to
do what he liked, but Bryce
wanted him to
stay at the company. Jobs like
idols or
celebrities were scorned by him,
for he
thought these were lowly work.
Initially, Ian
was going to have a proper talk
with him, but
when Bryce insulted his mother,
all bets were
off. Since even his mother got
dragged into
this matter, they had numerous
fights, and
on this day, he quit his job at
the company.
There was no point doing a job
he didn’t like.
Logan was supportive of his
action.

**“Nice job!
I’ll get Lorraine to rig the show!
Sorry, I
mean, be your backer! No,
that’s wrong too!
What’s it called? Oh yeah,
image! I’ll get
Lorraine to create a persona for
you and
shoot you to stardom. Let’s see
how that old
git likes it!”**

**Ian leaned back against the
chair.**

**“I don’t
care about anything as long as I
can leave the
Morgans.**

**” He thought he could
take them,
but apparently, he
overestimated himself.
The ladies came up to them
when they were
done talking.**

**“What are you
two chatting
about?”**

**Logan grinned, but before he
could say
anything, Ian asked,**

**“When did
John leave
last night?”**

Sophia paused.

**“Not long after
you did.**

”

**She’d get goosebumps
whenever she thought
of how John looked at her
before he left.**

**That made her wonder what he
was thinking
of when he gave her that kind
of look. The
look in his eyes was gentle, but
also somewhat
apologetic. She scratched her
head.**

**“John
felt off last night.**

”

Logan was curious.

“Off?”

**Sophia looked hesitant, for she
did think he
was off, but it was impossible
to put a finger
on it.**

**The Returning Ex Chapter
408 Sophia spent a**

long time trying to recall the situation.

“H-He had a nice attitude.”

There was a pause on Logan’s part before he questioned, “Is that all? He has always been nice to you, though.”

Upon hearing what he said, Sophia looked toward him before thinking to herself, Yeah, John wasn’t only being nice to me, but he outright doted on me. She let out a hiss before saying, “Oh, it’s too complicated to explain.”

Ian cast a glance at Sophia. “Since you’re now divorced, you shouldn’t spend as much time

with him as you did, or else
you're only going
to stir up rumors if someone
sees you
together.

”

With a nod, Sophia agreed,
“Yeah, that’s
what I thought.

” She then got
Robin a chair
to sit on before asking,
“What
were you
talking about just now? Logan
had an
exaggerated look on his face.

”

The question sent Logan into a
fit of laughter
before he managed to reply,
“It’s nothing,
but Ian quit his job.

”

Sophia’s eyes went wide while
saying,

“Really?
That’s great! Did you finally
decide to sign up
for that talent show?”

There was a pause on Ian’s part

before he
nodded slowly.
“Yeah, I’d like to
give it a go.
”

After getting a confirmation
from him,
Sophia gave him a pat on the
shoulder.

“You
should go. When the time
comes, we will
campaign for you. With your
capabilities, I’m
sure you’ll make it. Don’t
worry.
”

Robin opened up as well, saying,
“Worry not.
You are a great singer, so you
will succeed no
matter where you go.
”

Meanwhile, Logan turned to
look at Robin,
only to see the possibility of
playing a round
of games, so he suggested,
“Hey,
now that we
have enough people, let’s go to

my place for
some games.
”

Ian wasn't in a particularly good
mood, so he
agreed with a nod after glancing
at Logan.

“Let's go unwind ourselves.

” A

change of mood
was much needed for him.
Seeing that she
didn't have much else to do,
Robin wanted to
go have some fun with Sophia,
so the four of
them left for Logan's clubhouse.
The clubhouse wasn't open for
business
during daytime, but there were
rich kids who
would opt to book a room for
themselves to
play in. Due to the fact that the
clubhouse
wasn't a business club but one
for relaxation,
there were a lot of
entertainment facilities,
so there were guests who
would visit during

the day.

Upon their arrival, the attendant told Logan that there was a group of people having fun in the backyard, who were led by the young master of the Poole Family, to which Logan waved a hand of dismissal.

“Oh, I know this guy. Pay them no heed, as we will be in the room upstairs, which won’t affect them, so let them be.”

There were a myriad of facilities in the backyard, including an opera theater, billiard tables, and bowling lanes. Despite never having visited there, Sophia wasn’t at all curious about them. Being more of a laid-back person, she wasn’t interested in activities that required physical exertion.

They began playing in the room upstairs. As Robin was still no good at games, Sophia suggested that money shouldn't be involved in the game, so all they had to do was stick strips of paper on their faces as punishment. Logan didn't care much about the money, as all he wanted was to have someone play with him. The four of them began as soon as they agreed on the terms. Time flew by when they were playing. Just when they were on a high and creating a ruckus, the door to the room was kicked open from outside, and someone cried out to them, "Nobody moves!" The voice came a little too abruptly, which frightened Sophia. Logan didn't have much luck that day, so he

was constantly losing, which resulted in him having strips of paper all over his face. While holding those paper out of his line of sight, he yapped at the intruders, "Who f*cking let you in? Didn't you see that I'm busy?"

Meanwhile, Sophia yanked the strips of paper off her face before turning to observe the intruders, only to see a bunch of people in police uniforms, the object they held in their hands she only ever saw on TV. The Returning Ex Chapter 409 The commotion startled Sophia, as she never knew the police would make such a huge fuss during crackdowns. A policeman led the way in, followed by a policewoman. Aside from traffic police, it was Sophia's first ever encounter with a policewoman. She

handed her the strips of paper
to the police
while explaining,
“There’s no
money involved
in this, as all we did was stick
paper to our
faces.

”

The policeman stared at Logan
in silence, but
the policewoman headed
straight for Logan,
which sent Logan into a fit of
rage as soon as
he saw who was coming at him.
In an instant,
he shot up from his seat.

“F*ck!

Why do you
keep coming at me?”

Sophia wasn’t sure what the
policewoman did,
but in a flurry of movement,
Logan landed
face first on the table, while the
policewoman had her elbow on
his back.

“You’d
better keep your mouth shut.

”

Although it wasn't the most appropriate time for such thoughts, Sophia thought the policewoman seemed rather heroic in her actions.

Meanwhile, Logan was still prattling on, "Are you done? Why would you come here so often when there is nothing illegal going on? You lot are doing this for the show! You are not getting off the hook that easily if you didn't uncover anything this time around!"

The policeman scanned the room before laying his eyes on the game table that was laden with cards, but it was obvious that no money was involved. After that, he went to the window to check on the backyard, which gave Sophia a bad feeling. She

cast a glance
in Logan's direction, who was
still yelling for
the policewoman to release him,
which she
did after a few seconds.

As soon as he was set free,
Logan stood to
tidy his clothes before showing
off the
golden chain around his neck,
all the while
crying out in exasperation,

"Come over here!
Let me check on your
identification number! I
will make sure to remember
you!"

He pointed a finger in the
policewoman's
face, but he retracted his hand
as soon as
she raised her hand ever so
slightly while
retaining a stoic expression.

However, Logan
wasn't about to relent that
easily, as he kept
up with his rambling, saying,
"Tell me, just
how many times have you come

raiding my
place only to leave
empty-handed? Do you
understand how disruptive your
raids are to
my business? I will file a
complaint against
you!”

After giving the situation some
thought,

Sophia sat down once again.

Logan had been
throwing a tantrum for a while
before a few
other police came to the door.

“Officer Rush,
Officer Hunt, we found
something in the
backyard.

”

The report from the police
silenced Logan
instantly, while Sophia
immediately felt her
heart sink. She exchanged a
glance with Ian
to see that he had a similar look
of worry in
his eyes. Meanwhile, Logan
froze on his spot
as soon as the situation sunk in,

while the first thing he did was to make a dash for the doorway.

The police officer who stood by the doorway was startled by Logan's sudden movements, only to run after Logan after the policewoman ordered him to capture Logan.

However, instead of running away, Logan made his way to the backyard.

Looking at the policewoman, Sophia asked, "Can we go check on him?"

Seemingly having recognized Sophia after checking on her, the policewoman turned to leave in silence, which signified her consent, so Sophia followed the police to the backyard. They arrived at an empty plot of land that marked the beginning of the space in the backyard, while the

facility was located after passing through the winding corridors that followed. There were a few people squatting on the plot of land with armed police watching over them, whereas a few police were still conducting a search elsewhere. When Sophia arrived, Logan was kicking at a man who was lying on the ground.

“Are you trying to frame me? Tell me, what have you got in your pockets?!”

Meanwhile, the man was lying spread out on the ground with a bleeding nose, seemingly a result of Logan’s kicks, but he was wearing a smile all the while.

The Returning Ex Chapter 410It was a rather grueling sight to behold, especially for

Sophia, who never witnessed such an occurrence prior to that. She backed away while asking, “D-Did he take drugs?”

The policewoman walked up to Sophia, Ian, and Robin to check on them before instructing, “You three will have to testify for the occasion while we check on the surveillance records. You can have someone bail you if you are proven innocent.

**” She then turned to instruct the police officer beside her, “Make sure you make a detailed record of their session.
”**

Upon her giving out her orders, the officer nodded while turning to look at

**Sophia and
the others.**

**“Please come with
me.
”**

**With her mouth agape, Sophia
in fact had
something else on her mind,
which pertained
to bailing. She wondered who
she should call
to bail her, as she knew nobody.
Truth be
told, it took a lot out of her just
to call John.**

**The police went through the
surveillance
records, which showed as clear
as day that
the rowdy bunch led by Poole
headed straight
for the backyard as soon as they
arrived,
while Logan and the rest
weren't there to
witness anything, so Logan
knew nothing of
what happened. Neither did he
go check on
them when he arrived at the
clubhouse, but**

instead, he led Sophia and the rest upstairs for some games. Therefore, they weren't involved in the incident. Despite having confirmed their innocence, the police requested that they had someone bail them. With a few presses from the policewoman, Sophia gave John a call with a morose expression, as she knew nobody else. John was in his office when he got her call, which came as a surprise, as Sophia was very much indignant toward him last night when he was at her house. Despite wondering why she would call him out of the blue, he picked up the phone. "What's going on?" A sigh could be heard over the line. "John, I'm in trouble.

” Her confession brought a frown to his face. Meanwhile, Logan was still in the backyard, but an officer already pulled him away from the guy on the ground, as Logan might very well kill the guy before he recovered from his hallucinations. In fact, Logan was exhausted, as all the beating took a toll on Logan’s stamina. He was panting for breath, his throat sore from shouting. On the other hand, the group of people squatting near him dared not even move a finger. After glancing at the packets that the police confiscated during the search they conducted in the backyard, Logan averted his gaze. To be honest, he used to have those as well,

but had stashed them to another location due to the frequent spot checks. But I didn't expect them to f*cking bring their drugs despite knowing that the police had their eyes on us! I doubt if someone who dislikes me is trying to give me a hard time, he thought to himself.

The search was still going on, which uncovered packets of drugs in the area where the gang were having fun. Logan presumed that the police were using it as a reason to make a thorough search in his clubhouse to check if he had more drugs stashed away.

However, he feared nothing despite the gloomy look he wore. Eventually, the search only uncovered what was previously found. Nothing

else was said while the police made a list of the items they found. All contrabands would be confiscated, while the gang would be detained. Neither was Logan able to get out of it unscathed as he was ushered to the front of the clubhouse.

In the meantime, John had arrived on the scene alongside Zack. He was signing on some documents on the side, whereas Zack would be vouching for Ian. Robin's family had also arrived.

As soon as Logan walked past her, Sophia approached him to ask, "Logan, what's going on?"

He spat at the gang who was arrested.

"They are framing me, those

b*stards.

”

Sophia was a bit worried about it.

“Will you be alright? Do you have to go with them?”

John came to her after he was done signing the papers, then laid a hand on her shoulder while consoling her,

“You don’t have to worry too much, as Logan is already used to this.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 411

While it was true that Logan was used to being arrested, he was unhappy about it.

Despite having used to be a part of the problem whenever he was detained, he was implicated by others this time, which made him extremely unhappy. He looked at John before saying,

**“I’ll be back in a
bit.
”**

**No comment was made by John
when Logan
was ushered away, while all he
did was bring
Sophia and Ian to Sophia’s
house. With what
happened, Logan’s clubhouse
would definitely
be forced to close down.**

**Meanwhile, Sophia
was still in a daze when she sat
in the car, all
the while figuring that being by
Logan’s side
sure opened her eyes up to the
world. It was
her first time ever witnessing
such an
incident.**

**It wasn’t until a while later
when he was
driving that Zack asked Sophia,
“What
happened just now? Was it
some sort of
scheme?”**

**Neither was Sophia able to
explain things.**

**“I
don’t know. Logan invited us to
his clubhouse
for some games, so we went.
That group of
people were already in the
backyard when we
arrived, but none of us went to
check on
them, so we didn’t know
anything about what
happened.
”**

**John turned to look out of the
window with a
frown, but the tone in which he
spoke
sounded casual.**

**“It’s alright, the
Jeffersons
will be there soon, so things will
turn out to
be fine. However, the guy who
was carried
away seemed to be a member
of the Poole
Family.
”**

**After some thought, Zack
replied,
“I think**

so, but his face was smeared
with blood while
being carried away, so I
couldn't get a good
look at him.

”

There was a moment's pause
before John
went on to give his instructions,
saying,

“Do a
background check on him. We
need to know
which family he belongs to and
who he has
been mingling with.

”

Zack stared at John from the
rearview
mirror while asking,

“Boss, do
you think
someone is framing Logan?”

John hesitated for a moment
before stating
his point, explaining,

“There
had been
multiple spot checks on Logan's
clubhouse, so
it didn't make sense that the

**group of people
would visit there if they were
intending to do
drugs.**

”

**Without a doubt, anywhere else
would be a
safer choice than Logan’s
clubhouse, which
was something that Zack agreed
to with a
nod.**

**“Yeah, that is a curious
case indeed.**

”

**While they conversed, the car
pulled over at
Sophia’s house, after which
they
disembarked and went into her
house. Sophia
was thirsty after the whole
ruckus, so she
took it upon herself to boil
some water to
make some tea that she served
to everyone.**

**Meanwhile, Ian was sitting still
in his spot
when Sophia handed him his
tea.**

**“Have
something to drink.
”**

**Ian turned to look at her before
smiling at
her.**

“Sure.

**” After that, he
directed his
question at John.**

**“Do you think
either Simon
or Sally might be behind this?”**

**The conjecture startled John,
bringing a
frown to his face while staring
at Ian. Ian
spoke up once again after some
thought,
saying,**

**“When I was in my
family’s mansion, I
heard Simon talking to Sally in a
subdued
voice. Although I couldn’t pick
up on their
conversation, I did hear Logan’s
name being
mentioned.
”**

John had a grave look on his

face while he
concluded,
“Leave the
investigation of the
matter to me. However, I do
believe that
even without us stepping in,
Logan wouldn’t
let them off the hook if that
was really their
doing.

” From Logan’s
perspective, Simon and
Sally had always been a
nuisance even when
they did nothing, say less of
when they did
find fault with him.

Meanwhile, Ian cast John a
glance before
saying,

“Thank you for helping
me out just
now.

” He was similar to Sophia
in the sense
that he had nobody to turn to,
as the
Morgans were crossed off his
list because he
didn’t want to involve them. It

was Sophia
who asked Zack to come vouch
for Ian, so
she did care for him.

With a smile, John responded
nonchalantly,

“I did it for Sophia’s sake.

” He

wouldn’t have
cared about Ian at all if Sophia
hadn’t spoken
up for Ian, but on the flip side,
nor could he
have turned down such a minor
request from
her.

Sophia cast a glance at John,
then thanked
him after a few seconds, to
which John
responded with a huff.

“You
don’t need to be
so courteous with me.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter
412 Sophia clicked
her tongue while frowning, but
quickly made
sure to wipe it off her face. John
sure is a

shifty b*stard. He never would've said so in the past, as he used to be so calculating. Having said so, John stared straight into Sophia's eyes, which made her get goosebumps. He looked conniving yet hesitant at the same time, but no matter the case, he surely wasn't up to anything good. He let out a silent laugh before averting his gaze moments later. Truth be told, he wasn't even scheming on anything. Instead, he was doing it for fun. Logan's call came in after they spent some time in Sophia's house, during which he scolded that b*stard from the Poole Family for framing him. As soon as Sophia heard what Logan said, she asked, "Are you set

free?”

“Of course! Lorraine came to bail me.

” He sounded rather indignant.

“Where are you?
I’ll come look for you now.

”

With that, Sophia had him come to her place

before hanging up, while John was sitting

crossed-legged when he spoke,

“Lorraine sure is getting more and more capable.

” She needed more time back then to bail Logan out.

A frown formed on Sophia’s face when she said,

“You need to make a thorough investigation to check if Simon and Sally are behind this.

”

John gave her a hum.

“Don’t

worry. I will not
let them off the hook since you
are
implicated by the incident.
”

With a pout on her face, Sophia
observed
John closely, but her mind was
clouded in
confusion. His words always
seemed to be
implying something, as if he had
something
else in mind while speaking.
Ever since last
night, I had a feeling that what
he said didn't
sound straightforward at all.
She could feel that something
was off since
last night, but she assumed she
was
overthinking things. However, it
was now
apparent to her that she wasn't
a part of the
problem, as John's actions still
seemed fishy.
As John averted his gaze, the
smile on his
face grew ever brighter,

whereas Ian seemed to retain a stoic expression, for he could detect John's intentions behind those words that were deliberately aimed at him.

During the ensuing silence, Zack stood up to make a call in the yard.

Although John was the one who requested for an investigation to be launched, he didn't need to do so personally, as all he needed was for Zack to arrange for someone to do the work.

Zack didn't go back in after the call, and instead opted to stand in the yard until Logan drove himself to Sophia's house. The latter was still cursing under his breath when he got out of the car, which seemed to indicate that he was still infuriated. While remaining seated, John

turned to cast
a glance at Logan before
mumbling to himself,
“That gold chain on him...
”

Sophia smacked her lips in
response.

“Yeah, I
find it to be an eyesore, too.
”

Nothing else
was said regarding the matter,
as Logan had
always had a peculiar taste that
made him
stand out in a crowd, so the
choice in apparel
was indeed in character.
Seething while entering the
living room,
Logan downed a cup of tea
which he grabbed
from the table without even
asking whose tea
it was. Meanwhile, Sophia
stood when she
asked,
“How did it go? What did
you tell the
police? Did the group of people
confess to

what they did?"

"F*ck.

" Such was Logan's sole response. He then put his hands on his waist before saying,

"Those who were still aware enough to speak denied having any knowledge of the drugs. All they told the police was that it was handed to them by that b*stard from the Poole Family, whereas that b*stard was still unconscious when I left. He might very well have had his head stuck in his own *ss.

"

John cast Logan a glance while asking,

"Did you offend anyone lately?"

The question was met with a bitter smile from Logan.

"You sure pinned me in a hard spot with that question. I

already lost count
of how many people I
offended.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 413
John was annoyed by Logan’s
dismissive
attitude.

“Just tell me who you
have
offended as of late. You should
at least know
that.

”

There was an airy look on
Logan’s face before
his eyes went wide.

“I think I
have a list now
that you asked. I just offended
the two
women from the Bailey Family.

”

John was caught off guard by
what Logan
said.

“Who are they?”

“Who else is there?” Logan
settled down on
the sofa.

“It was Isabelle and

her mother. I
just offended them today, so
the hatred
must be fresh.
”

His words reminded Sophia of
what
happened, but she frowned in
disapproval.

“That couldn’t be it. No matter
how
unscrupulous they are, the
Baileys couldn’t
possibly stoop so low.
”

Besides, the outbreak
happened just that
morning, so the incident at the
clubhouse
happened too soon for them to
have planned
it. The Baileys couldn’t possibly
arrange
everything in such a short
amount of time.

However, Logan seemed
convinced that it was
their doing as soon as he began
dwelling on
the possibility.
“I bet those

women did it.

The fact that I lashed out at those two jerks didn't sit well with them, so they tried to make my life difficult for me.
”

“So there was conflict today between you and the Baileys.

” John looked toward Logan while he spoke, which came out almost as a statement.

“There sure was!” There was a complacent look on Logan's face.

“You can ask Sophia. She was there when it happened.
”

Sophia gave a nod upon hearing what Logan said.

“There was indeed a conflict which arose because of me. I had my eyes on a gown that Isabelle wanted as well, so her mother

mocked me, which in turn irked Logan so much that he tore the gown to shreds. Let's just say that the situation didn't end on a nice note.
”

The explanation given by Sophia cleared up the situation for John. Logan told him he would be bringing Sophia to the birthday party of Kate Blackwell, who was the matriarch of the Blackwell Family, so she would definitely need a gown. With a slap on his thigh, Logan concluded, “The Baileys are definitely plotting against me! Wait till I deal with those two b*tches!” Ian raised his hand while trying to calm Logan. “Hold on, this is all in your head, so you should calm down and take

things slowly.

”

However, Logan was still fuming, as never in his life was he mistreated like that. While it was true that he used to be arrested all the time, he had a part to play in those cases, so he knew those were well deserved, but being framed was another story altogether. Being framed by another human being dealt him a huge blow to his ego, and with how hot-headed he was, he couldn't possibly let it slide.

Meanwhile, Sophia went over to pat his back, soothing his anger.

“Alright, you should slow down, as you can't do anything without proof regarding the matter. John promised to investigate this, so you should

at least wait
until he gets some results.
”

It was rare of her to treat Logan
so nicely,
which managed to placate
Logan. After giving
some thought to the situation,
he said,
“You’re both women, but if I
look between
you and that tomboy, I suppose
she would
never get a taste of men.
”

Sophia blinked in confusion as
she wasn’t
quite sure who Logan was
talking about, after
which he explained,
“I mean
Lola Hunt! I will
make sure to kill that b*tch one
day!”
While observing from the
sidelines, Ian
opened up, saying,
“Do you
mean Officer
Hunt?”
“That’s right! That b*tch had

her eye on me,
so she's constantly finding fault
with me!"

Logan was absolutely furious.
While he had
always wanted to get rid of her,
he never
managed to find a way to do
that. In fact, he
had no way to go about it, as
she was a police
officer, so he was always the
one being dealt
with instead of the other way
around.

Officer Lola Hunt had an air of
righteousness
about her, which left a good
impression on
Sophia, so she commended,
"I
think she
seems nice, though. I feel safe
when I'm with
her."
"

As soon as she said so, Logan let
out a hiss.

"A woman who makes people
feel safe is a
failure herself!"

**“Alright, I get what you mean.
”**

**Sophia merely
chuckled at his comment when
she continued
to placate him, all the while
John stared at
her hand.**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 414
Sophia had one hand on Logan’s
arm, while the
other hand kept on sliding
down his back in an
effort to placate him. The
distance between
them was minimal, which, in
John’s opinion,
was a sight for sore eyes. Thus,
he adjusted
his position on the sofa before
asking,
“Logan, what did Lorraine say?”
A shudder traveled down
Logan’s spine while
he sat up in his seat as soon as
his sister’s
name was mentioned, which
put some distance
between him and Sophia, as his
reaction
prompted Sophia to sit up as**

well.

Logan wore a morose look on his face as he answered,
“Lorraine told me not to show myself in front of her, or else she won’t guarantee that she won’t beat the crap out of me.”

There was a smile on John’s face when he heard what Logan said, while Logan was still feeling disgruntled about his own dilemma.

“John, you have to help me out. Launch an investigation to find out the perpetrator, then tell me if the Baileys were involved. I’ll make sure that the two b*tches suffer if they are behind this!”

John was unfazed by Logan’s request.

“Worry not, as Sophia was almost

dragged into what
happened today, so I will
definitely look into
this even without you asking.
”

Meanwhile, Logan seemed to
have missed out
on the added layer of meaning
in his words
while nodding in agreement to
what John
said.

“I knew I could count on
you! You’re the
one that makes me feel safe!”
With a twirl of his gaze, John
looked toward
Sophia before he remarked,
“Is
that so?”

On the other hand, Sophia
didn’t even spare
John a glance, ignoring his
words. There must
be some loose screws in him, as
his attitude
is getting a little scary.
Not only is he unable to control
what he says,
but there’s also a quirkiness in
his gaze. Why

would he look at me so gently?
He knows how
gullible I am, so he must be
doing this on
purpose to seduce me. He must
be plotting
something behind all this! she
thought.

After some more chatter, it was
about time
to end their gathering. After all,
it would
take some time before the
investigation done
by Zack would yield results. On
the other
hand, Ian requested to stay
with Logan in his
place, as he didn't want to
return to the
Morgans. It happened that
Logan needed a
listening ear to vent his
frustrations, so he
was delighted by Ian's proposal
while the two
left shoulder-to-shoulder.
John followed behind the two,
but not before
turning to tell Sophia to lock the
doors and

windows, at which Sophia responded while on full alert,

“I will make sure to do that.

” Just

when he was about to leave, Sophia said,

“John, I figured I should ask you after all.

”

There was an opening for her to do just that after Ian and Logan left.

Without moving from where he stood, John said,

“Sure, ask away.

”

Probing for answers, Sophia asked

tentatively,

“Have something

gotten into

you?” There was a pause in his movements as

John didn't seem to quite get what she

meant, so Sophia elaborated on it after

smacking her lips, all the while

furrowing her
brows together.
“Your actions
for the past
few days seemed fishy. Why
can’t you behave
like how you used to?
Do you even listen to your own
conversations?
What are you even trying to
imply? Do you
get what I’m trying to say?” In
fact, Sophia
was confused over the situation,
too, which
seemed to have muddled the
way she was
expressing herself.
Despite understanding the gist
of what
Sophia was trying to say, John
wore a frown
while he asked,
“What are you
talking about?”
After some thought, Sophia
waved a hand in
dismissal.
“Ah, whatever. Just
take it as
jargon. Safe trips.

” She was getting confused, too. After giving her a hum of assent, John turned to leave. Zack was already in the car when he entered, during which he smiled abruptly. He wasn’t entirely sure of the reason, but he felt a weight lifted from his shoulder upon teasing Sophia, as it seemed to be a channel to vent his recent frustrations. John looked out of the car window when Zack drove off, all the while recalling what his father told him. There were couples who fell in love soon after their marriage, while others, such as him and Matilda, needed to spend more time getting accustomed to each other’s presence before they could fall in

love.

However, there were also couples who wound up going their separate ways even after all the time they spent together.

John figured that he and Sophia would belong to the third category.

The Returning Ex Chapter

415 After some

time, John heaved a sigh, deciding not to

dwell on his miserable love life anymore. No

amount of overthinking would help the situation, as feelings of sadness and

annoyance would persist regardless of the thinking he did.

It was already afternoon, soon nearing

evening, so Zack drove John back to the

latter's house before leaving.

Even from some

distance away, John could see Belinda in the

main building. She was so engrossed in the opera while sitting on the sofa that John opted to halt himself from entering.

The house was noisy when Matilda used to live here, so Belinda would spend her time upstairs or in the courtyard.

Now that Matilda was no longer living here, she seemed more relaxed. Not only did Belinda seem more relaxed, but John observed a similar change in William.

While William used to go upstairs to his bedroom or study after his meals, he would now spend some time downstairs to watch TV or chat with Belinda. Despite how unfilial it would sound, John couldn't help but think his mother's absence brought his family more

peace.

With that in mind, John headed for the living room, during which Belinda observed with a smile while he did.

“You’re early today,
” she said as William had yet to come home. John hummed in the affirmative before replying,
“I had some stuff to do while away from the company, so I came home instead of going back to the company.
”

Belinda nodded at his reply.
“Let’s talk for a bit.
”

As soon as he sat down, Belinda opened up, saying,
“John, I was thinking of inviting Sophia over to our house some time, as I feel like we have done her wrong.

Since your
mother is not here, will things
get better if
we invited Sophia over for a
meal?"

John glanced at Belinda before
responding
with a smile.

"Forget it. Sophia
won't accept
the invitation.

" In fact, neither
was it the
best of times to invite Sophia
over despite
Belinda being partial toward
Sophia, which
John could sense. The sole
reason behind
Belinda's invitation was to get
herself an
opportunity to interact with
Sophia, but as
he thought, it wasn't the best of
times to do
so.

With a sigh, Belinda said,
"Oh
well, it was all
your mother's fault, or else you
wouldn't have

divorced her.

”

John pulled his lips into a thin line before

saying,

“The divorce had nothing to do with my mom, but everything to do with me.

”

That, he considered as true, for he was the one who came up with the idea.

Never did

Matilda ever think of making him divorce

Sophia, but a simple mention of it by him

somehow got the cogs in her head turning,

which in turn made her so intent on having

Isabelle replace Sophia.

Belinda let out a sigh while she regarded him.

“You will one day put yourself in an

undesirable situation.

”

Her comment made John chuckle.

**“Nobody is
capable of doing that, so don’t
you worry.
”**

**However, he wasn’t actually
privy to the true
intent behind Belinda’s remark,
but neither
was she about to explain
herself, opting
instead to inquire on the
company’s situation,
which seemed alright as the
whole Constance
Family was there to watch over
it.**

**After a while, Belinda dismissed
John with a
wave of her hand.**

**“You should
get some rest.
I will get you when it’s time for
dinner.**

**” John
gave her a hum before standing
to leave for
upstairs.**

**Zack’s call came in when he was
ascending the
stairs, which informed him of
the relatively**

simple process of investigating Simon and Sally. Not much effort was needed in order to uncover who they had been seeing and dealing with as they didn't make much of an effort to cover their tracks. However, the results of the investigation showed that neither of the siblings had gotten in contact with the Pooles, which meant that what happened in Logan's clubhouse had nothing to do with them. With a frown, John asked, "Are you sure?" Zack hummed in the affirmative. "I already knew about it early on, but I had my men double check the info as I feared that I might've gotten the wrong info. Tom Poole, the young master of the Poole

Family, hadn't been traveling a lot lately, with the only record of his outing being a casual stroll yesterday morning. The Morgan siblings were in the company during that time, so I'm certain that they didn't meet up.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 416
The possibility of having someone pass a message for them didn't sound feasible, as while the siblings weren't much capable themselves, they looked down upon others, so they always opted to do things on their own instead of trusting someone else with their tasks. If they were trying to frame Logan, they would definitely meet with Tom Poole in person.
With a hum, John hung up the call. He

returned to his room while
pondering what
Logan told him about the
conflict not only
with the Morgans, but with
Isabelle as well.
However, John didn't believe
that Isabelle
would do anything out of line.
While it wasn't out of trust in
her character,
he knew her as a smart person
who knew the
importance of avoiding
suspicion. No matter
how much she abhorred Logan,
she wouldn't
do that at this point in time.
After casting his phone on the
bed, John
turned to leave for the shower.
When he
came back out, the phone was
lit up,
indicating that he had a new
message. He
checked on it to see a message
from Isabelle
asking if he would be present
during Kate
Blackwell's birthday party, to

which he gave a
reply in the affirmative.
Then his phone immediately
rang with a call
from Isabelle. Over the phone,
she told him
that she received an invitation,
thus would
like to know what time John
would be leaving
for the event and if he would
want to attend
it alongside her. A frown
formed on John's
face as he knew he should be
avoiding
Isabelle. He could still recall
what William
told him.
However, his hesitance was
obvious enough of
a reply to Isabelle, to which she
responded
with a smile.
"It's alright if you
have prior
engagements, as I can always
go with my
father. The only downside to
that would be I
would have less to talk about

with him than
with someone around my age.
”

Upon witnessing his silence on
the matter,
Isabelle added on,
“We will go
to the venue
separately. If anything else
arises during the
occasion, we can always meet
up at the
venue.
”

John gave her a nonchalant
hum, through
which Isabelle could detect he
didn't possess
a lot of zest in him. After some
pleasantries,
she was about to hang up, but
John called out
to her with something else in
mind, saying,
“Miss Bailey.
”

There was a pause on her side
before she
responded,
“What's the
matter?”

John cut to the chase.

**“I heard
you had an
argument with Sophia and
Logan today.
”**

**While his words startled her,
she began
mocking him, but didn't fail to
portray
herself as being grave about the
matter.**

**“Are you trying to invoke justice
upon me?”**

**John scoffed before responding
to her
query,**

**“I do not perceive myself as
being
qualified to do so. All I want to
know is if it
happened.
”**

**“Of course, it did,
” Isabelle
replied firmly.**

**“But I wasn't in the wrong.
”**

**Truth be told, John cared not
who was in the
wrong. Flatly, he said,**

**“Logan is
rather
childish, which I believe you
already know. I
will only advise you to avoid
engaging yourself
in a conflict with him, as he isn’t
above doing
anything if you manage to get
on his bad
side.
”**

**Isabelle was displeased by what
John said.**

**“I
know that much, so I never
engaged him in a
conflict.
”**

At this, John snickered.

**“I forgot
to tell you
that Sophia is in fact an even
less desirable
opponent compared to Logan.
You might be in
more trouble if you ever cross
her.
”**

**Before Isabelle could say
anything else, John**

went on, adding,
“No matter
what the current
status of our relationship is, I
will never wish
to see her being wronged or
bullied, as I will
be forced to choose a side in
the ensuing
conflict, so I’m informing you of
this
beforehand. That way, our
families can avoid
some unnecessary conflicts,
which could save
both our faces.
”

No reply came from Isabelle
after that, but
John didn’t care enough to wait
for one,
opting instead to hang up. The
elation he felt
upon doing so was both
surprising and
confusing. After a while, he
then proceeded
to check his Facebook.
The Returning Ex Chapter 417
Sophia posted a photo of
herself with a

facial mask on. It was a rather thin mask, so John could see her features through it. The photo showed John a side of Sophia that he never got to see, so he spent a long time just staring at it. She looked like a teenage girl who made a cheeky face while with a mask on. Such a gesture would make anybody's heart skip a beat, but it was more because they were being attracted by her liveliness than wanting a romance with her. A chuckle slipped out of John's lips after staring at it for a long while. That silly girl didn't know I added her as my friend again. She will definitely be put at a disadvantage if she continues to be so unalert. John went through her previous posts, which

were all viewable to the public,
so he went
through her photos from when
she was still
living with the Constances.
Although she
seemed less happy, her posts
seemed to
retain a level of positivity.
She took photos of the sky, the
garden, as
well as the sunrise, but there
were no photos
of herself, or anybody else, as a
matter of
fact. Nor did anybody from the
Constance
Family make an appearance in
her collection
of photos.
There was a tinge of regret
within John
after he went through all of
them. Perhaps it
was because of the realization
that he had
about how hard Sophia had
been trying to
live, but the Constances were
blind to it. He
set his phone aside, then lay

down on bed
before switching the lights off.
He was busy during the coming
few days, so
he didn't have time to meet up
with Sophia.
They didn't even send each
other a text, as if
they had cut contact with each
other. All the
calls John received were from
an
overly-eager Logan, who made
multiple calls a
day to inquire on the progress
of the
investigation.
However, John didn't complain
about it,
instead convinced Logan to wait
with
patience, as more time was
needed to ensure
a thorough investigation was
conducted. In
short, it wouldn't do if a
mistake was made.
Logan would throw a tantrum
whenever
mention of what happened in
the clubhouse

was made. Not only did he curse the Morgan siblings, but he cursed the Bailey mother-and-daughter duo, too. However, the one whom he hated with the most fervor was the young master of the Pooles. All John did was listen on, then asked if Logan had gotten in touch with Sophia when he was done complaining. His query was always met with the affirmative, so John couldn't help but figure that Logan sure had a lot of free time on his hands to be able to contact both Sophia and him, making sure to bother every single one of his confidants with his troubles. Setting that mental note aside, John went on to ask Logan what Sophia was doing. Without concealing anything, he told

John everything he knew, as honest as could be, which allowed John to get a grasp on Sophia's whereabouts.

However, John was startled when Logan told him Sophia went for her driving test.

"Why didn't you go with her?"

Judging from Logan's character, he wouldn't miss out on a chance for something fun.

"I'll pass, since Ian is with her, and she didn't need another person tagging along,

" explained Logan.

At this time, John was holding his phone in one hand, his pen in the other, the pen about to be used to sign on some papers. He stopped in his tracks as soon as he heard what Logan told him.

"Ian is

with her? Doesn't
he have work?"

Logan let out a cry before
replying,

"Haven't

I told you? Ian quit his job, so
he has been

with Sophia during the past few
days.

"

After shutting his eyes to calm
himself, John

signed on the papers in a hurry
before closing

the files and putting his pen
down. He then

stood from his seat while saying
to Logan,

"Alright, I heard you.

" Upon

saying so, he cut

the call before leaving his office
with his

jacket in hand.

Zack was headed to his office

when John was

on his way to the elevators.

There was a look

of surprise on Zack's face when
he saw John.

"Boss, where are you headed

to?”

The question stunned John to his spot as he tried to figure it out. Where am I going? I

was planning on meeting Sophia, but what

business do I have with her?

Zack approached him with a stack of

documents, all the while staring at John in confusion.

“Are you on outstation?”

The Returning Ex Chapter

418 There was a

frown on John’s face when he responded,

“No, I’m not.”

Meanwhile, Zack had in hand some documents

that needed to be signed by John, then said,

“Yeah, from what I recall, you don’t have

plans to travel today.”

John’s gaze was on Zack before it traveled to

the documents Zack held, but it didn't linger on any of those, eventually settling on a nearby window. It wasn't until then that John turned to return to his office. Upon settling into his seat, John took the documents handed to him by Zack, during which Zack said, "By the way, I launched an investigation on the Baileys, but to no avail. They seemed to have covered up their tracks, so I didn't get much out of it. I then went on to investigate the Morgans, as I thought they were more likely to be the suspect. Before I say anything, would you like to make a guess on what I found?" John lifted his head slowly to look at Zack. Despite the lack of an

expression, John had a stern air about him that intimidated Zack, so the latter opted to spill everything out.

“I found out that while Sally and Simon had nothing to do with the incident, the Morgans were still somehow involved in it.

The suspect this time around was their mother, Leah Zimmerman. She went shopping that day and had met up with Tom, so this should explain everything.

”

Truth be told, John wasn't even listening to Zack's report, nor was the sour look on his face by any means Zack's fault. It was the mere result of John being sucked into his own thoughts. After hanging up Logan's call earlier, John left his office

without thinking,
as for a second, his rational
mind was
overpowered by his instincts.
All he wanted
was to go check on what Ian
was doing while
hanging around Sophia.
The fact that Ian did that made
him feel
uneasy, but upon thinking
about it, he figured
he didn't have anything to
worry about. He
knew since long ago that Ian
hung around
Sophia because he liked her.
Someone who
liked Sophia couldn't possibly
harm her, so he
had nothing to worry about.
John shut his eyes while
crossing his arms on
the table, only to hear Zack
asking,
"Should I
inform Logan about the
results?"
With an irritated look on his
face, John
waved Zack off, saying,

**“Yeah,
just tell him
everything.
” Truth be told, he
didn’t even
know what Zack would tell him.
Zack left the documents on the
table before
turning to leave, seemingly not
in a hurry to
get the documents back. While
John
retrieved the documents to
look through
them, he had a hard time
absorbing any of
the information, which led to
him putting
them down before hitting
himself on the
head. I must be crazy for
thinking about
those things.
Meanwhile, Zack gave Logan a
call to tell the
latter of his discovery, which
sent Logan into
a fit of rage.
“So it was Bryce’s
wife! I always
thought she was a shady**

character, so I was
right all along! Just wait and
watch while I
turn her into minced meat!”
If he were to be honest, Zack
wasn't entirely
sure why Logan was that angry.
“Although
Leah was in cahoots with Tom,
she didn't
actually deal you any damage.
You are largely
unharmed, so I would say she
wasted her
efforts.
”

With a scoff, Logan said,
“I
didn't come out
unscathed.
”

Back then, Tom and his gang
were in the
private room in the backyard,
but two of the
clubhouse's attendants were
shut out from
the room. Both of them used to
play games
with Logan, and both were
quick-witted.

Although none of them knew what Tom and his gang were doing, they had a rough idea that the gang had to be up to nothing good.

It was then that the police came, who made a fuss out of things.

The Returning Ex Chapter 419

The two attendants cried out to Tom that the police had arrived, which stirred the pot, creating an opening for the attendants to enter the room. Upon realizing what the gang was up to, the attendants quickly retreated to another room, only to see Tom and his gang barging into every single room in the backyard.

They left the drugs in conspicuous spots in the various rooms, but fortunately, both attendants made a swift countermove by

searching the rooms that Tom and his gang entered to retrieve the drugs, then tucked them into a big tank behind the opera theater, which helped Logan to stay out of trouble.

Otherwise, the police would've found the drugs when they did their search, which would be used as proof against Logan.

Due to their quick thinking, the two attendants who Logan used to play games with were given a hefty reward.

Logan was happy to have such bright people as his mates. However, he told Zack none of those, brushing the latter's question off by saying that Leah tarnished his reputation even further, which he wouldn't tolerate.

Regardless of what Logan thought, Zack reminded him, “You’d better ask Tom about who instructed him to commit such a felony, just to listen to what he says, if nothing else.”

Logan gave a noncommittal hum before replying, “Alright, I get what you mean. I am grateful to you and John for your help. I know what I should do next.”

In the meantime, Tom was still behind bars. He might even be forcefully sent for rehabilitation since he seemed to have been into drugs for a while. Upon mention of his name, Logan couldn’t help but feel the urge to want to kill him. However, he

could neither meet Tom, nor did he want to have anything to do with his own family since his family wouldn't have known anything anyway.

As soon as Logan received information regarding the culprit, he sat broodingly in his clubhouse to come up with ways to deal with Leah. During the few days of the clubhouse being locked down, the police made a thorough search in it, but turned up nothing.

After Lorraine worked through a few more matters with the authorities, Logan was able to reopen the clubhouse without a hitch.

Most of the people involved seemed to think nothing of the incident as they had gotten used to it after a few similar encounters. The

attendants even had no problem joking about it when they made mention of the incident.

Meanwhile, Logan had been pondering about the situation, but before he could come up with a way to move forward, Ian and Sophia came to visit him.

Upon entering the clubhouse, Sophia saw Logan sitting crossed-legged on the sofa with a look that was both conniving and confused.

She approached him while asking,

“What’s wrong? What’s with that expression of yours?”

It wasn’t until then that Logan noticed Sophia’s presence.

“Are you finished with your tests?”

Sophia sat down beside Logan, stretching her

body.

“Yeah, it’s all done.

”

With much eagerness, Logan asked,

“What are the results? Did you pass the test?”

Meanwhile, Ian sat down beside them with a smile on his face. Sophia wore a forlorn

expression as she commented,

“Did you hear what you just said? Why do I feel like you’

re teasing me?”

Her words made Logan burst into laughter.

“That wasn’t the best way to word my question. Of course you passed the test!” He

then began sharing the newly acquired info

with Sophia and Ian, reciting word by word

what Zack told him.

With a piercing gaze, Sophia said,

**“I knew it
was them!”**

**There was also a stern look on
Logan’s face.**

**“I never realized how shady
Bryce’s mistress
was. I sure did underestimate
her! I used to
think she was a useless shrew,
but I was
wrong about that.**

”

He then turned to look at Ian.

**“Being the vile
woman she is, she must’ve
bullied you a lot
back then. Ian, I will make sure
to avenge you
in some way!”**

**Meanwhile, Ian leaned back on
the sofa.**

**“Leah is in fact very good at
adapting to
situations. Throughout the
years she spent
with Bryce, she managed to
remain
undetected, so she managed to
stay out of a
lot of trouble.**

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 420

Leah had no problem putting up a cheerful

front despite having been humiliated not

moments ago. There were a lot of things that

she could easily brush off despite how grave

it was to other people. For example, she had

no problem tarnishing her own reputation by

framing Bryce in order to marry into the

Morgan Family, as she cared not about her reputation.

As soon as Ian said so, Logan recalled what

happened exactly back then.

“Yeah, I

remember how ruthless Leah could be now

that you mentioned it. She was the one who

leaked obscene photos of her and Bryce to

the press, as well as hiring paparazzi to close

in on her and Bryce while they

were being intimate. She never cared about her reputation, so there aren't a lot of things that could get to her.

”

After having said so, Logan began scratching his head before squatting down on the sofa with his hands on his knees.

Meanwhile, Sophia tugged on him.

“You should sit properly instead of squatting on the sofa like a monkey.

”

Upon turning to look at Sophia, Logan said, “Sophia, you're both conniving and have a lot of ideas, so why don't you come up with one?”

Sophia shot him a glare.

“Come again?”

On the other hand, Ian came up with

something else.

“What Leah cared the most was her status as Bryce’s wife, as well as her two children.

”

Logan turned to look at Ian while thinking to himself, Leah has a firm hold on her status as the matriarch of the Morgans.

In order to get rid of her, I will have to start by

undermining Bryce’s support for her by

introducing him to a new love who can stand up against Leah.

However, the only problem was that Logan

couldn’t bring himself to use another woman

like that, seeing that Bryce was so old, so he

scratched that idea, which left him only with

Leah’s children to work with.

The second option wasn’t that hard at all,

considering the siblings were full of openings that he could make use of, so it was almost a no-brainer for Logan to deal with them.

Logan gave his thigh a slap while declaring, "Alright, I get it now. Since I do have an idea now, I will implement it right away.

" Now that he had a lead to work on, Logan's mood improved significantly. There was a shift in the conversation when Logan turned to look at Sophia.

"I just gave your ex-husband a call, and he had been inquiring about you. To be frank, I would've assumed you're all lovey-dovey if I hadn't known you're divorced."

What Logan said startled Sophia.

"What did he ask about? I don't see

anything worthwhile
in him doing so.
”

Logan sat crossed-legged while
explaining,
“Nothing too serious, as he only
ever asked
about inconsequential stuff. He
wanted to
know what you’ve been eating
and drinking,
how your sleep quality is, as
well as what you
have been doing. I’ll have you
know that John
doesn’t normally behave like
that.
”

I figured so, especially when
Logan thought
so, too. Sophia’s eyes went
wide while she
nodded.

“That is odd indeed.
I’ve been
wondering if he was displeased
by the amount
for the alimony which I
requested when we
divorced.
”

John had given her a huge amount of money when they divorced, as well as because of what happened before that. It was such an astronomical amount that Sophia had a hard time believing that he wouldn't feel aggrieved upon giving the money away just like that. Did he regret giving so much money to me that he's trying to find ways to get back at me now?

However, Logan cried out in confusion, not quite getting what Sophia was thinking.

"Are you sure you're on the right track? Money is of no importance to John."
"

On the other hand, Sophia was almost certain that she was correct in her assumption. Why would he venture into business

if he thinks
money is of no importance?
What Logan said
sounds implausible.
Ian was observing Sophia from
the side
before he said,
“No matter the
reason, John
shouldn’t be in frequent contact
with Sophia.

The situation has recently
begun to subside,
but there must be someone else
waiting to
stir things up again, so you’d
better be
careful.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter
421 Ian’s last line
was directed toward Sophia, to
which she
nodded in response.

“Alright, I
get what you
mean. I will be more careful
from now on.
”

Sophia agreed to what Ian told
her. Having

spent a day in Logan's clubhouse, it wasn't until after they had dinner that they left the place.

Before they left, Logan reminded Sophia, "Remember to wake up earlier tomorrow, as we have a birthday party to attend."
"

Upon giving Logan a nod, Sophia said, "Sure, I will.

" Kate Blackwell's birthday party was held the following day, which Sophia had been preparing for. She even booked an appointment with a makeup artist to make sure she would look her best during the occasion, as she couldn't afford to make a single mistake during an occasion in which prominent figures would be

present.

Sophia left the clubhouse on a cab despite Logan's offer to drive her home.

Judging

from his character, she knew

Logan would

spend an indefinite amount of time moping

around when they arrived at her house, so

she stopped him from doing so, as she was

planning on retiring to bed as soon as she got

home. It didn't seem to bother Logan, as he

gave up on the idea upon witnessing Sophia's

reluctance.

Sophia was getting drowsy while on her way

home. After paying the fare, she alighted

from the cab and headed to her house. The

lights in her house weren't lit when she

entered after unlocking the door.

Subsequently, nothing seemed

out of place
when she switched on the lights.
Dozily, she
then made her way upstairs
with a bottle of
water, which she retrieved from
the kitchen,
in hand.

Everything seemed fine when
she arrived at
the door to her room, only for
her to cry out
in shock as soon as she
switched on the lights
because there was someone
standing by the
window. However, the figure
didn't shy away
from her, instead opting to turn
around to
meet her while wearing a frown.

"I've been
standing here ever since you
got back. Do you
never check the window of your
room?"

Sophia took some time to even
out her
breathing before throwing the
water bottle
she had in hand in his direction.

**“You scared
the living daylights out of me!
Can’t you make
any sort of sound just so you
could warn me?
I thought my heart was about
to jump out of
my chest!”**

**The bottle she threw at John
missed him
while he observed Sophia with
his back
leaned against the window sill,
all the while
wearing a frown which irked
her. Not only did
he pop out of nowhere in her
house, which
scared her witless, but he even
didn’t seem
to realize the wrong he did. This
is some next
level sh*t, thought Sophia while
walking up to
him, then threw a punch at him
without
hesitation, only to have her
hand getting
caught in John’s before she
could land it on
him.**

He gave her a tug, which had her falling on him. However, she was so furious that she didn't realize how awkward of a position they were in. In her anger while having one hand held by him, she raised the other to punch him. After taking two punches, John lifted his head with a frown while Sophia chided, "Do you want the money? Are you regretting giving it to me? Just tell me if you do! I don't mind giving it back to you!" Upon heaving a sigh, John held onto her other hand, prompting her to try to kick him in the groin due to how angry she was. While he was allowing her to vent her frustrations, that kick managed to rile him up. thus stood upright before using his own leg to press her leg down, then

moved a few
steps forward while having
their limbs
tangled. In the end, they fell
onto the bed,
with Sophia naturally
underneath him. He
pinned her hands above her
head while
lowering his gaze to look at her.
“You sure are
a fierce one.
”

Upon spitting at him, Sophia
responded in a
disgruntled manner,
“Not as
fierce as you,
who scared me witless!” It
wasn't until then
she realized that they were in a
rather
compromised position, for John
was pressing
his entire body against hers.
A blush crept onto her face
before she
began prattling,
“Get the f*ck
off me, you
shameless b*stard! Why would

**you even visit
my house late at night! I will
call the police
just so your name will make it
to the
headlines, so you'd better let go
of me!"**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 422
Sophia was struggling whilst she
went on with
her ranting, but none of what
she did got to
him. All he did was lower his
gaze to look at
her with a stern expression,
while Sophia was
eventually tired out by her own
futile
struggles. Panting, she asked,
"John, are you
crazy?"**

**It wasn't after staring at her for
some time
that John said,
"I would say the
same of you.
"**

**What he said startled her, but
she soon
began lashing out at him again.
"Not only did**

**you come to my house just to
scare me, you
even mocked me! Are you crazy?
How I have
been doing has nothing to do
with you! Get
off me right now! You're
suffocating me!
You—”**

**Her words were cut short as
John kissed her
on the lips, which left her
dumbfounded.**

**After all the ruckus, she was
already short
of breath, which was only
further intensified
by the kiss that stunned her.**

**However, John
didn't linger for long as he
propped himself
up after a few seconds before
saying,**

**“I sure
don't see what's so good about
you.
”**

**Sophia's eyes widened as soon
as she heard
what he said, before assaulting
him once**

again with punches and kicks.

“You pervert!

**Get out of my house! F*cking
get out, you
rascal!”**

**With that, John let go of her
before flipping
himself over to sit on the side of
the bed
while caressing his lips. Despite
her**

**exhaustion, Sophia shot up
from where she
lay on bed after some rest, then
pounced on
John once again, during which
she managed to
tackle him as she caught him by
surprise.**

**After that, Sophia sat on him
while choking
him.**

**“F*ck you! I’ll make sure
you won’t live to
see another day! I’ll f*cking kill
you!”**

**However, she didn’t even pose
a threat to him
as there wasn’t much force
behind her choke,
so John ignored her hands**

altogether, opting
instead to hold onto her waist.
He knew full
well where her weak spot was,
so with minor
movements of his hands, he
had Sophia
falling over while laughing
uncontrollably.
Due to how ticklish she was,
Sophia couldn't
stand anybody touching her
waist. She fell
over to the side, then shrunk
away from John
before putting up a tough front
once again.

“What are you doing in my
house during this
time of the day?”

John stood up while tidying his
clothes.

“I
came to get some proof.
”

However, he didn't
tell her what he was trying to
prove, as all he
did was tell her,
“You need to
remember to

lock your windows from inside,
as anybody
with some skills could enter
your room if you
don't.

”

Meanwhile, Sophia glanced at
the balcony
while she said,
“This is the
second floor.

”

John turned to observe her with
a stern look
on his face as usual, but his eyes
began
moving downward after a few
seconds, until it
finally reached her lips. The way
he gazed
upon her reminded Sophia of
their recent
kiss, which didn't exactly feel
like a kiss, as it
was different from the kisses
they used to
share.

However, it only led to her
putting on a wary
frown on her face.

“Why are

you still here?

You should be leaving now.

”

**John averted his gaze before
heaving a sigh.**

“Yeah, right away.

” After having

said so, he

turned to leave without

another word. Sophia

quickly looked out of the

window, only to see

that his car wasn't parked near

her house. So

he hid it somewhere else, as he

knew I would

have my guard up if I saw his

car when I got

back.

On his way out, John locked the

doors and

switched the lights off

downstairs, whereas

Sophia turned to sit down by

the bed to even

out her breathing due to how

vexed she was

feeling. In the end, John didn't

tell her why

he came in the first place. He

must be crazy,

Sophia thought to herself. Her mood was trashed after his visit, so she cursed under her breath while taking a shower, then went straight to bed without even putting on a facial mask.

The Returning Ex Chapter 423

Sophia didn't get a good night's sleep, as she

had a dream that night of her and John

having sex. While she knew she was dreaming,

as well as it was because of that kiss from

John, she was still frustrated, but she

couldn't wake up from the dream.

It wasn't until she received a phone call from

the makeup artist in the morning that she

was able to wake from it. Then, she cursed

under her breath after she did.

The makeup artist did Sophia's makeup

according to her gown before
she began
working on setting her hair. The
end result
gave Sophia an allure to her.
With her red
gown on, coupled by her
makeup, Sophia had a
feeling that she seemed
different from her
past self, as she looked sexy,
which was a
look that she liked.
After the makeup artist left,
Logan gave her
a call to inform her that he was
on his way, to
which Sophia grunted in
response.
“I’m done
with the preparations, so I’m
waiting for
you.
”

Logan’s driver drove him to
Sophia’s place.
When the car stopped before
her house, she
ran toward the car. Her
appearance startled
Logan, who began making

exclamations, to
which she arched a brow at.

“I
must look
stunning.
”

With a nod in agreement, Logan
complimented,

“You have
always been a
beauty, but you never left an
impression on
people. However, I have to
admit that I have
underestimated you. I wonder
how could John
possibly let you go.
”

Upon having John’s name being
mentioned,

Sophia shot Logan a glare.

“I
don’t want to
hear that jerk’s name.
”

Logan blinked while asking,

“What’s wrong?
Did he do something to cross
you?” His query
was met with a huff from her
before she got

into the car without giving him a reply, but Logan didn't brood on the subject any longer either. He simply had the driver leave for the venue.

The Blackwell Family threw a grand party for Kate's birthday in their European-styled mansion in the suburbs. There were already a lot of cars parked outside the mansion when they arrived, and the mansion was crowded with guests, as could be seen through the entrance.

The mansion was probably built for official purposes, as it only had banquet halls and reception halls rather than living quarters.

With Logan in the lead, Sophia followed him to the reception hall, in which a buffet that resembled the one she

attended with John
was set up within its huge space.
There were
a lot of guests in the hall, who
turned to
check on them upon their entry,
but soon
resumed their respective tasks
at hand.
The manner in which they were
received
differed from back when Sophia
was with
John. While everybody tried to
get John's
attention as soon as he arrived,
they were
shunning Logan upon his arrival.
However,
Logan wasn't discouraged at all
by their
treatment of him. Instead, he
simply led
Sophia to the buffet for some
dessert as he
hadn't had dinner.
Sophia blinked in confusion
while she asked,
"Did your father not attend the
party? Why
isn't he with you?"

**After chucking a piece of
dessert into his
mouth, Logan replied,
“Probably because he
thinks I’m an embarrassment.
”**

**He said it with
much poise, all the while
betraying no
negative emotions toward the
supposed
reason behind his father’s
behavior.**

**Due to the fact that Sophia
wasn’t feeling
hungry, she only drank some
juice. Logan led
her to the backyard after a
quick meal,
where a rock garden and a
swing was
installed. While looking at the
scenic
landscape, Logan offered to
push Sophia on
the swing.
She checked on the swing
before agreeing to
his suggestion. Truth be told,
she wasn’t
much interested in it as it was**

more to a child's liking, and she was already way past that age. The sole reason she went on it was because she wanted to give it a go as she had never gotten the chance to play on one when she was younger.

Therefore, she sat down while holding the hem of her gown, whereas Logan pushed her from behind.

"I scanned the venue, but John is nowhere to be found. With how much of a rigid person he is, he should already have arrived.

"

The Returning Ex Chapter 424
Sophia let out a chuckle before remarking,

"I was searching for Isabelle a while ago. She's also a disciplined young lady, but I can't seem

to find her anywhere too, so perhaps...
”

Despite not finishing her sentence, her smile seemed to indicate that John and Isabelle might've snuck away together. However, the mention of John reminded Sophia of what he did to her last night, as well as of her dream, which made her sulk.
“It's better if they're not around. I don't want to see them anyway.
”

Meanwhile, Logan was still mumbling to himself in a low voice about the Morgan siblings. After all, he was a petty person, so he wouldn't feel satisfied until he had gotten rid of them. Sophia merely grunted in agreement. After a while, he was still pushing on the swing from behind, but

Logan had
ceased his chatter altogether.
“Logan? Why are you so quiet?”
asked Sophia.
He merely grunted in response.
“I should stop
talking about those two, as it
only makes me
feel worse.
” There was some
truth to his
words, as he had better things
to do than
talk about the Morgan siblings.
After heaving a sigh, Sophia
said,
“To be
honest, I would prefer to spend
my birthdays
alone with my closest friends
and family
rather than throwing a party.
This is just too
much of a bother.
”

Her comment was met with a
smile from
Logan, who said nothing else
after giving her
a grunt. Meanwhile, Sophia
leaned on one of

the slings of the swing while observing the passersby in silence, as she wasn't in the mood to speak. Besides, it was no place for a private conversation as waiters were constantly passing by. Guests were still piling in from the entrance, so the venue was getting livelier with the passage of time. While Sophia used to like such occasions back when she still lived in her village, she no longer liked them after marrying into the Constance Family, as such occasions felt different compared to those held back in her village. The celebrations in her village were a glorious occasion indeed for the villagers, but the celebrations held by the rich seemed to be more about showing off their

wealth and status. Sophia wanted to get off the swing after a while, but before she could, she heard Isabelle's voice when she approached Sophia from the reception hall with a smile.

"John, Miss Gwendolyn, here you are."
"

What Isabelle said startled Sophia, who only thought to turn around to check on who was behind her after a few seconds. Logan was nowhere to be found. Instead, he was being replaced by John, who had one hand in his pocket while holding onto the sling with the other. The sight of him brought a frown to Sophia's face.

"John?"

Isabelle had greeted them with a loud voice, which caused the people

around them to turn
to check on them. Meanwhile,
Sophia got off
the swing with her sights set on
John.

“Where’s Logan?” He was here
just moments
ago. Where’d he gone?

With a calm demeanor, John
replied,

“He
went to the washroom, so he
asked for us to
wait here.

”

Sophia didn’t realize when
Logan had left, as
she didn’t hear any sound or
movements. In
the meantime, John seemed to
have noticed
her confusion, as he said with a
smile on his
face,

“I told him to leave
without disturbing
you.

”

There was a sullen expression
on Sophia’s
face while she glanced at John’s

face, as she
seemed to have recalled what
happened the
night before. Her expression
reminded John
of what transpired between
them as well, to
which he responded with a
silent laugh
before tapping on his own lips
when he walked
up to Sophia.
That shameless b*stard! Sophia
was fuming
at the fact that he even dared
mention the
incident, but she averted her
gaze moments
later. In the meantime, Isabelle
walked up to
her with a sincere smile on her
face, as if
having totally forgotten about
her conflict
with Sophia in the boutique, as
well as her
grim conversation with John
over the phone.
“I saw you both as soon as I
came out from
the reception hall. This is such a

coincidence.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter

425 Sophia let slip

a chuckle before replying,

“Is

that so? I was

expecting to meet you during

such an

occasion.

”

What Sophia said was rather

confrontational,

but Isabelle didn't seem to

mind at all, as she

retained her smile while saying,

“How long

have you been here? I just

arrived. There

are so many guests, but I know

none of them,

so it's making me feel a little

awkward.

”

While Isabelle spoke, Sophia

was observing

the white gown Isabelle wore.

She seemed

otherworldly in her gown,

which was befitting

of her temperament. In

comparison, Sophia thought she seemed tacky, but that was a fact she didn't deny; she thought that she was destined for the life of a common folk who needed to work hard to earn her wages.

John approached Sophia to stand by her side.

"We just arrived as well.

" While

John spoke,

Logan walked up to them with a sullen look on

his face upon noticing Isabelle's presence, as

he disliked both Isabelle and her mother.

Besides, he was never one to hide his

emotions, so people could easily get to know

who was on his blacklist by observing his

facial expressions. He stood beside Sophia as

well, but his words were directed at Isabelle.

"Why are you here?"

He sounded even more confrontational than Sophia, but Isabelle tried her best to respond in a casual manner.

“I came with my father.

”

After hearing what she told him, Logan examined her from head to toe before saying,

“This gown looks nice on you. It suits you. Why would you even think of taking some other person’s gown? With some effort, you can always find one that fits you.

”

Although Logan supposedly didn’t mean anything else, his words came out slightly twisted, which he didn’t seem to notice himself, but both Sophia and Isabelle could

detect the underlying implications in what he said.

With a half smirk, Sophia suggested,

“Let’s not stand here, as we’re getting quite some attention. We should go to the reception hall instead.

” She knew that Isabelle was trying to attract more attention by calling out to her loudly earlier, so she figured she should comply with that by moving to an even more crowded location.

The four of them garnered a lot of attention as soon as they entered the reception hall.

Sophia was John’s ex-wife, while Isabelle was supposedly his girlfriend, and the three were accompanied by Logan, who was notorious for his bad temper.

The fact that the four of them were together made for splendid gossip, which was why the crowd around them were huddled among themselves while glancing at Sophia. They all seemed to be expecting a good show. Sophia wore a smile while wondering if they assumed Isabelle and her would fight in public. As they were both civilized individuals, they wouldn't do it in public even if they were to start a brawl. Truth be told, Sophia disliked the fact that Isabelle would put on a smile regardless of if she liked the individual she was facing. Compared to her, Sophia much preferred spending time with someone like Logan, whom she could easily read, as it was safer to

associate herself with that kind of person.

People like Isabelle were good at disguising themselves, so their shady actions might even go undetected. Even someone like Matilda was easier to deal with compared to Isabelle.

Upon reaching that conclusion, Sophia could no longer hold back the question in her mind, so she turned to look at John.

“I have something that I’ve been meaning to ask you.”

Instead of giving her a reply on the spot, John gestured at the seats in the lounge area beside them, so Isabelle and Logan went over.

After that, John looked at Sophia while asking,
“What’s the matter?”

What is it that
you would like to know?”
Sophia didn’t follow Logan and
Isabelle.

Instead, she moved closer to
John before
asking,

“Are your parents...?”

She didn’t
finish her sentence as she
assumed he would
know what she was trying to
ask.

However, all John did was stare
at her in
silence. Sophia didn’t want
anybody else
overhearing their conversation,
so she moved
even closer to him before
repeating her
question.

“Are you parents
really divorced?”

A smile tugged at the corner of
John’s lips.

Neither Logan nor Isabelle were
close to
them, so the fact that John and
Sophia stood
so close to each other garnered

the attention
of quite a number of people.
The Returning Ex Chapter 426
After waiting for a while, Sophia
asked in a
subdued voice with much
reluctance,
“I know
what’s going on even if you
didn’t tell me
anything. Do you think you
could hide the
truth from me?”
John responded to her with a
smile.
“Let’s sit
down over there.
” Then, he
made a gesture to
loop his hand around her
shoulder. Despite its
innocuous nature, people could
read into it
from multiple perspectives
because of John
and Sophia’s relationship.
There were a lot of journalists
present
during Kate’s birthday party, as
she used to
be a famous actress when she

was young, but she had quit acting after that to focus on her family. Therefore, she intended to revisit her younger years during her eightieth birthday, which was why a few media agencies were invited to the occasion, who without a doubt had captured John and Sophia's interaction on camera. The both of them walked over before sitting down beside Logan and Isabelle on the sofa. There was space between Logan and Isabelle, so Sophia sat down beside Logan, while John sat between her and Isabelle. It was in fact Isabelle's intention to have the press witness the scene of the three of them sitting together. Her reputation was at risk after what happened, so she hired a group of

ghostwriters to clear things up for her, but her plan seemed to have backfired on her, as the negative comments about her only grew compared to the ghostwriter's comments.

The only way to go about it was to make use of the news to clear her name.

The sight of the three of them sitting together in harmony would definitely clear things up in Isabelle's favor.

After scanning her surroundings, Sophia asked,

“What's coming up next?

Are we going to sit here till nightfall?” If that was the case, she would rather go home.

It was John who answered her question while leaning closer toward Sophia.

“The banquet will be starting soon, followed

by a lottery session. I heard that the prizes are lavish.
”

Logan joined in on the conversation.

“Even if the prizes are lavish, what the Blackwells are doing is essentially handing out their money.
”

John didn’t know what the prizes would be either.

“I heard nothing of it, as they hid it well. Not even my grandmother knew about it when I asked her.
”

Logan smacked his lips before commenting,
“The Blackwells sure know how to have fun by keeping the presents a secret.
”

John merely smiled in silence upon listening to what Logan said. In the meantime, Isabelle

sat on the other side of the sofa,
seemingly
being isolated from the three of
them while
they spoke among themselves.
However, she
was good at suppressing herself,
so her
expression betrayed no
emotions.

On the other hand, Logan began
telling them
about the gossip he heard of.

According to
rumors, Kate Blackwell used to
be hailed by
many as a famous actress when
she was
young, but the members of the
prestigious
Blackwell Family looked down
on her due to
her profession, so she quit
being an actress.

There were a lot of people who
felt sorry
that she had to quit, as they
thought Kate
would have attained a certain
level of fame if
she were to keep on working as

an actress.

Upon listening to the story,
Sophia heaved a
sigh.

“She must love her
husband a lot.
”

Sophia figured it must have
been hard on
Kate to quit her job for the sake
of her
husband.

However, John had a different
opinion on the
matter.

“That might not
necessarily be the
case. Her husband, Nathan
Blackwell, went on
to marry a second wife who
bore him a son.
”

Sophia was startled by what
John told her,
but she quickly recalled that it
was
customary among wealthy
families to marry
multiple women, which
prompted her to
backtrack on what she said.

**“So
it seems that
wealthy men are all b*stards.
”**

**Both Logan and John let out a
cry of protest,
to which Sophia responded with
a glare
before staring at Logan.**

**“You
sure are one,
seeing that Officer Hunt had
carried out
multiple police raids on your
clubhouse.**

**” She
then turned to look at John,
who was staring
at her closely. That seemed to
have affected
her confidence, as her voice
became softer.**

**“You are the same.
”**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 427
John let out an amused laugh as
soon as he
witnessed Sophia’s expression.**

**“So what
about me? Why don’t you tell
everybody what**

have I done?”

Meanwhile, Sophia was sulking while she

glanced tentatively at Isabelle.

She then said

in a lowered volume,

“Why

would you need me

to tell you about it? All I will say

is that

you

're up to no good.

”

However, John didn't even

bother to lower

his volume when he replied,

“If

you're talking

about what happened last night

between us,

I'll be honest and tell you that I

lost control.

”

Sophia let out a hiss. You son of a b*tch,

watch what you say! Y-Y-You're obviously

trying to mislead people!

On the other hand, Logan

moved closer to

them with a cheeky expression

on his face.

“Did you two... Aren’t you divorced?”

Turning to look at Logan, Sophia chided him,

“You should shut up.

”

John gave a grunt before telling

Logan

nonchalantly,

“While we are

divorced, it isn’t

that out of the ordinary for

something to

happen between a single man

and a single

woman. Besides, we know each

other well.

”

He’s being a f*cking shameless b*stard.

Sophia was so furious that she

almost wound

up laughing.

“You’d better

watch what you

say! Even if you don’t care

about your

reputation, I do care about

mine!”

Although Isabelle wasn’t

looking at them, she
could hear everything they
were saying,
which made her heart strung up.
What John
said was obviously implying
that he spent the
last night together with Sophia.
Isabelle's
impression of John was that he
was stern,
and he never joked about
anything, nor did he
ever spout nonsense, so she
assumed that he
was telling the truth. Despite
how her hand
was clutching the hem of her
gown, her
expression betrayed nothing.
John was smiling while facing
Logan.

"I will
refrain from saying anything,
but you can let
your imagination run wild."
"

What John said led Logan to
cast a sneaky
glance at both of them,
whereas Sophia

scoffed at John after staring at him for a while.

“Sure, since we’re now on the subject, I would like to know why you went to my house last night?”

Sophia’s question stunned John, as he was in fact struggling to make a decision on whether he should go to her house last night. His brain was muddled by various thoughts throughout the past few days, but he eventually decided to go to Sophia’s house.

However, she wasn’t in, while the doors and windows were locked, so John decided to scale the building to reach for the balcony, only to find that the door up there was unlocked, which he used to enter her room.

When John was waiting for

Sophia to come home, there were a few times he considered leaving before she arrived. However, he eventually waited until she arrived despite his inner strife. Sophia came home alone, but for a second when he was standing on the second floor, John was afraid that he might witness Sophia getting out of the car alongside Ian. The fact that she came alone left John feeling as if having his prayers answered. Meanwhile, Sophia gave him a shove after staring at him for a while. "I'm talking to you, so answer me! What were you planning to do when you went to my house last night? You're acting weird.

”

Upon turning to face her, a smile tugged at the corner of John’s lips.

“I was trying to figure out what makes you attractive.

”

With a pout, she said, “Everything!” John wore a smile while he replied,

“Yeah, everything indeed.

”

After staring at him for some time, Sophia clicked her tongue before adjusting her posture.

“You’re crazy.

”

Meanwhile, John turned to look at the people from the press, who were observing them from afar. He figured that they must’ve

gotten everything they needed since he had been playing along with the scenario.

After some time, the Blackwells arrived, with Kate Blackwell being supported by one of them. She was old, and her clothes hung loosely on her shriveled frame.

**The Returning Ex Chapter 428
However, Kate had a smile on her face, so she seemed quite spirited. Sophia examined Kate before moving closer to John.
“She seems to be of the same age as your grandmother.”**

By that point, John already stood up.

“She’s older than my grandmother.”

Kate showed up to thank her guests for attending the event, which she then followed up with more pleasantries. Also,

she told them to go get the food that was served at the rear end of the venue. It was about time to let the banquet begin as a lot of the guests arrived early in the morning without having breakfast.

Sophia, John and Logan walked up to the tables as soon as it began, while Old Mr.

Jefferson and Old Mrs. Constance gathered around the same table, leaving the youngsters to their own separate tables.

As Logan was the one who brought Sophia along, she followed him to the table while

John tagged along. Upon witnessing that, Sophia turned to ask John, "Why are you following me?"

John responded with a frown on his face.

**“I
am not following you but Logan.
What’s wrong
with that?”**

**Upon hearing what John said,
Logan cried out
in surprise.**

**“John was thinking
of teaming up
with me earlier on, but he
didn’t get the
chance to do so. Come on. Let’s
just sit
together since we’re all here
now.
”**

**After telling her father about it,
Isabelle
joined them, which was
something Sophia
admired her for. If they
switched positions,
Sophia would never do as she
did, as she
would stay away from the
person who hated
her.**

**Everybody was looking for a
seat by that
point, but none of them were in
a hurry as**

there were plenty of seats.
After everybody
was seated, there were a few
more empty
seats across Sophia, which
made her say
after some thought,
“I
should’ve come in my
pajamas instead of a gown.
”

Logan agreed to her notion
while loosening his
tie.
“I feel uncomfortable in this
suit.
”

The table wasn’t huge, so it
could only fit
around five to six people, but
none of the
other guests were willing to sit
down by their
table as soon as they saw who
occupied it, so
despite the commotion, their
table ended up
being occupied by them four.
Logan was
delighted with the space they
had, so he

immediately moved his chair
while saying,
“Come on, instead of squeezing
together, let’s
make more space since it’s just
the four of
us.
”

Sophia gave John a shove
before demanding,
“You, move there.
”

John responded by moving
slightly away from
her. His response annoyed
Sophia, so she
moved away on her own while
wearing a smirk,
which John couldn’t help but
laugh at.

Isabelle could only pretend to
not have seen
any of their interaction. After
that, Logan
handed Sophia a pair of
chopsticks.

“Have you
had breakfast? Come, have
something to eat.
I remember that you only drank
some juice

earlier.

”

A waiter passed by their table,
so John
called out to him, The waiter
responded by
coming up to him quickly.

“I

would like some
warm milk,

” said John. Then, as
if suddenly

remembering something else,
he turned to

Isabelle and asked,

“Would you

like some as

well? We’ll order two of that if
you would like

some.

”

John didn’t need to ask that
question, but he
deliberately did anyway.

Getting what John

was trying to imply, Isabelle
simply smiled

and replied,

“No, thank you. I

already had

breakfast.

”

With that, John turned to the waiter to ask for just one cup of warm milk, but Sophia smirked as she said, “Don’t you tell me it’s for me. You know I hate milk.”

However, John didn’t even look her way.

“Did you forget you have a weak stomach? What were you even thinking when you skipped breakfast? My grandmother told me to bring you to a checkup when I have the time, as this is no laughing matter. You’ll get into trouble when you get older.”

With a snort, Sophia asked, “What does it have to do with you anyway?” “How could it have nothing to do with me?” John shot back.

Logan was having a fun time watching them bicker, but he was startled by what John said.

“Does it have anything to do with you?”

The Returning Ex Chapter 429 John was unfazed by what Logan said.

“I promised my grandfather I will take care of Sophia when he passed away, so of course it has everything to do with me.

” Not only did he see her as his responsibility, she was his responsibility for life.

Meanwhile, Sophia was not impressed by his explanation. There we go again.

It’s a bore to hear him say that. Despite his grandfather’s will to have us stay together, that prick divorced me as soon as his

grandfather
passed away.
After mulling over the situation,
Isabelle
spoke up for the first time that
night.

“Miss
Gwendolyn will one day be
married to
someone else, so her husband
will take care
of her.
”

There was a pause on John’s
part while he
pulled his lips into a thin line. In
response,
Sophia looked toward Isabelle
while figuring
to herself, She sure knows
when to step in.
For the first time in forever,
Sophia agreed
to what Isabelle said.

“Yeah. I
will have my
own life, John, so I don’t really
need you.
”

Sophia had refrained from
saying anything

worse considering how many
guests were
present for the occasion, so she
didn't want
to hurt John's pride. Meanwhile,
John gave a
noncommittal response with his
eyes on
Sophia, then he fell silent.
After a while, the waiter
brought them some
warm milk, which John left in
front of
Sophia. Then, he instructed her
before she
could say anything else,
"Don't
be a brat.
Drink it all up."
He sounded as if
trying to
coax her, to which Sophia
responded by
simply staring at the milk in
front of her.
She didn't want to make the
situation any
worse, so after making sure
that the
temperature was right, she
downed the milk

in one go, which warmed her from the stomach up to her throat. As soon as she finished her milk, Kate announced that the feast was to begin, so the waiters started to serve the guests their dishes. Sophia was hit with a pang of hunger as soon as she took in the aroma of the dishes. Handing Sophia her chopsticks, John said, "Let's eat. You should start from the hot dishes."

Logan was famished as he didn't have breakfast, so he wasn't about to wait any longer. On the other side, Isabelle ate her food in small bites and with much elegance. John must've had breakfast, as he stopped after a few bites. All he did

after that was
lean back in his seat while
watching Sophia
eat.

When she was still married to
John, Sophia
ate slowly and carefully, but
now, she could
no longer care to put up any
pretense.

Although she lacked table
manners back
then, John could sense she was
trying to
annoy the Constances, for when
she was
eating at home or outside, like
the banquet
they were at now, she seemed
to eat at a
normal pace. The way she ate
seemed natural,
which he enjoyed watching.
In fact, the two of them didn't
have much of
a chance to have a meal
together, so having
the chance to do so brought a
smile to John's
face. Meanwhile, Isabelle had
been paying

attention to John, so she noticed that his gaze was on Sophia all the time. Although Matilda told her that John hated Sophia, that didn't seem to be the case. Isabelle had a complicated look on her face as soon as she thought of Matilda. Despite being in frequent contact, Matilda seemed to have lost her zest. She used to try to invite Isabelle over to the mansion, which the latter used to turn down, but now, when Isabelle suggested to pay Matilda a visit, the latter would refuse her with various excuses instead. Isabelle was smart, so it was apparent to her that Matilda was acting out of character. After eating for some time, she looked at John.

**“By the way, I’ve been
telling your
mother that I’d like to pay her a
visit as it
has been a while since I last saw
her.**

**Will she be home tomorrow?
She asked me to
visit her some time ago, but I
was busy back
then, so I figured I should visit
her
tomorrow now that I’ve met
you.
”**

**The Returning Ex Chapter
430John observed
Isabelle before replying,
“My
mother went
back to her mother’s place as
there are
things she needs to tend to, so
my mother
isn’t currently staying at the
Constance
Residence.
”**

**What John said startled Isabelle,
but she
quickly responded with a light**

'oh'

.

**"I see, so
that's what's going on... She
invited me to pay
her a visit at your place a few
days ago, but
she didn't seem keen about it
anymore, so I
assumed she was feeling unwell,
which
worried me.
"**

**Sophia rolled her eyes while she
thought, So
Matilda's at her mother's
place... Judging
from what she already knew of
the situation,
as well as her question toward
John that
went unanswered, the truth
was evident to
Sophia, which amused her. To
her, the fact
that Matilda finally received her
karma was
worth a celebration.
There was a gloating look on
Sophia's face
when John looked her way, so**

he chided her
softly,
“Why are you laughing?
Focus on
eating your food.
”

“Well, I’m happy. Why can’t I be
happy about
things?” Sophia lifted her chin
in defiance.
By lifting his hand, John wiped
something
away from the corner of
Sophia’s lips, which
surprised her so much that she
backed away
in reflex.

“There’s something at the
corner of your lips,
so why are you backing away?”
John seemed
unfazed by her reaction. After
wiping her
mouth, he took out his phone,
as there
seemed to be an incoming
message. However,
Sophia wasn’t planning on
spending any more
energy to play his games.
Meanwhile, Logan asked from

beside her,
“I
wonder what Ian is doing in the
clubhouse.

Has he eaten though?”

After some thought, Sophia
suggested,

“Why
don’t I ask him?” She then took
out her

phone, which John glanced at
from the

corner of his eyes before
resuming to look at

the screen of his own phone
that was

displaying a message from Zack
about stuff
from work.

In the meantime, Sophia sent
Ian a message,

which he replied quickly using a
voice message

that Sophia played out loud. He
told her that

he had his breakfast quite late
in the

morning, then he went to play
games in

Logan’s room.

He also told her he was feeling

bored, so
Sophia gave him a video call
after some
thought, which he picked up
immediately with
a smile.

“Are you eating?”

Sophia gave him a nod.

“Yeah.

”

Then, she
switched her camera view to
show Logan’s
face, while the latter let out a
chuckle. At
that moment, John spoke up
from the side.

“You should eat and talk later.

”

Although his voice wasn’t loud,
it was audible
enough to make Ian’s smile
freeze on his face
before asking,

“Is John with
you?”

To that, Sophia grunted.

“Yeah,

he came to
the banquet too.

”

Ian went on asking,
“Did you
bring a
companion with you, Mr.
Constance?” The
invitation stated that guests
were allowed to
bring along a companion to add
to the fun, as
there would be a prom session
that would
allow the couples to dance with
each other.

“Nope.

” John made a curt reply
to Ian’s
question.

Ian chuckled before saying,
“It’s
a shame.

This would have been a great
opportunity
though.

”

However, all John did was smirk
in silence.

Ian proceeded to ask Sophia if
anything
interesting happened, but there
were in fact
none. It was so boring that

Sophia wanted to go home.

The call ended after some more chatter, during which the guests were almost finished with their meals. John was still texting Zack when Logan scanned his surroundings.

“Why are there so many guests but no table for games? Does the host expect us all to just chat? We need some other form of entertainment.”

Sophia felt helpless when she heard Logan’s words, while John let out a chuckle.

“Kate is the matriarch of the Blackwell Family, and this is for her birthday celebration, so why would she set up a table for games?”

Kate was a woman of style, so

she would never allow such a thing to happen during her own birthday celebration. Otherwise, the news agencies wouldn't be focused on reporting about her birthday celebration.

John suggested after some thought, "There's a tea room in the backyard, so why don't we go have a seat over there?"

The Returning Ex Chapter 431
Most of the tables still had food on them while the occupants chattered away gleefully.

Of the guests who attended, most of them had prominent statuses. They were people who liked to expand their social network. It was also easier to strike a business deal when both parties were drinking, so the guests

were beginning to engage in conversations that were customary during such occasions. Sophia disliked such occasions, as she had a feeling that everybody had their own agenda no matter what they said or did, so she agreed to John's suggestion with a nod.

"Let's go, since I am full anyway."
"

With that, John stood to help Sophia up from her seat as the gown she wore was a little too long for ease of movement. After she stood up, John held onto her hand. Sophia was so focused on not stepping on the hem of her gown that she didn't notice that it was John who helped her up, nor did she realize that John was holding her hand. It wasn't until she was a few

steps away from the table that she realized that something was off. Thus, she quickly retracted her hand while her eyes widened, all the while wearing a frown on her face. Her expression was sullen as she glanced at John, while her tone was one of seriousness when she issued a warning.

“You’d better keep your hands to yourself, John. Don’t you dare pull any tricks on me.

”

John’s face betrayed no emotion when he said,
“I’m not pulling any tricks. All I did was support you so that you won’t accidentally fall over.

”

Meanwhile, Isabelle could see the look on his

face from behind. Although his face betrayed no emotion, there was a cheerful glint in his eyes. However, Sophia wasn't as observant as Isabelle, so she merely shot John a glare before leaving for their next destination.

There was a rather large tea room in the yard, which was unoccupied. There was a waiter stationed there, who led them to their seats as soon as they walked up to him. Then, the waiter inquired about the tea that they would like.

Sophia knew nothing about tea, but she said after some thought, "I would like some rose tea."

"Same as her," said Logan.

**John made his own decision
without even
consulting Isabelle.**

**“We’ll all
have the same.
”**

**After taking their orders, the
waiter left
swiftly, while Sophia stretched
herself out in
her seat before telling Logan,
“I
find the
banquet extremely boring.
”**

**There was a smile on John’s
face when he
took over the conversation.
“The reason that
you
’re bored is because you don’t
have much
to gain from it. However, a lot
of the other
guests perceive it as a rare
opportunity that
they would treasure.
”**

**John was referring to those who
were
drinking back there, as they**

could meet up
with people whom they
wouldn't normally
meet if not for the occasion, so
the banquet
was actually a platform for
them to facilitate
multiple business
collaborations.

Upon listening to what he said,
Sophia cast
John a side glance before asking,
"Why didn't
you stay behind?"

Isabelle glanced at him too, as
she thought it
would be more beneficial for
John if he
stayed back. His company had a
wide range of
business dealings, so a wide
connection would
be beneficial to them. Not only
was the
banquet the best chance to
expand his
network, it was also the easiest
way to do so.

Meanwhile, John stared at
Sophia before
saying,

**“Why should I stay there
if you’
re
here?”**

**Sophia let out a snort, as if she
was already
used to his antics. She even
clicked her
tongue while thinking, He sure
is a douche. He
used to think that I was
annoying when I
used to cater to him, but now
that I’m gone,
he has a hard time adjusting to
his new life.**

**On the other hand, Logan gave
a more
pronounced reaction.**

**“What do
you mean by
that? Don’t you trust me?”**

**All John did was stare at Sophia
without even
answering Logan’s question,
while Isabelle
looked away, her lips pursed, as
she wasn’t
sure how she should react.**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 432In
the past, no**

matter the occasion, even at those events that were grander than Kate's birthday party, Isabelle was always the one in control of the mood and flow of conversation, so the conversations would revolve around her no matter the topic.

However, Sophia's presence was always a deterrent to her. Whenever she was with Sophia, not only would Isabelle be pushed out of the spotlight, she would also never get the chance to be the initiator of conversation.

Instead, she always wound up in a passive spot, as well as the one who was ignored whenever she was in Sophia's presence. All she could do was heave a quiet sigh.

Meanwhile, Sophia glanced at John casually

before mocking him,
“You’d
better get
yourself treated if you are
mentally unstable.
Make sure not to drag things
on.
”

A smile bloomed on John’s face
as he realized
how much fun he was having
while teasing
Sophia. Although the more
spirited Sophia
was, the crankier she would get,
and he
seemed to like that about her.
The waiter brought them their
tea a while
later, then they began chatting
away. Even
though there were four people
sitting around
the table, Isabelle remained
silent
throughout their conversation,
as not only did
she hate Sophia, Logan was also
someone
whom she disliked. Before the
banquet, she

thought she might get a chance to spend time alone with John, but she had a premonition that it would be impossible the moment she saw Sophia picking out a gown that day.

Coupled with John's declaration over the phone that he would look out for Sophia, Isabelle knew she already lost the battle.

However, she decided to attend the banquet despite knowing that she might not get anything out of it, as not only did she feel wronged, she was also driven by the urge to get to the bottom of the sudden change in John's attitude toward his ex-wife.

Isabelle had been paying attention to John's behavior when they were chatting. Whenever he spoke to Sophia, a smile

would tug at the corner of his lips, which was something she never observed in him. The more he was amused by Sophia's presence, the more Isabelle felt annoyed and unhappy about it. Eventually, she stood when the three of them were sent into a laughing fit. "You guys carry on. I will go check on my father, as well as go greet Madam Kate."

What she said reminded John of what should be done, so he said, "I will have to go there too."
" Since Kate Blackwell was the hostess, they should go greet her because they were the younger generation. It was then that John cast Logan a glance, only to have the latter wave his

hand while
turning down the suggestion.

“I
will not be
going. Presumably, no one
would want to see
me.

” He always had a clear
grasp of where he
stood with others.

Sophia tried to egg him on.

“You should go
since you chose to attend the
event. It’s not
nice to not greet the hostess.

No matter
Kate’s opinion of you, people
would have a
harder time picking on you if
you were being
polite.

”

However, Logan couldn’t be
bothered by it.

“I
suppose there will be a lot of
people, so they
don’t need me there.

”

In the end, Sophia pushed on
his arm while

saying,

“Just go. It won’t take long. John will be there too, so you have nothing to fear.

”

“Who told you I am afraid of greeting the matriarch? I fear nothing!”

Logan shot up from his seat while saying so. After glancing at Sophia, John told her,

“Don’t go anywhere. We will be back soon.

”

Sophia didn’t even bother to reply, so John left with the other two after having said so.

There was probably still a lot going on around the tables, as nobody came to the tea room.

Sophia leaned back against her seat before stretching herself out and tidying her gown, then she looked out through the window.

Although the banquet might be

a rare
occasion that others might
want to treasure,
Sophia found no appeal in it, so
she decided
to never attend such an
occasion ever again.

No matter what Logan said, she
never wanted
to suffer through such an
occasion ever
again.

The Returning Ex Chapter
433 After sitting
alone by the table for a while,
rustling noises
could be heard at the entrance
of the tea
room. Sophia thought that John
and the rest
were back, so she looked
toward there, only
to see a person peeking in
through the
entrance with a microphone in
hand.

He seemed to be trying to check
on the
occupants in the room, and he
ended up being
startled by the sight of Sophia

alone in the
large tea room. After a pause,
the man came
in with two other men in tow.
One of them
had a video recorder in hand,
while the other
was the conductor. They were
obviously
journalists sent by the press.
As she was alone in the tea
room, they were
definitely after her, so Sophia
adjusted her
posture. The man with a mic
had a cheerful
disposition about him while he
approached
her.

“Greetings, Miss
Gwendolyn. This is such
a coincidence.
”

“Is that so?” asked Sophia while
checking him
out.

The man saw four cups on the
table, so he
asked,

“Are you waiting for
your friends?”

Sophia grunted.

**“Yes. I am
waiting for them.
”**

**The journalist seemed polite
enough, as he
didn't sit down right away.
Instead, he bowed
down while standing beside her
with the mic
close to her.**

**“Miss Gwendolyn, I
saw you were
with Mr. John Constance and
Miss Isabelle
Bailey not so long ago. May I
know...
”**

**Upon hearing his question,
Sophia lifted her
head to look his way.**

**“What
would you like to
know?”**

**The journalist put on a smile
before asking,
“Pardon me. As I saw you
together with Mr.
John Constance a while ago, so
I'd very much
like to know if you two are...**

”

Without needing him to finish his question, Sophia already knew what he was trying to ask, so she smiled and replied, “We are friends. I came along with Mr. Logan Jefferson today, and it was out of coincidence that we met John. However, being divorced from each other doesn’t mean we are on bad terms. We parted ways amicably, so we’re still friends.”

The journalist let out an ‘ah’ to show that he had understood before smiling at her.

“You sure are broad-minded, Miss Gwendolyn.”

There seemed to be an added layer of meaning in what he said, but Sophia brushed

it off with a smile.

“Not really,
as John didn’t
do anything that warrants an
apology, so I
have nothing to forgive. You
might’ve gotten
the wrong idea about this.
”

Noises that indicated the return
of John and
the rest could be heard from
the entrance as
soon as she said so, but rather
than looking
their way, Sophia opted to sip
on her cup of
tea. John was beside her in a
few strides,
then he looked between her
and the three
men before throwing them a
question,
“Why
are you here?”
None of them seemed to be
perturbed by
John’s question, as the
conductor smiled as
soon as he saw John.
“Mr.

**Constance, please
don't be angry. We are merely
doing an
interview with Miss Gwendolyn
since she's
here.
”**

**Isabelle stepped in at that
moment to ask
rather politely,
“What would
you like to
know?” She then turned to
Sophia before any
of the men could reply to her
question.**

**“Miss
Gwendolyn, are you alright?”
With a smile, Sophia replied,
“I'm alright.
They just arrived, so they didn't
do anything
to me. Yet.
”**

**Isabelle was better at handling
these
situations than John, which was
evident when
she sat down beside Sophia
instead of
confronting the journalists. She**

even held
onto Sophia's arm intimately
before looking
toward the video recorder.

"I
do not know
what you wish to say, but your
reporting is
affecting our private lives. Miss
Gwendolyn
and I are not who you claim us
to be, as we
are friends, while Mr.
Constance and I are
currently business partners, so I
hope you
will report nothing but the
truth.
"

Meanwhile, Sophia was
wearing a half smirk,
whereas John heaved a sigh
before glancing
at Isabelle. He knew she was
doing the right
thing, as not only would it
resolve the crisis,
it would also clear up the
rumors on the
Internet. Thus, he chose to
remain silent, but

Logan seemed to disagree with what Isabelle said, as he knew for a fact that Sophia disliked Isabelle.

The Returning Ex Chapter

434 Logan knew

Sophia must be annoyed by how Isabelle was holding onto her arm. Due to his

straightforward nature, he went up to her in strides before helping Sophia up with a sullen expression.

“I’m warning you to watch what you say, as Sophia is a dear friend of mine.

Don’t even think for a second that you can walk all over her. If you are going to report this, you’d better think before you put it into words, or else my sister—”

Perhaps Logan was a little ashamed of bringing Lorraine’s name up, so he cleared his

throat before continuing,
“If I
catch you
spouting any nonsense, I will
make sure that
you will be met with
consequences.
”

The three men stared at Logan
in silence, as
they knew how barbaric he
could get once
provoked. Also, he was one
who wouldn't care
about familial ties and
responsibilities. In
fact, they perceived Logan with
slight
disdain. Instead of acting the
part of an heir
to the Jeffersons who would be
capable of
shouldering the responsibilities
of the family,
Logan turned out to be
notorious for his vile
disposition.
Despite having stared at Logan
for some
time, they had nothing to ask of
Logan, so

they turned to John instead for their next interview.

“Mr. John Constance, according to previous accounts, your divorce with Miss Gwendolyn was due to an interference from Miss Isabelle Bailey, but does the fact that you are still capable of maintaining a certain degree of civility while conversing with each other mean what happened back then was...”

“What happened back then?” John retorted immediately.

“You fabricated the news on your own. Nothing happened between us.”

The journalist seemed unfazed by John’s retort, as he merely let out a chuckle before proceeding with another

question.

“Pardon me, but I would like to know if your divorce with Miss Gwendolyn had anything to do with a conflict between you two, or was it due to external circumstances?” He seemed intent on getting to the bottom of the situation, which explained his repetitive question.

“What happened between Sophia and I was my fault, as I was the one who neglected her.

” With a tilt of his head, John brooded for a while before answering, “I failed to maintain balance between my work and home life.”

What he said explained a lot of things. Meanwhile, Logan was getting

impatient.

**“Are
you done with your questions?
Aren’t you
bored by your repetitive news
reports on
such an inconsequential matter?
Hear me out
just this once. Instead of
focusing on this,
you should do something
different to attract
more attention. Isn’t there a
new talent show
on TV? You should check it out,
as I think it
will soon gain a lot of traction.
If you follow
up on it, you should be able to
uncover some
new talents.
”**

**Sophia could hardly contain her
laughter.**

**Contrary to popular opinion,
Logan was quite
smart, for he was able to
change the topic so
smoothly. In the meantime,
John waved his
hand at the waiter, who quickly**

caught on to
what he meant as he came to
usher the
journalists to cover more on
Kate's birthday
party. After smiling at them, the
journalists
packed up to leave.

After removing Logan's hand
from her
shoulder, Sophia turned to
meet his gaze.

"You sure are a smooth talker!
You should
work as Ian's manager! Listen
to yourself;
that's so cool of you!"

"Really?" Logan was quite
happy about it.

"How did I sound just now?"

"You were great indeed!" After
praising

Logan, Sophia turned to look at
Isabelle who

was still sitting beside her. That
look forced

Isabelle to move back to her
original position,

the smile earlier long gone from
her face.

After tidying her gown, Sophia

sat back
down, while Logan turned to
look at Isabelle
before saying in a rather odd
fashion,
“You
sure can put up a good act, Miss
Bailey.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter

435 “It’s for the

greater good,

” said Isabelle,

which had some

truth to it.

Logan sat down before turning
to face John.

“Have a seat and some water.

You performed

well too.

”

Failing to stifle a laugh, John

commented,

“You did well too, seeing that

the journalists

were so scared of you that they

didn’t dare

to ask you a single question.

”

Upon hearing John’s comment,

Logan leaned

against his seat while crossing
his legs.

“I
hate people like them, as all
they could do
was pick at us. Their reports
were what
stirred the pot when there
really wasn't much
to see. They just want everyone
to be
miserable.

”

After brooding on it, Sophia
asked,

“Are we
going to wait here until the
banquet is
finished?”

“That won't be necessary. I saw
the doors
leading to the dance floor
opened, and there
were already some people
there,

” explained

John.

Dance floor? Sophia figured she
should skip
it altogether since she didn't
know how to

dance. Back then, Matilda had Sophia learn some dance moves with the reasoning that Sophia might need to know about it in case she needed to accompany John on some occasions. However, Matilda was also dissatisfied with Sophia's slow progress and inelegant posture, which only seemed to irk Matilda, so Sophia ceased the effort altogether. Upon recalling what happened in the past, Sophia wore a smile when she realized Matilda might have been simply trying to make things difficult for her by having her attend all sorts of classes, only to cancel them later on. Despite a lack of interest on Sophia's part, Logan was, on the contrary,

quite the eager
learner. There was a dance floor
in his
clubhouse, where he would
sometimes enjoy
himself without a care in his
skills; he simply
danced as he pleased. When he
heard what
John said, his eyes widened.

“Let’s go! I want
to dance!”

Sophia didn’t believe in a word
he said.

Although Logan wasn’t wearing
his golden
chain on this day, she could
imagine the chain
flinging around in the air while
he danced. He
was, after all, a man of action,
so he stood
upon saying so while holding
onto Sophia’s
hand.

“Come on. I will let you
witness my skills
as the dancing king!”

Sophia burst into laughter.

“Are
you even

serious?”

John followed suit while saying,
“I am also
curious if he lives up to his
title.

”

After glancing between Sophia
and Logan,
Isabelle for once, decided to say
something.

“I would like to see that for
myself too.

”

Sophia was pressured into
tagging along since
even Isabelle decided to go, so
she stood

while announcing,

“You’d

better listen

properly here. I can’t dance, so
I’ll only go

with you to watch.

”

There was a cheerful glint in
Isabelle’s eyes
while she smiled.

The doors to the hall were
indeed opened,
but there weren’t a lot of
people in it. Music

was being played on the floors,
but everybody
was watching from the sidelines
rather than
going forward to dance. There
was a row of
chairs by the dance floor, as
well as a small
table full of fruits and drinks.
After listening to the music,
Logan deemed it
unfit for his upcoming
performance, so he
told Sophia and the rest,
“Wait
here while I
go change the music.
”

Sophia chuckled before
mocking him,
“Don’t
you turn this place into a
clubhouse, or else
Madam Blackwell will be
coming after you.
”

However, Logan had no qualms
in doing so.
“Just wait here.
” Then, he left in
the

opposite direction.

Sophia was resigned to sitting down beside

John and Isabelle on the row of chairs, with

John in the middle, while

Sophia and Isabelle

sat on both sides of him.

Seemingly having

recalled something, Isabelle

moved closer to

whisper into John's ear. At the

same time, he

listened intently while leaning

toward her.

After glancing their way once,

Sophia paid no

more attention to them, as she

was more

curious about Logan's choice of music with

how peculiar his taste was. The

music on the

dance floor changed after a

while.

The Returning Ex Chapter

436The moment

Sophia heard that, she cracked

up. This is

exactly how Logan should be! In

just a split

second, the soft, soothing music turned into something upbeat and noisy. As everyone stared at each other in bewilderment, unsure of what was going on, Logan removed his jacket and tie. With the buttons on his shirt and sleeves undone, he dived onto the dance floor. The room suddenly turned dark as waiters went over to the windows by the dance floor and closed the curtains. Then, the lights came on, turning the place into the sort of dance floor in a bar. Without a doubt, Logan didn't know anything about ballroom dancing; he only knew some club moves. While the onlookers were still confused, he was already dancing without any structure and just as he liked. Some of them who were drunk

applauded him
and some others—probably due
to the
influence of alcohol—joined
him on the dance
floor as well after taking off
their jackets
and ties. They had also undid
the buttons on
their shirts and sleeves.
As long as someone made a
headstart in this
sort of thing, somebody else
would follow
suit. When there was a first,
then the second
and third would come. After
some clamoring,
all the men in the room, except
John, were
already on the dance floor.
In the beginning, everyone was
so proper, but
now, they were all over the
place, singing and
dancing cheerfully.
Logan was enjoying himself.
Usually when he
was in the clubhouse, he would
drag the
waiters to dance with him when

he was in the mood, and they were willing to play along with him because they were used to his temper.

After dancing for a while, he came over to

Sophia, saying,

“Come, join us!”

Startled, she turned him down,

“I can’t dance like this!”

Over the loud music, he shouted,

“That’s

okay. I can’t either! Just dance however you

like and go according to your mood.

”

However, Sophia still shook her head as she

felt it was too embarrassing.

In the end, it was John who was next to them

who reached out his arm and grabbed her

wrist. Giving her a light squeeze, he then

pulled her up from her seat.

“Let’s go and join

them.

”

“You’re playing along as well?”

she exclaimed,

wide-eyed.

Brushing off her question with a smile, he

pulled her onto the dance floor,

and she

wiggled a little reluctantly

without making

too much of a scene.

Still, she really didn’t know how to dance in a

club, so she muttered softly,

“John, I really

can

’t do this. I’ll just make an

embarrassment

out of myself.

”

“I can’t dance too,

” he told her

with a chuckle

and led her to a corner without

caring about

how everyone else was dancing.

“Didn’t you

learn something before this?

We’ll dance to

our own style.

”

Before she could react, he had already placed an arm around her waist and grabbed her hand, setting them into the opening posture for ballroom dancing. It didn't matter what genre the music was, for after exerting a little force in his hands as a start, his feet began to move in accordance to his own beat.

Even though forced to dance along with him, Sophia didn't stop nagging.

“John, are you misunderstanding something because I have been too nice to you?”

With a smile, he looked at her and replied,

“Don't worry. I didn't misunderstand anything.

”

Taking a deep breath, she uttered,

“I hope

**you
're clear about the fact that I
don't love
you.
"**

**John merely grunted in reply as
Logan
returned to the dance floor,
bobbing and
shaking his head. Since they
were just
dancing randomly and nobody
cared much, the
people who were in the mood
also dragged
their partners to the dance floor.
As the
number of people dancing piled
up, their
dance turned more weird and
the music
switched between all types of
genres.**

**The Returning Ex Chapter
437Sitting next to
the dance floor, Isabelle refused
to let her
guard down even for a second,
even though
she couldn't see John and
Sophia very well**

from the flickering lights which
shone down
on the dance floor.

Now, she couldn't understand
John and didn't
know what he was trying to do
anymore. Is he
trying to create an image that
he's an
affectionate person?

Still, he didn't need to do that
because they
had gone to great lengths to
make the news
of the divorce public.

While the flickering lights were
hurting her
eyes, a woman on the dance
floor who knew
her came over and invited her
to dance along.

"Miss Bailey, come and have
some fun. Look
how much everyone is enjoying
themselves.

It's boring to sit over there by
yourself.

"

Usually, Isabelle wouldn't
mingle with these
people because she didn't like

**crowds, and
such a scene always annoyed
her. However, it
was different on this day, so she
smiled at
the invite.**

**“Alright. I’m tempted
to join when
I see you guys having so much
fun,
” she said.**

**Lifting the hem of her dress, she
went to the
dance floor.**

**Of course, the women couldn’t
be dancing like
the men who were shaking
their heads wildly,
but everyone knew how to
dance. Besides
Sophia, probably everyone else
on the dance
floor were socialites from
well-to-do families
who had learned etiquettes and
everything
related to socializing. Naturally,
dancing was
also a part of it.**

**The moment she was on the
dance floor, she**

slithered toward John and Sophia's direction. She saw that they seemed to be engrossed in their own world, undisturbed by others around them as they ballroom danced to their own rhythm, not even noticing that she was just standing right next to them. However, when the lights hit their way, she could see an impatient look on Sophia's face, while John was beaming the whole time, appearing genuinely happy. Fueled by the excitement in this corner, more and more people gathered and danced around them, killing Sophia's mood when the dancing crowd began to build up. However, John held her waist firmly and casually said in a normal tone, "Is Ian going to participate in the talent show

invested by

Lorraine Jefferson?"

Stunned, she looked at him and asked,

"How did you know?"

This was easy to find out, and it was even

said that the preliminary name list for the show had already been decided.

"It's best for Ian to choose this path,

actually,

" he said with a laugh.

"Since it was impossible for Sean to retreat from his post in the Morgan Family, Ian would never be able to make it there.

"

Sophia rolled her eyes at him.

"Why are you so concerned about him suddenly?"

Flexing his hand on her back slightly, John pulled her deeper into his arms.

"It's not him

I'm concerned about. You are
the one.
”

A snort escaped her mouth as
she said,
“I
don't need your concern. Really.
Because
that's just trouble for me.
”

What she just said was true,
because every
now and then, he would say
something
suggestive out of the blue,
which she didn't
know how to respond to.
Thus, she added,
“Alright, I'll
shift the blame
on myself. Maybe I haven't
been proper
enough with you since the
divorce, which led
you to think that I might still
have some
interest in you. But I'm sorry,
Mr. Constance.
I really don't, and I can't wait
for us to stop
contacting each other until the

end of our
lives. Then, we can both live in
peace.
”

Without saying anything in
reply, he merely
stared at her. The whole while
she was saying
this, she kept her gaze on him
steadily. Her
eyes were clear with nothing to
hide, and her
tone was calm and neutral. This
all went to
show that she was honest and
she truly
meant it.

That made him uneasy and he
sighed.

“Let’s
drop that topic and enjoy
yourself today. A
lot of people from the media
are watching
us.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter
438Sophia
sneered,
“Alright. I’ll save you
some dignity.

”

During the small break between the change of songs, she pushed him aside and said,

“I’m not dancing anymore. My feet are blistering from the shoes and I’m tired.

”

Recalling what happened the last time her feet blistered and the fact she needed to use band-aids on it, he released her and she immediately left the dance floor.

The next song on the crowded dance floor was a soothing melody, probably intended for people to do regular ballroom dancing.

The moment Logan heard the tune, he left as well. Some of the men who were laughing earlier danced with their partners, while some went to catch a break.

John had just begun to move to
the side
when Isabelle came over and
called him.

“John.
”

Standing still, he greeted her.

“Hi, Miss
Bailey.
”

Tucking her hair behind her ear,
she blushed
and seemed a little shy.

“May I
have a dance
with you?”

The couples around them had
already started
twirling around to the music as
he looked at
her.

“Sure,
” he said, offering
her his hand,
which she took.

Meanwhile, Sophia returned to
her seat and
had some juice. Now, with the
distracting
lights removed and the curtains
drawn back,

the room looked like how a formal dance party should be.

Sophia instantly spotted John and Isabelle, who stood out like a thumb among the crowd.

Smiling, she then finished her juice.

Although tired, Logan appeared to be very pleased when he came over to her.

“Did I dance well?”

“How do you rate yourself?”

She chuckled.

“I don’t mean to brag, but no one else on the dance floor earlier had moves as smooth as mine,

” he declared proudly.

Despite the fact that she didn’t understand

what was to be proud of, she still nodded and praised,

“Yeah, yeah. You’re the best.

”

After catching his breath, he
peered over at
the dance floor and sighed.

“Why is John
hanging out with Isabelle
again?”

Sophia grinned.

“That’s
expected, isn’t it?
Who else would Isabelle hang
out with if not
John?”

Prejudiced against Isabelle,
Logan naturally
felt that John should stay clear
from her as
well.

“Look, they’re even
hugging each other,
”

he pointed out.

“That’s enough. We’ll stop
looking at them
and take a walk around since
you can’t stand
the sight,

” she suggested,
standing up.

Indeed, he didn’t want to stay
and watch the
both of them dancing

affectionately as he found the sight an eyesore. Hence, he left the room with her and walked along the banquet hall toward the backyard without any specific spot to go.

Just a few minutes later, they saw a group of priests being led in.

“What are they up to?” Sophia wondered, feeling surprise.

“Huh? My old man mentioned that the Blackwells invited a high priest to bless Madam Kate. That’s probably their guy.”

Sophia nodded in understanding, knowing that businessmen were usually superstitious. Back then when Old Mr. Constance was bedridden, the family also invited a priest into their home to bless him for several days.

However, a fortune-teller had actually read his fortune and told Old Mrs. Constance that it was a bad omen. She had refused to believe it, thinking that they still had a chance. After all, they even held an auspicious event to ward off bad luck, so she believed that something should be working.

Seeing that the group of people went toward a room in the backyard, Sophia knew that it must be Kate's bedroom, and she retracted her gaze after observing the place for a little longer.

Then, they walked toward the man-made hill in the backyard, where a small pavilion stood next to it. Maybe it was because most of the people were drawn to the excitement at the

dance floor, there weren't
many people
outside now.

Feeling a little tired, Sophia
sprawled over
the stone table in the pavilion
after they had
taken a seat, but Logan stopped
her abruptly.

"Hey, this table is cold!"

The Returning Ex Chapter

439He laid out his

jacket on the table and told her,

"There,

much better.

"

"You're really my attentive little
angle,

" she

said as she looked at him. To

that, he merely

grunted softly. Chuckling, she

requested,

"Show me the picture again.

"

Logan knew which picture she

meant, so he

took out his wallet to show her.

They really don't look alike;

nothing at all.

Staring at the woman in the

picture, she
asked,
“How many people have
you met in your
life who looks like your mom?”
“Before this, I thought that my
eldest sister,
Lynette, looked like her, but not
anymore
now. Then, I felt that my
second-eldest
sister, Lydia, resembled her a
little.
However, when I looked closer,
the
resemblance was gone.
”

Looking at her, he
said earnestly,
“Now, I think
you look like
her.
”

Inspecting the picture a little
further,
Sophia could see what he
meant as she ran
her fingers across the picture.
“Well, it’s not
too bad for you to have
something to

remember her by.

”

Which is much better than me,
she thought.

There were no pictures of those
two *sshholes
at all.

According to her grandfather,
he had kept
their pictures when they first
took off. As
the years passed and they
didn't return, he
took them for dead and burned
all their
pictures, saying that there was
no point to
keep anything belonging to the
dead.

While Sophia slumped over the
table, both of
them chatted for a while until
people from
the Constance Family passed by
the pavilion,
and she recognized two of them
as the ones
who helped Kate up the stage
for her speech
earlier.

They were now leading some

people carrying a
huge wooden chest, which
seemed very heavy,
toward the banquet hall. She
wondered what
was in it.

Standing up to get a better view,
she
pondered out loud,
“Are they
using that for
the lucky draw?”

Since he was uninterested in
such activities,
Logan didn't even turn to look.

When the
people were gone, Sophia
returned to her
seat and straightened her
clothes.

“Why are
wealthy people always going
the extra mile to
make their own lives
miserable?”

Right after that, someone spoke
next to her.

“Miss Gwendolyn, what a
surprise to see you
here!”

Sophia jumped in astonishment

and turned to
the source of the voice, but
Logan snatched
the words right out of her
mouth.

“You’

re

John’s younger brother?”

Yep, that’s Dylan.

Standing on the step outside
the pavilion,

Dylan beamed. He was there
alone without a
date.

“I thought I saw you
earlier, but I was
afraid that I had mistaken
someone else. As
it turned out, it’s really you.

”

“You’re here as well,

” Sophia

exclaimed,

getting up from her seat.

In fact, it wasn’t odd to find him
here

because the invitation was sent
to the whole

Constance Family; Owen had
just as much

right to attend as William.

**“I didn’t see you earlier when
the meal was
served,
” she added, giving him
a smile.**

**Pacing over, Dylan casually took
the seat next
to her.**

**“I didn’t want to attend
at first
because I don’t like crowded
events, but I
have to come in my father’s
place because
he’s busy today.
”**

Sophia nodded.

**“Where were
you earlier? I
didn’t see you the whole time.
It would’ve
been nice to sit at the same
table if I had
seen you during mealtime.
”**

**“I was sitting with a few friends
earlier,
” he
explained with a smile.
“I saw**

that John is
here too.
”

“Yeah. We shared the same
dining table.
”

Chuckling ambiguously, he said,
“But when I
ran into him, he didn’t mention
a single word
about you.
”

After giving it a thought, Sophia
guessed,
“Probably he thinks that there’s
no need to
mention me.
”

Next to them, Logan added,
“John’s at the
dance floor now. Aren’t you
going to join in
the fun?”

Dylan shook his head and
sighed.

“I’ll pass. It
must be noisy there.
”

Immediately, Sophia nodded in
agreement.

“Exactly, it’s too noisy and

there are too
many people.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter
440Furthermore,
those people are always
stealing glances at
her. Just look if you want to;
why the need to
act so sneakily? Sophia sneered
silently.

Turning to Logan, Dylan said,
“I
met your dad
earlier and he seems to be
looking for you,
but I don’t know why.
”

Logan nodded in
acknowledgement. Prior to
this, his father made it clear
that he would
be introducing some important
figures to him
on this day, and he even
reminded him to go
over to his table to offer a toast
during
mealtime. However, Logan
couldn’t be
bothered to go over. So, it was

only expected
that he would be looking for
him now, either
to introduce all kinds of people
to him, or to
give him a lecture.

The former seems like a bigger
possibility, he
thought.

Glancing at Logan, Sophia
suggested,

“Why
don’t you look for him to check
it out? I hope
it’s not something important.
”

In such matters, even if it was
unimportant
to Logan, it was most probably
imperative to
his father. Thus, after
contemplation, he
stood up to leave.

“I’ll check it
out to see if
it’s really anything important.
Both of you
stay here and don’t go
anywhere. I’m coming
back soon.
”

After hearing Sophia's 'mm
hmm' as a reply,
he then left briskly.

"You came together with
Logan?" Dylan asked
Sophia.

Sophia nodded and then felt a
little
conflicted.

"Actually, I'm
regretting it now
because it's really boring here.
"

Understanding what she meant,
he uttered,

"I'm regretting it as well. I
wanted to leave
earlier, but felt that it seemed a
little
impolite.
"

Widening her eyes, she gushed,

"So we'
re
having the same thought!"

Dylan cracked up.

"I think we
have similar
opinions on some issues, Miss
Gwendolyn.
"

**“Yeah, I think so, too,
” she said
in agreement. —
Meanwhile, on the dance floor,
Isabelle
started a conversation with
John.**

**“I wonder
if I said the right things in the
media
interview earlier.
”**

**John hesitated before assuring
her,
“I think
you did well. Your reaction was
quick.
”**

**Giggling, she unconsciously
inched closer to
him, but it was a barely
noticeable distance.
“I don’t really know how to
handle the media
actually, but at that time, I
thought that
some misunderstandings from
before could
be resolved if I just explained
things a
little.**

”

“Hmm,

” John mumbled and didn’t say anything else.

After a short pause, Isabelle tried again.

“Previously, I wanted to go to your company to discuss a detail in the new supply contract.

In the end, I scrapped the idea because of the incident on the Internet. I was afraid that it might cause you trouble.

”

“Oh, really?” he replied curtly and perfunctorily.

Pursing her lips, Isabelle decided not to say anything anymore.

When the song ended, John moved over to where the seats were and grabbed a juice, scanning around for Sophia and Logan.

Sweeping his eyes over at the

dance floor, he
couldn't find them there as
well.

Looks like they went outside.

Catching up next to him,

Isabelle

complimented,

"Mrs. Constance

told me that

you dance well. Looks like she's

right.

"

"She told me about you as well.

You dance

very well too,

" he said with a

smile.

Isabelle took a seat and

lamented,

"I learned

it when I was young because my

family

forced me to. Not only that, I

had to learn

everything and I kinda hated it.

Looking back

now, it seems like I never

stopped learning

when I was younger.

"

This caught John by surprise.

**“I
thought you
liked it.
”**

**On the surface, it seemed like
she really
enjoyed such a life, but she
shook her head.**

**“I don’t like it at all because it’s
too
constraining.
”**

**Suddenly, she recalled that day
when John
went to her house to cancel the
engagement
and she chased after him to find
out why. At
that time, her family had
stopped her and
her mom even slapped her out
of anger,
saying that she was humiliating
her family
with her actions.**

**Having the engagement
annulled was already
an embarrassing thing, and yet,
she added on
to the embarrassment by acting
so reluctant**

to let go.

The Returning Ex Chapter

441 However, she

really wanted to find out the

reason why he

broke off the engagement. Was

she not good

enough for him? Why didn't he

fancy her?

Isabelle's eyes reddened a little

at this point,

but she still carried a smile.

"Honestly, I envy

Miss Gwendolyn a lot

sometimes because

she's free to do whatever she

wants without

anyone controlling her.

Plus, people are always helping

her out. Look,

Logan and Ian are so kind to her,

and it made

me so envious. Not even my

family has been

that kind to me.

" Then, she

chuckled in a

self-deprecating manner.

"My

family would

only tell me what I'm not

allowed to do.

”

John thought for a while before saying,

“Sophia isn’t enjoying as much freedom as you said. She’s actually having a rather hard time.

” Looking at her, he suddenly didn’t know what would be appropriate to tell her now.

For a split second, Isabelle’s face froze.

“She seems to be doing rather fine to me now, with Logan always by her side to protect her.

Knowing his personality, she must be someone extraordinary to him if he’s that protective over her.

”

In fact, Isabelle was probably the same kind of person as him. She was also living in a similar environment.

Did he get the hints I'm dropping? Isabelle wondered. John, on the other hand, merely smiled without uttering a word. Drawing the conversation back to herself, she said, "That's why I'm envious that she can be herself."
"

John chuckled softly. "Sometimes when you can't escape, then you should try to adapt slowly. If it's possible, you can even learn to enjoy the situation."
"

With her lips pursed, she gazed at the dance floor, where a new song was being played now. There were still a few couples dancing. Sighing, she lamented, "Yeah, I'm trying to enjoy it. There's nothing else I

can do about
it besides this.
”

I used to enjoy my family’s
arrangement, like
our engagement, she thought
bitterly. But it
went up in flames in the end.
Smiling after a short pause,
John said,
“It’s
great if you’ve thought it
through. In life,
you have to keep looking
forward.
”

“That’s true. We have to keep
looking
forward,
” she said, nodding to
show her
agreement.
A few minutes passed and
another song,
which Isabelle liked very much,
began to play.
She sprang up from her seat
and asked,
“I
kinda like this song. Would you
mind doing

another dance with me?”

Unable to reject a lady’s request, John stood up and went to the dance floor holding her hand. —

Outside at the pavilion, it started to become windy after a while, so Dylan suggested to Sophia that they could go to the lounge on the second floor of the reception hall.

After scanning around and still seeing no signs of Logan returning, she nodded to his idea.

Logan’s probably held back by his father, she guessed.

The reception and banquet hall were close to each other, and one would definitely pass by the entrance of the banquet hall in order to get to the reception hall.

Unintentionally, Sophia’s eyes wandered

toward the direction of the
dance floor when
she passed by, and she instantly
spotted
Isabelle and John there as there
were less
people now. While they danced
with their
bodies close to each other, they
chatted
inaudibly and seemed to be
smiling. Sophia
grinned as well before
retracting her gaze
and leaving with Dylan.
There were a few lounges on
the second floor
of the reception hall; some had
a bed in it
while others only had a couch.
After they
entered one room with a couch,
the waiter
brought them some fruits and
juice.
Taking a seat on the couch,
Sophia leaned
back and wondered out loud,
“Are people still
eating at the dining area? Logan
probably got

held up giving a toast to everyone.

”

Dylan nodded.

“Some people were still eating happily when I left.

” Maybe a text had arrived, for he suddenly whisked out his cell phone to check it. Frowning, he didn’t reply but merely kept it away.

Grinning, Sophia said, “Did something crop up at work? It’s tiring for you people; you can’t even catch a break when you’re out.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter

442The edges of Dylan’s lips curled up.

“Yeah, I can’t catch a break at all.

” Then, he added, “It’s really annoying that there are so

many people from
the media present today.
”

Surprised, Sophia had the idea
that he
wanted to mention something
to her with
that last statement, so she
pursed her lips.

“Yeah,
” she mumbled, unsure
of what else to
say.

Meanwhile, Logan didn't return
and neither
did he give her a call. So, she
continued to
stay in the lounge with Dylan
because the
both of them preferred not to
be involved
with the excitement outside
and they felt
more comfortable to be here.
They were actually not
especially close with
each other, and it was only
after her divorce
with John that they chat more
often. But
Dylan gave people a good vibe,

and she didn't
feel awkward being around him.
Hence, they
sat there until they heard
noises from the
banquet hall. After glancing at
the time, he
said,
"There's probably a
program going on.
Let's take a look."
"

Thinking that it was time for the
lucky draw,
Sophia stood up and followed
him.
"Sure."
"

Everything at the dining area
had ended and
everyone was now at the
banquet hall, which
had a small stage and several
priests were on
it.
Supported by another person,
Kate Blackwell
walked onto the stage looking
very energetic
and cheerful. Also, a large
wooden chest

stood next to her. When Sophia went to the banquet hall, she immediately saw that Old Mrs. Constance, Belinda, was beaming next to Kate. They seemed really close as they held each other's hand. Standing at the back of the crowd, she turned to Dylan and asked, "Are Mrs. Blackwell and Mrs. Constance good friends?"

"Yes.

" Dylan nodded.

"It's said that they have been friends since young. Although they are a few years apart in age, it didn't bother their friendship at all.

"

Sophia smiled. Then, someone suddenly came over.

"Where were you before this?"

John

asked. Startled, she twisted her

head to his
direction, and the smile on her
face
disappeared the next second.
Ignoring him
completely, she turned her
attention back on
the stage.

On the stage, Kate stated that
they had
invited the priests as well as a
renowned
oracle over, and divination lots
were in the
chest. In just a couple of
minutes, they would
be carrying out the lucky draw,
and the first
prize winner could get a
divination lot here,
where the oracle would
decipher the meaning
behind it.

Even though Sophia didn't
recognize the name
of the oracle, she could guess
that he
seemed to be someone famous
from the
surprised gasps around her
when Kate

mentioned his name. The lucky draw itself wasn't so complicated as the invitation cards were numbered and anyone with the drawn number on their card would be the winner.

Since Sophia had the invitation given to her by Logan, she flipped it to the back and saw that it was indeed numbered.

Moving closer to Dylan, she asked, "May I see your number?"

Dylan took out his invitation and showed it to her while John gave them the stink eye next to Sophia. Isabelle had come over as well.

"John, let me see what's your number."
"

Without even giving a single glance to his invitation, he handed it to her. The Blackwells already had the

numbers
written on small pieces of paper,
and those
papers were placed in a giant,
transparent
ball as lots. With Belinda
holding her, Kate
went to the ball and picked out
three pieces
from a small gap.
On the other side of the stage,
they had
displayed the prizes; the third
prize was a
painting with calligraphy, while
the second
was a glass vase and the first
prize was a set
of jewelry. After taking a look at
the prizes,
Sophia could neither
understand nor
appreciate any of it. Even the
jewelry, which
was made of emerald and not
diamonds, didn't
look exactly pretty in her eyes.
The Returning Ex Chapter
443The crowd
cheered when the number for
the third prize

was announced, and someone quickly went on the stage to give a small speech of thanks.

Then, the same thing happened with the second prize winner. Finally, it was time for the first prize.

Fanning herself with the invitation, Sophia said,

“I’ve never been lucky with lucky draws. I’ll probably never be able to make a windfall in this life.

”

The only chance for me to make a windfall was traded with a year of marriage and humiliation.

“You can’t force this type of thing to happen,
” Dylan said with a laugh.

“Let’s just watch.

”

Taking a look at the lot she
drew, Kate
announced,
“Number
twenty-five. The first
prize winner of the day is
number
twenty-five!”

Sophia’s hand came to an
abrupt stop mid-air,
then she turned to Dylan.

“Earlier, what did I
tell you my number is?”

Cracking up, he made fun of her,
saying,

“See,
you attract what you speak of.
You’re the
winner, Sophia.

”

Up to this point in her life,
Sophia had never
won such a big prize, which was
why she was
dumbfounded. Staring at the
prize on the
stage, she thought, Even if I
receive
something like this, I can never
wear it out on
the streets. It’s so ugly!

Dylan gave her a nudge and she hurriedly went to the stage.

“That’s me.

”

With the invitation in her hands, she went onstage and passed it to a person for verification.

Seeing that the winner was Sophia brought a delighted look on Belinda’s face, and she smiled as she took the younger lady’s hands.

“You’re so lucky, Sophia.

”

“I’m surprised as well,

” she

replied with a smile.

After that, the origin of the jewelry set was explained. Apparently, it was a priceless set of jewelry which belonged to a duchess from centuries ago, and had been in Kate’s collection for years. Initially,

she wanted to
turn it into a heirloom, but in
the end, she
decided to use it as the grand
prize on her
birthday for good luck.

With a smile plastered on her
face, Sophia
repeated the same words as the
previous two
winners, but before she could
leave the stage
like them, she was being held
back on the
stage.

“Come here.

” Led by Kate, they
walked over
to the big chest, which had the
divination
lots and a small hole big enough
for a hand to
slip through. Next to that, a few
priests
stood there, praying in low
voices.

Still holding her hand, Kate
instructed
carefully,

“Put your hand in but
don't

rummage around. Just grab one
and that's it.

Do you get it?"

Looking at Kate from a close
distance, Sophia
could see the anticipation and
hope in her old,
opaque eyes. When she looked
away, one of
the priests announced,
"You
may pick out a
divination lot now, Miss.
"

All the divination lots were
placed upright.

Reaching her hand in, she
picked out the first
one she touched.

A priest took it from her and
passed it along
to an assistant, who took a look
at it and then
asked,

"What would you like to
ask for?"

"Huh?" She thought silently,
But I have
nothing to ask for.

However, at second thought,
she might be

drawing this lot on Kate's behalf, who was still holding her hand. Thus, she answered,

"I would like to ask for good health, or my family's prosperity.

"

At that, Kate appeared reassured. Then, the assistant went toward the exit of the banquet hall. As the renowned oracle wasn't here and was most probably still in the backyard, the assistant kept the lot away carefully and left for the backyard briskly.

In the room, there was now a crowd gathered around the second and third prize winners, admiring their prizes and discussing the history and value of their prizes, while some waited patiently to watch the results of her

divination lot.

The Returning Ex Chapter

444Sophia looked

at the set of jewelry she just won, which

included a necklace, earrings, and a bracelet.

Looks like it can only be a collection from the design and color. It's really horrible to wear jewelry with this shade of green.

With her hand still holding Sophia's, Kate dragged her to have a conversation with Belinda, who praised Sophia for always being blessed.

Sophia almost laughed out loud at that compliment. Am I blessed? Well, I've never felt that way.

Glancing nonchalantly toward John's direction, she saw that he was having a conversation with Isabelle, who

appeared
happy from the smile on her
face, and even
gestured with her hands during
the
conversation.

On the other hand, John merely
kept his lips
pursed and nodded with a
rather strict
expression. Next to him, Dylan
stood and
stared at her. When their eyes
met, Sophia
was first startled but then
immediately
flashed him a smile.

Even though it was just a polite
smile, he
seemed delighted and waved at
her, which
she acknowledged with a nod.
From the corner of his eyes,
John saw him
waving and caught Sophia
nodding at him
from the stage. These two are
even flirting
openly now, he thought with a
tightened jaw
and frowned at the sight.

When Sophia was turning away,
she
accidentally caught John's gaze
for a split
second, causing a change in her
attitude at
once, and she rolled her eyes at
him boldly,
even snorting coldly at him
regardless if he
could hear it or not.

Soon, the assistant returned,
and silence fell
over the room. Below the stage,
John kept
his eyes fixed on Sophia,
watching her
excited face helplessly.

This divination lot was actually
drawn on
behalf of the Blackwells, or Kate
wouldn't
have used her beloved treasure
as the grand
prize. Previously, John had
found out from
Belinda that the Blackwells ran
into some
issues in their business, and
Kate was also
feeling unwell. Hence, they

probably wanted
to ward off the bad luck with
this divination
lot.

As businessmen were usually
superstitious, it
would be fine if the oracle had
come back
with good news. If it was
otherwise, then the
situation would turn awkward
for Sophia.

First, the assistant went straight
to Kate and
bowed to her, and she bowed
back politely.

Then, he took out the divination
lot and spoke
in a serious tone which wasn't
too loud, but
was clear for everyone to hear
since the
room was silent.

"The Heavens
has spoken,
and this is an auspicious
divination,
" he
announced.

Upon hearing that it was an
auspicious lot,

Kate beamed and even thanked the Heavens.

“The King chanced upon a deity, and gentleness will always win over brutality.

Good fortune will befall those who are kind, and anyone who draws this lot would run into an oasis in times of draught,
”

the assistant continued.

Sophia had no idea what the divination meant and blinked blankly at the spectators. From the corner of her eyes, she spotted John and Dylan who looked pleased.

So that means this divination lot is exceptionally lucky?

Nobody knew if Kate really understood what the divination meant, but she kept thanking the Heavens while the assistant bowed at her and handed her the divination

lot written by
the oracle. Thereafter, he
gathered the
priests on the stage and left
with the chest
which was filled with divination
lots.

It was clear for everyone that
Kate seemed
overjoyed now, and she finally
released

Sophia's hand. After looking
through the
divination lot a few times, she
showed it to
Belinda.

"I told you Sophia is a blessed
person,
"

Belinda said after reading the
lot, then

turned to look at Sophia.
Sophia chuckled dryly and
asked,

"May I take
a look at it?" And Kate hurriedly
showed it to
her.

The Returning Ex Chapter
445Written on a
piece of yellow paper, the

divination lot was even handwritten with a calligraphy pen. Looks like the Oracle is an insightful person, Sophia concluded from the writing. When written on paper, the meaning behind the divination lot became clearer to her, and she nodded, thinking that it did seem like a really auspicious lot. Standing on her own now, Kate turned her attention to the spectators below the stage. "There is entertainment in the backyard, and the gifts are ready as well. Go ahead and enjoy yourselves there, everyone," she announced, sounding more energetic than earlier. The onlookers said their congratulations as though the divination lot was

drawn for them,
and Sophia turned to look at
Belinda, who
nodded at her delightfully.
A few minutes later, Logan
returned to the
hall when almost half the guest
had already
left. Swaying around as he
walked, it was
clear that he had too much to
drink today.

John hurriedly held him,
worried that he
might make a scene of himself.
“You drank
too much. Take a rest in one of
the lounges.

”

“What about Sophia?” he
slurred.

Sighing, John assured,

“She’s
fine, so go and
rest now.

”

Scanning around, Logan caught
Sophia
standing next to Kate, and he
snorted in
disapproval.

**“Why did she go
up on the
stage?”**

**As he knew that he was not in
his best state,
he didn’t want to go to her.**

**Thus, after
weighing his options, he turned
to Dylan next
to him and grinned sheepishly.**

**“Dylan, I’m
handing over Sophia to you.
Take care of her
for me because I know that I
had too much
to drink and need to sober up a
little
somewhere. I’ll be back after
I’ve sobered
up.
”**

**John frowned. He’s handing
over Sophia to
Dylan? How could he do this
with so much
ease?**

**Beside them, Isabelle said,
“Don’t worry, Mr.
Jefferson. Sophia will be fine.
”**

Turning to look at her, Logan

shot her a
peevish glare, displaying his
dislike for her
publicly.

“Okay, don’t worry about it. I’ll
take good
care of Miss Gwendolyn,
” Dylan
promised.

Just like Logan, John pulled a
long face and
didn’t try to hide his
unhappiness anymore.

After hailing for an attendant to
help Logan
to a lounge to sober up, Dylan
then went
toward Sophia.

As she responded to the people
who came
with congratulatory messages,
Kate appeared
much more vibrant than earlier.

Standing
next to her, Sophia looked a
little lost as
Dylan approached them and
greeted Belinda,

“Grandma.
”

At the sight of him, Belinda

exclaimed,
“Dylan, I was looking for you
earlier because
I didn’t see you around!”
“Huh? I was in the lounge at the
reception
hall with Sophia. It was too
crowded here,
and we didn’t want to add on to
the
excitement.
”

This caught both Belinda and
John, who was
right behind Dylan, by surprise.
Turning to
Sophia, she asked,
“Were you
with Dylan
earlier?”
Sophia nodded.
“Yeah. It’s too
noisy here, so
we took a break in the lounge.
”

Chuckling softly, John spoke in a
cold voice,
“So you went into hiding just
when I was
wondering where you had
gone.

”

Sophia frowned, annoyed that he accused her of hiding because she had no need to do that.

Then, she snorted,

“Why were you looking for me? Aren’t you enjoying yourself?”

Isabelle came to join them at this point and greeted Kate and Belinda. Not knowing what they were talking about before this, she said

in a gentle voice,

“Earlier on the dance floor, John was curious what would be the prize, and it’s such an eye-opener now that we’

ve

seen it. That’s very generous of you, Mrs.

Blackwell.

”

Glancing at Isabelle, Belinda didn’t exactly dislike her, but felt that it was

impossible
for their families to have
another
engagement after everything
that happened
before. Moreover, since some
unfavorable
rumors had spread out between
her and
John, they had to refrain from
each other no
matter what.

The Returning Ex Chapter
446 That was why
she wasn't pleased with the fact
that they
both seemed rather close now.
From the look in Kate's eyes as
she glanced at
the set of jewelry, it didn't
seem like she was
reluctant to give it away at all.
"What a waste
that I've kept this in my
collection for
decades. If I had taken it out
earlier, maybe
it could still be worn by some
youngsters,
which is much better than just
keeping it at

the back of my closet.

”

Sophia was unsure how she should react to that. Although the jewelry was priceless, it was not the best-looking accessory, either.

There was no way she would wear it out on the streets, for sure.

Once again, Kate held her hand.

“A few days ago, the Oracle said that if the divination lot turned out to be auspicious today, then it means that I would have met my benefactor.

Looks like you’re my benefactor now, Miss Gwendolyn.

”

Shocked, she quickly refuted,

“No, no, no. I just picked it out randomly. It turned out to be auspicious because the Blackwells are a blessed family. It’s got nothing to do with

me.

”

Her humble words were
pleasing to the ears,
and John eyed her suspiciously.

Ever since
the divorce, it seemed like she
had

smartened up and became
more eloquent now.

Meanwhile, the more Kate
looked at Sophia,
the more she liked her. In
contrast to that,
Sophia was having goosebumps
from her
stare.

At Kate’s age, she never kept up
with the
gossip as she had already lost
interest in it.

Adding on to the fact that she
had been
unwell recently and the
company had run into
some trouble, she was not in
the mood to
bother herself with outside
issues at all.

Hence, she had no idea what
happened

between Sophia and John.

After staring at her for a while,
she asked

directly,

“Do you have a
boyfriend, Miss
Gwendolyn?”

Stunned, Sophia didn't
understand what Kate
meant for a moment. How did
the

conversation jump to this topic
so suddenly?

Even Belinda found the
situation to be a little
awkward. Previously during
Sophia and John's
wedding, Kate had actually
attended it. But
now it seemed like she had
forgotten

Sophia's looks. For a person
who didn't follow
the news and gossip, it was only
natural that
she didn't know about Sophia's
background.

As Sophia opened her mouth,
the corner of
her eyes caught John staring at
her, and she

simply replied,

“Yes.

”

Surprised and disappointed,

Kate asked,

“You

do?”

Next to them, John was

surprised as well and

seemed unhappy. Without

second thoughts,

he asked as well,

“You do?

Who?”

Chuckling, she answered,

“There’s someone

whom I fancy.

” It hadn’t been

long since her

divorce, so it was impossible for

her to have a

boyfriend now, or else she

wouldn’t be able to

explain the timeline of events.

However, when

she saw John’s jaw tightened,

she felt a little

delighted and continued,

“I like

this guy who

treats me pretty well, but I

don't have the
guts to tell him yet.
”

Kate's head bobbed slowly.
“Well, well, it's
normal for a girl your age to
have someone
you like.

” In a disappointed
voice, she added,
“What a shame. I was still
thinking if I would
have the chance to be a family
with such a
nice girl.
”

Taken aback, Sophia waved her
hand hastily.
“It's me who doesn't have this
good fortune.
”

With a sigh, Kate said,
“That's
okay. It's fine
even if we can't be a family.
Here, let's sit
down and talk.
” Since Kate
wasn't young
anymore, it was considered
quite a feat for

her to be standing so long.
Belinda went to take her hand.
“Let’s take a
seat over there, Kate,
” she said,
meaning the
row of couches not far away
from them, and
the bunch of them went over to
the couches.

In just a couple of steps, John
was next to
Sophia, and he whispered,
“Who’s the guy you
like?”

Casting him a ridiculous look,
she spat,
“It’s
not you anyway, so don’t stick
your nose into
this.
”

Slipping past him, she went
over to Dylan and
asked him,
“What do you think
of the jewelry
set? With those designs, I think
only
selected outfits and makeup
could match with

them, but I don't think I can
bring out the
effects. It will definitely look
like fake
jewelry if I wear it.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter
447 Amused, Dylan
laughed out loudly.
“No, it
won't. You have to
be more confident than that.
”

Staring at them, the look in
John's eyes
turned stone cold.
In the lounge, Logan was woken
up halfway in
his sleep. Cursing as he
struggled to get up,
he sounded extremely
disgruntled when he
answered the call.

“What's
going on? Why are
you calling me when I'm
sleeping?”

It was his subordinate who had
called, saying
that someone reported his
clubhouse again,

and the police were there now.
Sitting crossed-leg with his eyes
closed on
the bed, he cursed,
“That
damned b*tch Leah
must be looking for trouble.
”

He opened his
eyes and jumped off the bed.
“I’ll be right
over now.
”

Stepping out of the lounge in
wobbly steps,
his eyes were bloodshot when
an attendant
hurriedly came over to check on
him, asking if
he needed any assistance.
After leaning against the wall
for a long
while, Logan finally recalled
where he was at.
“Get me Sophia. I need to see
her.
”

The attendant knew who
Sophia was; just
earlier, she had drawn an
auspicious lot for

Kate and instantly became well-known.

Without further ado, he rushed to Kate, who was still holding Sophia's hand and showering her with praises.

Embarrassed by the praises, Sophia felt as though she had run into a savior when the attendant came saying that Logan was looking for her. Immediately, she told Kate,

**"My friend had too much to drink. I have to go and check on him now."
"**

Kate nodded reluctantly.

**"Alright, go ahead."
"**

**Standing up, John announced, "I'm coming with you."
"**

Before Sophia could turn him down, he already dragged her by the arm toward the

exit. His movements were so quick that even Isabelle, who wanted to tag along, didn't have the chance to express her intentions.

Isabelle's lips pressed into a tight line, and she sighed. Well, I did achieve something today. By acting a little pathetic today, John's attitude toward me seems to have improved.

When they left the banquet hall, John finally released her.

"You're not done yet. Tell me, who's the guy you like?"

Snorting, Sophia said, "It's none of your business."

"

"I just want to know out of curiosity,

" he

answered rather calmly.

Sophia pursed her lips, thinking,

So I'm
supposed to tell you anything
you wish to
know? Are you serious?
When he didn't receive a reply
after a while,
he prompted with another
question,
"Is it
Dylan?"
Jerking her head to look at him
suddenly, she
exclaimed,
"Are you sick? Go to
a doctor if
you
're sick instead of going around
and
making people uncomfortable."
"

John nodded knowingly.

"If it's
not Dylan,
then it must be Ian?" It can't
possibly be
Logan.

After a couple of steps, she
replied,

"Yeah,
it's Ian. Who else but him?"
Her answer stopped him in his

tracks, but she ignored him and continued in the direction of the reception hall. John hesitated but decided to keep up with her.

“You like Ian?”

Are you saying that on purpose to piss me

off?” he asked in a close whisper when the attendants passed by them.

Giving him another look of disbelief, she uttered,

“Why would I do that?”

I think you overestimate yourself. You’re not worth it at all, really.

”

The sarcastic look on her face when she said it made it look like she really didn’t care about his feelings at all, and it did more than just a stab at his heart. He felt that he still had some unanswered questions, but he didn’t

know what to ask all of a sudden. Now, regardless of what he asked her, she would just give a merciless and unpleasant reply.

On the other hand, Sophia couldn't care less about him as she walked into the reception hall briskly. At the foot of the staircase, she called out, "Logan!"

In the bathroom upstairs, Logan washed his face and rushed downstairs when he heard her call his name.

The Returning Ex Chapter 448As Logan walked, he cursed along the way.

"That damned b*tch, I'll definitely kill her later.

I'm telling you, nobody is stopping me from killing that b*tch today."
"

Everything he said made no

sense at all, and nobody understood what he was speaking about. However, judging from how furious he seemed, Sophia guessed that something must have cropped up.

“What happened? Who pissed you off?” she asked with a frown.

Wiping away the water from his face, he explained,

“Someone reported my clubhouse again.”

Something already happened a few days ago, and now this. If this went on, the clubhouse would be out of business soon.

“Do you want to leave now?” Sophia asked thoughtfully.

“Yeah, I need to go and check things out.

That woman named Hunt is probably on her

way now, and she wouldn't be pleased if I'm not there. She might come over here if I don't return now.

”

“I'm leaving with you, then,

”

she decided, delighted that he would be leaving now. Since he was the one who brought her here, it was only normal that she would be leaving with him as well.

After Logan murmured a reply, John butted in, saying,

“Stay here, and I'll send you home later.

”

She turned to him in surprise.

“Why would I need you to send me home?”

As he gaped at her looking at him with disgust, he had no words at all to say to that.

How could this woman change

so quickly? She
wasn't like this before this!
Sophia straightened Logan's
clothes and
asked,

"Do you want to say
goodbye to your
dad and the Blackwells?"

With a wave of his hand, he
dismissed the
idea.

"No need for that, so let's
just go. I'm
kind of in a rush here.
"

Unbothered by his decision, she
then
followed him and left the
reception hall
without even saying goodbye to
John, leaving
him to stare at their backs with
deeply
knitted brows.

She was still fine earlier during
lunch. Why
did she change her attitude so
much after
just a few hours?

Sophia left in a car with Logan,
and they went

straight to his clubhouse. Sure enough, the clubhouse was raided again. The moment Logan stepped in, he started cussing, but not at the law enforcers. He was claiming the whole time that he was conducting business properly, and was demanding to know who was the shameless person who reported him. Officer Hunt descended the staircase and stared at him nonchalantly. "Keep your voice down. Being loud doesn't mean you're right."

Glaring at her from the corner of his eyes, Logan snorted. "You're finding fault with me on purpose, aren't you? Just tell me directly if you have any opinions about me. If you're

unhappy, then we can—”
Even before he could finish,
Officer Hunt
had turned around and went to
another
corner, ignoring him completely.
The sight of
Logan in this scene was rather
amusing to
Sophia as he looked just like a
kid who could
do nothing against his
homeroom teacher.
After raiding thoroughly, they
couldn't find
any prohibited items, and he
boasted proudly,
“See, I told you I'm an honest
businessman,
but you refused to believe me.
There's
nothing illegal here at all.
”

The law enforcers couldn't even
be bothered
to chit-chat excessively with
him, and
decided to dismiss the team
after confirming
that they found nothing.
Disgruntled, Logan cried out,

**“Are you guys
leaving just like this? Don’t you
owe me an
explanation?”**

**Turning around to face him,
Officer Hunt
said,**

**“We’ll follow-up and verify
with the
whistleblower. If we’re sure
that it’s a prank,
we
’ll punish the person who made
the report
blindly.
”**

**Logan gave her a long, hard
stare before
finally conceding.**

**“Fine, I’ll be
awaiting your
results, then.
”**

**After the officers left, he kicked
a chair
next to him and cussed angrily
at Leah,**

**“Is
that mistress of Bryce having a
rocky
relationship with Bryce? Damn**

her for picking
on me. She's making herself
known to me even
before I took care of her. Fine,
then! Just
you wait and see! I'll be sure to
take your life
with one clean cut!"

The Returning Ex Chapter

449 Looking at

Logan, Sophia asked,

"Why are

you so sure

that it's Leah who reported
you?"

"It's her if I said so. Even if it
isn't her, this

trouble belongs to her now,

" he

replied

stubbornly.

Just then, Ian arrived with a
concerned look.

"What happened? I heard that
the place has

been raided again.

"

Logan grunted in reply and sat
down, sulking.

It made Sophia a little
uncomfortable to see

Ian now because she had spouted some nonsense to John. As John seemed to be really odd lately, she was worried that he might confront Ian about it. Well, this is... After pondering for a while, she decided to disregard Logan's problem for now. She made a hooking gesture with her finger at Ian, and he arched his brow. Then, she nodded, and he chuckled as he followed her out the door. Sophia actually wasn't sure how to start, and she stuttered for a long time before finally clutching her hair, saying, "There's something I would like to inform you, and I feel apologetic toward you about it."

Grinning, Ian asked, "What is it

that got you
so embarrassed?”

With a sullen look, she said,
“Well, I got
ahead of myself today with my
words and
accidentally involved you in it.
”

“Oh, what happened next?
What did you
say?”

With a dry laugh, she tried to
clarify the
situation awkwardly,

“It’s like
this, John said
many ridiculous things today,
and to stop him
from going further, I told him
that I like you
just to get him off my back. I
really just said
it as a slip of the tongue, so I
hope you won’t
mind. When the opportunity
comes, I’ll be
sure to make things clear to him
and not
cause you any trouble.
”

Ian appeared surprised, but he

smirked.

**“It’s
not such a big deal.
”**

**Taking in a deep breath, she
explained,**

**“The
point is, he’s acting really odd
lately, and I’m
worried that he’ll pick on you.
”**

**Chuckling, he reached out and
stroked her
head gently.**

**“It’s fine. I know
what to tell
him if he comes looking for
me.
”**

**Seeing the expression on his
face, Sophia
thought that he really didn’t
seem to mind it
at all, and she breathed a sigh
of relief.**

**“Thanks a lot.
”**

**Suddenly, Logan shouted from
indoors even
before Ian could say anything
else.**

**“Aren’t
the both of you going to
console me a little?
Someone picked on me again
today, and I’m
feeling really sh*tty now.
”**

**Sophia and Ian responded in
unison and went
inside without noticing that the
car parked
across the street had rolled
down the
window, showing the
passenger’s face clearly.
If Sophia had turned around
and took one
glance, she would have
immediately noticed.**

However...

**John rolled the window back up.
She was only
focused on smiling at Ian with
that shy,
gentle look.**

**In an icy tone, he instructed,
“Let’s go home.
”**

**In the evening, Sophia received
a call from
the Blackwells. In fact, it was**

Kate who had made the call personally, saying that she had forgotten to bring the set of jewelry with her when she left. Now that it was packed properly, Belinda had taken it with herself so that she could pass it to her.

“Oh, alright. I got it. Thank you,
” she replied.

Kate sounded especially friendly when she said,

“You’re welcome, but this is meant for you. I’m just thinking that whenever you’re
re

free in the future, you can come over to my place to visit, Miss Gwendolyn. I’m usually home.
”

Unsure if Kate was just being polite or if she really meant it, Sophia went along and

agreed,
“Okay, I’ll be sure to
visit you when
I’m free.
”

They didn’t chat much more
because it
seemed like Kate had to attend
to something,
and they hung up. Laying on her
bed, she
thought of updating her social
media story,
but she didn’t want to post a
selfie picture.
Thus, she posted the picture
she took
together with Ian in the
afternoon at the
clubhouse.

The Returning Ex Chapter
450Initially, they
wanted to take the picture
together with
Logan, but he was so busy
trying to come up
with a counterattack on Leah
with his
subordinates that he couldn’t
be bothered
about her at all.

She wasn't concerned about the story update too much because she thought that not many people would see it anyway. Even the people who would see it were her acquaintances.

Rolling over after she made the post, she closed her eyes. It had been a tiring day for her, so she fell asleep within a minute.

While she was asleep, John was up and fully awake. The minute Sophia had made a story update, he had seen it. The caption was fine, just mentioning that it was a tiring, happy, and slightly bummed out day for her today.

But the picture she posted really made John feel more bummed out than ever. It was a picture with Ian without Logan. They were seated on a couch with their

shoulders
against each other as they
stared at one
another from the corner of their
eyes. It
didn't exactly look like a funny
picture
because the way they looked at
each other
carried some chemistry, and the
picture
looked so harmonized that it
made him feel
uncomfortable.

He gritted his teeth for a long
time, and all
he could do in the end was to
exit from the
app. Sighing, he tossed his cell
phone aside
and hugged his blanket as he
pondered for a
long while. Finally, he cursed,
"*sshole.

" But
he didn't know whom he meant
it for.

The next morning, it was the
doorbell which
woke Sophia up. Checking the
time, she saw

that it was actually very early.
She paced over to the window
and opened it.

With the top-half of her body
stretched out,
she asked,

“Who’s that so early
in the
morning?”

Standing on her doorstep, John
took two
steps backward and lifted his
head at her
voice.

“I’m here to send you
something.
”

With her hair in a complete
mess and a
distorted look on her face, she
further
asked,

“Why are you here?”

Putting up the item in his hand,
John showed
it to her.

“It’s your prize from
yesterday. I
heard that it’s very valuable.
”

She wasn’t exactly sure how

valuable it was,
but it was truly ugly. Casting
him a look, she
told him,
“Leave it at the
doorstep and I’ll
pick it up later.”

”
“You don’t know how valuable
this is at all, do
you? You’re not worried about
leaving it
here?” he questioned, staring
up at her.

Slumped over the windowsill
lazily, Sophia
was still half-asleep when she
said,
“You don’t
need to care about that.”

”
However, John didn’t seem to
be in a rush
and remained rooted on the
spot as Sophia
waited for a while. Knowing his
temper, she
knew he would never leave
unless she let him
in.
Without washing up, she went

downstairs in
her pajamas, where John stood
at her
doorstep with the
delicately-wrapped
package in his hands. She
opened the door
and extended her hand.

“Give it
to me,
” she
spat, without any intention of
letting him in.

Despite that, John took a step
and forced
himself in by squeezing through
next to her.

After he placed the package on
the coffee
table, he turned around to face
her.

Leaning against the door,
Sophia said,
“You
can leave now that the package
is here.

”

“Did you meet up with Ian
yesterday after
you left?” he asked calmly.
Sophia frowned.

**“What has this
got to do
with you? You should just mind
your own
business.
”**

**Staring at her, he answered,
“I’m just
concerned about you. Why the
huge
reaction?”**

**Instead of giving him a reply,
she snorted out
loudly. His concern came way
too late. At this
time when she had completely
given up on
him, his concern for her seemed
a little
extra.**

**He went ahead and took a seat
on the couch
by himself.**

**“Sophia, do you
really like Ian?
How long have you known
him?”**

**With narrowed eyes, she
looked at him.**

**“John, I think you still don’t
know your place**

yet. Bluntly said, my affairs have got nothing to do with you at all, so you should stop trying to find out what's going on with me. Honestly, if you continue like this, we may not even be able to get along peacefully in the future.

”

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Upon finishing her words, Sophia turned around and walked toward the stairs.

“Since you were so generous when we divorced, I thought we could be friends. However, if you go on like this, I don't think we can continue being friends after all.

”

John remained silent while Sophia went upstairs. Reaching the second floor, she leaned against the wall. In fact,

John was in a state similar to hers when they just divorced. He just didn't yet understand that it was over between them. Letting out a long sigh, she stared at her shoes for a while and took a peek downstairs. John was nowhere to be seen, and the door in the living room was closed. After giving it a thought, she turned around and returned to her room. Gazing out the window, she saw John in the garden. With one hand tucked in his pocket, John was holding a cigarette between the fingers of his other hand. When he was done smoking, he whirled around and took a look at Sophia's room. Seeing that, Sophia hurriedly took a few steps back. At that instant, she had no idea

how to describe her feelings. Although she was a little happy when John was pestering her, she was still annoyed most of the time.

If they went on like this, none of them could start a new page in their lives.

After washing up in the bathroom, she decided to pay a visit to her shop. She had told Robin to go to the shop with her to see what else they needed to buy since they had to get the shop ready in two days.

Upon getting changed, she went near the window and saw that John was gone. Heaving a sigh of relief, she went downstairs and left the house. The moment she stepped out of the house, Logan arrived in his car. Without getting out of the car, he beckoned to her.

“Come on. There’s something interesting I need to show you.”

**“Huh?” Sophia walked over and asked,
“What is it? I’m busy.”**

Ignoring what she said, Logan clenched her wrist and pulled her into the car.

“Come with me. You won’t be disappointed!”

Without giving Sophia a chance to resist, he told the chauffeur to start the engine. Of course, the chauffeur had to execute Logan’s order, so he stepped on the gas pedal and moved toward a certain direction.

**With a frown, Sophia questioned,
“Where are you bringing me? Tell me about it.”**

Sitting with his legs crossed,
Logan replied,
“Do you remember that Bryce’s
mistress
tried to frame me? Does she
think I’m a
pushover? I have always
disliked them. Now
that they have offended me, I
will certainly
teach them a lesson.
”

Sophia was startled.

“Them?”

Raising an eyebrow, Logan said,
“Well, I’ll fix
the two scumbags as well.
”

Sophia gazed out of the window.

“Don’t make
a scene. You’ve been targeted.
”

Knowing what she meant,
Logan mumbled
something and gave it a
thought. Then, he
changed the topic, saying,
“John
called me
last night and asked me what
was going on

between you and Ian.

”

The news stunned Sophia. What the heck?

He’s in a suspicious relationship with Isabelle,

so how can he try to stop me from getting

into contact with another guy?

How

shameless!

After a while, she questioned,

“What did he ask you?”

Staring at her, Logan replied,

“He asked

whether you were close to Ian;

how often you

guys contacted each other; how good you

treated him and blah-blah-blah.

I wonder why

his questions weren’t directed

at me. It’s

apparent that you are closer to me than you

are to Ian.

”

Sophia retracted her gaze.

“That’s right.

Who knows what’s wrong with

him?"

At this moment, the car pulled up at the entrance of a townhouse in the suburbs.

Some arguments could be heard from the yard. Without getting out of the car, they lowered the window and watched what was going on in the yard since the doors were open.

The Returning Ex Chapter 452At that moment, apart from Simon and Sally, there were also a few women in the yard.

Apparently, these women were a group as they pointed fingers at Sally and said nasty things to her. Those insults were so offensive that bordered on blasphemy. Other than chiding Simon and Sally, they also started cursing the other Morgan Family

members. It seemed that they were in a brawl moments ago.

Frowning, Sophia inquired, "What happened?"

With a smile, Logan replied, "Last night, Sally went to have fun at a bar.

Perhaps it was because she was intoxicated, and the

atmosphere at the bar was fervid, that she

came here with a man. This morning, they

were caught in the act by the man's

girlfriend.

" Logan then tutted before adding,

"It must have been an intense argument. Look

how disheveled they appear.

It's a shame

that you missed the brawl.

"

Scowling, Sophia asked,

"Did

you do it? How

did you come up with such a dirty trick?"

Logan giggled and said,
“Well,
she’s not an
upright woman in the first place,
so she could
be tricked easily.”

Then, he fished out his phone.
“I have some
photos here.”

Understanding what he meant,
Sophia
grinned.
“You’re such a wicked
man.”

Without refuting her, Logan
said,
“Yes, I’m a
petty and vengeful man. No one
can ever
offend me!”

After arguing for a while, the
people in the
yard started scuffling again.
As a man, although Simon could
help his
sister, he was powerless when
confronted by
such aggressive women.

A while later, his hair became messy, and his clothes were torn apart. At the same time, Sally became unkempt as well. Sophia wasn't interested in seeing that.

"They are just fighting pointlessly. It's boring."
"

Just then, another car approached them. Before the car came to a halt, some people opened the doors, got out of the car, and went straight into the yard. Initially, Sophia thought that they were the helpers of the man's girlfriend that Logan had mentioned who appeared. However, upon making out that it was Leah, she finally understood what was going on. With her interest piqued, Sophia said, "Oh well, the mistress of the

**Morgan Family is
here.
”**

**Seeing Leah, Logan was
infuriated.**

**“What a
b*tch. Just wait! I’ll make life a
living hell for
your family!”**

**Sophia stayed close to the
window and gazed
at the yard. As soon as those
people entered
the yard, they separated the
two groups of
people.**

**Seeing her mother, Sally
regained confidence
and snarled at those women,
saying that they
should look for the man instead
since she was
a victim herself.**

**Due to the fact that there were
more people
on Sally’s side, these women
decided to
retreat, all the while chiding
Sally as they
left the place.**

Sophia stared at Leah, who

stood before
Sally and suddenly slapped her
daughter.

The slap was so forceful that
Sally staggered
sideward.

Following that, Leah said
something, which
caused Sally, who was covering
her face, to
be frightened.

Sophia retracted her gaze.

“Alright, there’s
nothing interesting to see
now.

”

Logan chuckled and told the
chauffeur to
start the engine.

“This is only
the beginning.

More fun awaits us.

”

Sophia remained silent as the
car headed for
her shop.

When they arrived, Robin was
already there

jotting something down on her
notebook.

Seeing Sophia, she greeted her

and showed
her the to-buy-list.
Sophia had already done some
research
before. Seeing the list, she
mumbled,
“These
are all necessary items.
”

When Sophia was done reading
the list, Robin
asked,
“Were you guys alright
that day?”

Sophia was startled for a
moment before she
understood what Robin meant.
Flashing a
smile at her, she replied,
“We’re
good. With
Young Master Logan here, we’d
surely be
fine.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter
453 Robin kept
jotting things down on her
notebook.

“When
your ex-husband came to look

for you that
day, I could see that he still
cared about
you.
”

Sophia smiled.

“Really?”

Robin learned about John and
Sophia from
the news, so she didn't know
the details.

“I think he appears to be an
upstanding man.

That was the feeling he gave off
during our
encounters. I think the rumor
that he's with
Young Lady Isabelle is false.
”

Robin's voice

was calm, and she didn't sound
like she was
biased toward John.

At that instant, Sophia recalled
that last
night, she saw John and Isabelle
dancing
together.

Although they were just
performing a ball
dance, the nature of their

relationship could be determined by how closely they stayed together. Since they cuddled with each other when dancing, it was apparent that they were more than just friends.

After a while, Sophia smiled lightly.

“Whatever. I don’t really care whether the rumor is true or not.”

Humans would become more magnanimous as they age; Sophia believed that was the case for her.

Some time ago, she just didn’t want John and Isabelle to get together. She even had the idea that John could marry anyone except for Isabelle.

Thinking back, her idea was laughable, as she realized that John could just marry anyone he liked, and she would have no

right to say
anything.

Sophia and Robin stopped
talking.

When Robin was done with the
to-buy-list,

Sophia took it over and went to
a nearby

shopping mall to buy the items.

The shop was located in a busy
area with

many shopping malls and
supermarkets.

When Sophia was gone, Robin
stayed in the

shop to do some cleaning.

Since the mall was a short
distance away,

Sophia decided to walk. After
crossing a

road, she caught a glimpse of a
familiar car.

Upon a closer look, she realized
that it was

Matilda's car. Then, she looked
around and

remembered that this place was
near John's

company. Is she here to have
lunch with

John? That's possible.

Following that, she took a look at the nearby restaurants, but she didn't see them.

Sophia figured that Matilda and William

should be divorced. As a divorced woman

herself, she really wanted to meet up with

Matilda. Matilda always said that I don't

deserve to marry John. Look, in the end, she

also doesn't deserve William as she was

kicked out of the family at such an old age.

At that moment, Sophia

decided not to go to

the mall, and she ended up pacing around the

place.

A while later, she came across

Matilda. To

her surprise, instead of John,

she was with

William.

Sophia batted her eyes. Seeing

that Matilda

and William were coming out

from a
restaurant, she hurriedly
sneaked behind a
car.

At the restaurant entrance,
after William
said something to Matilda, she
nodded and
lowered her gaze. Upon
finishing his words,
William turned to leave, but
Matilda
immediately pulled his sleeve.
Turning around,
he took a look at her hand in a
helpless
manner and pulled away from
her hand.

Oh well. Sophia grinned. It
seems that
they're really divorced. That's
great.

After William got into his car,
Matilda was
still rooted to the spot. When
the car was
out of sight, Sophia got up and
swaggered
toward Matilda.

"Mrs.
Constance, what a

coincidence.

”

Seeing her, Matilda was startled for a moment before her expression darkened.

Even when she was divorced, she still disdained Sophia.

Sophia beamed.

“What’s wrong?”

I saw Mr.

Constance just now. Why did he leave so

quickly? Did you two have an argument?”

Matilda ignored her and turned to leave. Just

then, Sophia giggled and said,

“Why did you

come out driving the Constance Family’s car

when you’re no longer part of the family?

Have they given this car to you as part of the

alimony?”

The Returning Ex Chapter

454Matilda

stopped in her tracks as her eyes widened.

Turning around, she snarled,
“What nonsense
are you spouting?”
With a haughty expression,
Sophia ignored
what she said and continued
with a sigh,
“You’re like the pot calling the
kettle black.
You said that I don’t deserve
John, but in the
end, you’re kicked out of the
Constance
Family at such an old age. How
pitiful. I’m
young and childless, so I can still
get another
man. On the other hand, you
are old and
unattractive. I’m afraid that you
don’t even
have enough time to get a new
man.”

Matilda’s expression turned
dark.
“Stop
acting weirdly and spouting
nonsense. What
you
’ve said isn’t true.

”

Sophia smiled.

“Am I saying
nonsense? Do you
think you can still hide it?”

Then, she walked toward
Matilda’s car and
leaned on it.

“Well, did you
learn from John
and me by hiding the fact that
you’

re
divorced? Oh, you’re the one
who exposed
the fact that John and I
divorced, right? I
don’t like to owe anyone, but I
also hate it
when others owe me. I’ll get
even with you by
exposing your secret as well.

”

Matilda’s expression was
thunderous.

“Sophia,
how dare you!”

“Try me.

” Sophia burst into
laughter.

“Well, I

**totally have the courage to
expose your
secret.**

”

**Matilda pressed her lips
together, not
knowing what to say.
In fact, Sophia was a reckless
person, so she
had no qualms dealing a blow
to Matilda.**

**All of a sudden, Sophia lost
interest in
bickering with Matilda because
the latter
appeared to be powerless.**

**After giving it a thought, she
said,**

**“Isabelle
misses you dearly. She said that
she’d pay
you a visit at the Constance
Residence, so
watch out.**

”

Matilda was startled.

**“Belle is
looking for
me?”**

**“Yes, she misses you very
much.**

**” Sophia
moved away from the car and
sneered,
“I
wonder how she will react
when she finds out
that you and Master William
are divorced.
I’m looking forward to it.
”**

**Frowning, Matilda never
responded to her.
Shooting a look at her, Sophia
snorted and
turned to leave.
After remaining on the spot for
a while,
Matilda got into her car.
Without starting
the engine, she took out her
phone and dialed
Isabelle’s number.
Isabelle was still at her
company when she
received Matilda’s call, which
surprised her.
Immediately connecting the call,
she called
out,
“Mrs. Constance.
”**

Matilda smirked.

**“Belle, are you
busy?”**

**Certainly, Isabelle wouldn't say
that she was
busy. Instead, she asked how
Matilda was
doing and said that she missed
her.**

**Matilda was relieved that
Isabelle was still as
gentle to her as before. With
nothing to do
at the moment, she asked,
“I'm
in the city
center. Belle, do you want to
meet up?”**

**Without hesitation, Isabelle
replied,**

“Sure.

**Since it's lunch time now, I'm
going.**

”

**Matilda told her to meet up at a
cafe near
Bailey Corporation and said that
she was
going immediately. Upon
hanging up the call,
she heaved a sigh of relief.**

Since the divorce, the Flintstones had given her the cold shoulder, while William didn't seem to have the intention of making up with her. Worse, she was derided by Sophia just a moment ago. Now, Isabelle was the only one who was still as kind to her as before.

A while later, she stepped on the gas pedal and headed for Bailey Corporation.

Isabelle was already in the cafe when Matilda arrived. Seeing Matilda, Isabelle beckoned to her.

"Mrs. Constance, I'm here."
"

Matilda hurriedly walked over.

"Oh wow, I'm not used to seeing you in a suit. You look like a successful businesswoman."
"

Isabelle tucked her hair behind her ear and

said,
“I just look like one, but
there are many
things that I don’t understand.
Most of the
time, I’ll ask for John’s help.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter
455 Matilda
nodded.

“If there’s anything
you don’t
understand, just call John. It
takes time to
develop fondness for each
other, hence you’ll
have to get in touch with him
more often.
”

Isabelle pouted her lips and said,
“I had
wanted to pay you a visit at the
Constance
Residence a few days ago. John
seems to be
busy recently and doesn’t reply
to my
messages, so I want to go to his
house.
”

Matilda pursed her lips.

“John is indeed busy recently, so don’t blame him for not giving you enough attention. He’ll be free soon.”

Isabelle nodded.

“Right. How are you doing? John said that something happened to the Flintstones, so you have returned to your own family.”

Matilda lowered her gaze and pressed her lips together. A while later, she mumbled, “Yes, something happened.”

On the other side, Sophia was gleeful that the fact that Matilda and William were divorced was made certain. After buying all the necessary items from the mall, she returned to her shop and

started getting the shop ready with Robin. Since it was her first time starting a business, she was nervous. When she wasn't around, Robin had already categorized the items needed for their shop. While looking at Robin's list, Sophia slowly put the items in place. Just then, a car parked outside their shop. Sophia didn't take it seriously at first, but moments later, the car was still there. Frowning, Sophia put down the things in her hands and walked over. Since the car window was down, she immediately saw the person inside the car. Flashing a smile at him, she inquired, "Why are you here?" At that moment, Zack was taking a video of

the shop with his phone.

**Hearing that, he
smirked.**

**“I’m here to ask when
your shop will
open. By then, I’ll send you a
flower stand
personally.**

”

**Sophia stood beside the car and
replied,**

**“I
haven’t decided on the date yet
as I’m
learning how to go about the
business. I’ll
make a decision when I’m
ready.**

”

**Zack took a look at the shop
name.**

**“Your
shop name doesn’t sound
auspicious.**

”

**Sophia looked up at the board
and laughed.**

“It sounds dispiriting, right?

That’s right.

**Life is not a bed of roses. It’s the
reality**

**we
're in.
”**

**Zack clenched his phone and fell
into silence.**

**He had just reported to John
the recent
developments of Sophia's shop.
For some
reason, John started caring
about Sophia's
matters recently. He wasn't like
this before.**

**After giving it a thought, Zack
said,**

**“Oh
right. I took many photos when
we were on a
business trip some time back,
but I didn't
have the time to manage them.
Last night, I
got them all sorted. I'll send
them to you
later.**

”

**Sophia was startled for a
moment before she
remembered what photos he
was talking
about.**

“Ah, okay. I don’t even remember it if you didn’t mention it.”

Zack stared at her.

“You seem to have gotten rather carefree recently.”

Sophia beamed.

“It’s because I’ve gotten over it.

” She and John were not destined to be together, so she didn’t want to get stuck in the sorrow anymore.

Fortunately, she came to that realization in time and walked out of the misery.

Zack sighed.

“I don’t know what’s going on between you two, but it seems that he’s the one who’s in a dilemma now.”

Sophia burst into laughter.

“He

will get used
to it eventually. He's used to
being served, so
after I stopped pestering him,
he just
couldn't accept the fact yet.
He'll be alright
in no time.

" Upon some
pondering, she added,
"Well, with Isabelle as my
replacement, he'll
be happy again soon."
"

Zack shook his head slowly.
"You don't get it."
"

Despite what Zack said, he also
couldn't
understand John's actions. He
had never seen
such reactions from John
before.

The Returning Ex Chapter
456 Zack had
worked for John for years, but it
was his
first time seeing him so
discomposed. When
John was forced to marry
Sophia back then,

even though he was upset and irritated, he wasn't as flustered as he was now. However, Zack couldn't explain clearly what was wrong with John in everything he did. John was just different from his past self. Sophia didn't want to know more about John, for the more she learned, the more upset she would become. Patting on the car, she said, "Alright. I have to get into the shop. You should go back now. I'll inform you when I've set a date for the shop opening."

Zack mumbled an acknowledgement and watched her enter the shop before stepping on the gas pedal. When he returned to the company, John was in his office. Zack walked in and

saw John
signing his name on documents.
After that,
John gazed at Zack and said,
“I
saw the
video. The shop name doesn’t
sound good.
”

Zack replied,
“I don’t think it
sounds good
either, but Sophia likes it.
”

“She likes it?” John sneered.

“Well, she likes
all sorts of weird things.

” With
that, he
tossed his pen to the side,
apparently
displeased.

Although Zack didn’t dare utter
a word, he

thought that it was none of
John’s business.

Since they were divorced, John
no longer had
the right to interfere in Sophia’s
business.

For the entire afternoon, John

was
absent-minded when working.
In the evening,
William came to look for him
and told him to
attend a social gathering with
him. John
hadn't attended any social
events for a long
time, so he agreed to it upon
hearing that,
since he had nothing to do at
home anyway.

The place of the gathering was
decided by
the other party. After work,
John and
William headed for the
restaurant. They
heard that a fresh batch of
seafood was sent
to the restaurant just hours
ago.

When they arrived, the people
of the other
party were already there. Also,
the fish
tanks that housed the marine
animals were
placed in the lobby. John took a
look and

retracted his gaze.

All of a sudden, he fell into a daze as he recalled the moment when he enjoyed a meal with Sophia during a business trip some time ago. At the same time, the image of Logan and Sophia picking out seafood sprang to his mind as well.

For the entire afternoon, Sophia's shop name kept bugging him. No Response.

What a bad-sounding name. I suspect that this name is an innuendo about me!

When John and William entered the private room, the people of the other party were already seated. No matter how unhappy John was, he had to force a smile at them. After greeting each other, they took their respective seats and started having their

meal.

John tried to focus and make himself appear to be happy. However, halfway through it, he became impatient. Clenching the cigarette case in his pocket, he said, "Excuse me. I need to use the restroom."
"

After walking out of the private room, instead of going to the restroom, he walked along the corridor and reached a smaller hall which functioned as a balcony. As the windows were open, the night breeze blew into the room. Upon fishing out the cigarette case, John took out a cigarette and searched for his lighter. With no one in the hall, he stood by the windows. Just when he wanted to light up the cigarette, he heard a voice

from behind.

“John?”

John was startled and forgot to light up the cigarette. Turning around, he saw Isabelle, who seemed to be intoxicated. With a flushed face, Isabelle flashed a smile at him.

“It’s really you.”

Walking over, she continued, “I thought I was mistaken.

” With one hand pressed against the windowsill, she smacked her forehead with her other hand.

“I’ve drunk some wine, so my vision is a little blurry now.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 457
John was surprised.

“Are you here to attend a social gathering?”

Isabelle nodded.

“Yes. I’ve followed my dad to such gatherings a few times, but I’m still not used to it. The room was filled with the smell of cigarettes. I seized the chance to sneak out when they were a little drunk. This kind of gathering is a torture.”

John smiled and kept the lighter, deciding not to smoke.

Gazing out the window, Isabelle continued,

“In fact, I’m a light drinker. I didn’t want to come, but my dad insisted that I should get used to such gatherings.”

After saying that, she put on a smile.

“You know that my brother is still young, so as the elder sister, I have to pave the path for his future. As

my dad's
health has declined, I guess I'm
pretty useful
at this point.
”

She guffawed upon finishing
her words as
though what she had said was
just a joke.

John understood the situation
the Bailey

Family was in. Isabelle's
younger brother,

Dexter Bailey, was still a
student. Naturally,

the other men from the other
branches of

the Bailey Family wanted to
seize the chance

and divide up the company.

Old Mr. Bailey was aged,
therefore he had

less energy to take care of the
company.

Hence, he needed a helper at
this point, and

the only person he could trust
was Isabelle.

Despite that being the case, it
was difficult

for Isabelle to transition from a

carefree
debutante to a businesswoman.
It's really tough for her. Gazing
at her,
John's expression changed.
Sometimes, he
thought there were many
similarities
between them.
Isabelle let out a sigh and
tapped on her
chest.

"I feel unwell after
drinking some
wine. Do you think I'm
useless?"

With his hands tucked in his
pockets, John
gazed out the window.

"You
will get used to it.
Sometimes, there are
responsibilities we
can
't dodge.

"

Isabelle's lips quirked up.

"For
example—"

She suddenly halted her words
as she

understood it wasn't a good topic to bring up, so she changed it a little.

"Take you as an example. I can see that you don't like to attend such social gatherings either, but you're trying to get used to it.

" She wanted to talk about his marriage with Sophia.

Turning to her, John put on a smile.

A while later, Isabelle had to return to the private room. Before she left, she said in a helpless manner,

"I hope the gathering will be over soon.

"

Seeing that John remained silent, Isabelle heaved a sigh and left. Moments later, John returned to his own

private room. A social event like this wouldn't end without most of the people becoming inebriated.

John took a seat and fell into silence. A short while later, when someone came to him with a glass of wine, he put on a smile and picked up his glass.

"Alright, Mr. Mccoy. Let's drink."
"

Upon gulping down the wine, he directly refilled it and said to Mr. Mccoy, "Come on, I apologize for going out just now. Let's drink again."
"

Mr. Mccoy was flattered since John showed so much respect to him. After a few rounds, he couldn't take it anymore and slumped into a chair, dozing off. John was a heavy drinker, so

when he was
done with Mr. McCoy, he still
could go
straight to another person.
William was a little drunk, but
he understood
what John was trying to do.
Therefore, he
supported his forehead with his
hand and fell
into silence as he watched John
drinking with
his fellow businessmen.
After getting a few more people
drunk, the
gathering was officially over.
Since John gulped down the
wine too quickly,
he was unable to take it as well.
Taking a
seat, he panted and pinched his
glabella.
The chauffeurs of the
intoxicated
businessmen came in and
helped them out.
Without the need for any
support, John and
William took a rest for a while
and walked out
of the private room as they

reached for the
elevator.

Just then, the door of another
room was
opened as Old Mr. Bailey came
out with

Isabelle. The Returning Ex
Chapter 458 Both

Old Mr. Bailey and Isabelle
seemed to be
intoxicated, but Isabelle could
still walk on
her own.

Upon taking a look at them,
John turned
around and ignored them.

Seeing John and William,
Isabelle called out
in a weak voice,
“John.
”

In that case, John couldn't
pretend that he
didn't see them. Walking over,
he helped
support Old Mr. Bailey and
inquired,
“Why did
he drink so much?”

Since they were close friends,
Isabelle

directly passed her father to
John. Panting,
she replied,
“They are heavy
drinkers, while I
am a light drinker, so my dad
drank on my
behalf most of the time.
”

When the elevator door opened,
they got in
together.

John remained silent because
the Baileys
made a fuss when he divorced
some time back
then. Therefore, he was
disdainful of them.
Moreover, he was feeling
unwell after
consuming lots of alcohol, so he
didn't want to
talk to them.

Upon entering the elevator,
Isabelle directly
leaned against the wall and fell
into silence,
apparently feeling
uncomfortable as well.
Reaching the first floor, John
helped Old Mr.

Bailey get out of the elevator. William directly went into his car, while John helped Old Mr. Bailey get into his car.

Immediately after that, Old Mr. Bailey's stomach started churning as he vomited everything out into the car. Isabelle was stunned for a moment and rushed over.

"Dad, are you alright?"

Old Mr. Bailey became sober after vomiting, so he straightened his body and waved his hand, saying to John, "Ignore me. Please go back first. I'll have to get my car washed."

John offered by saying, "Why don't you come into my car? I'll send both of you home first. You can tell your chauffeur to

get the car
washed.
”

Old Mr. Bailey shook his head.
“I have to go
there personally.
”

Gazing at John, Isabelle
explained,
“This car
was gifted to my dad by my
mom, so he isn’t
willing to buy a new car after so
many years.
This car has to be serviced every
now and
then.
”

John had heard about it before.
Although
this car was outdated, Old Mr.
Bailey would
only use this car every time he
went out.
Hearing that, John nodded.
“I
envy the love
between Old Mr. Bailey and his
wife.
”

Old Mr. Bailey put on a smile

and said to
Isabelle,
“Perhaps President
Constance could
send you home first. I’m feeling
much better
now. After getting the car
washed, I’ll go
home.
”

Since her father appeared to be
alright,
Isabelle shifted her attention to
John, who
had no choice but to say yes as
he nodded.
“Okay.
”

Since Old Mr. Bailey had his
chauffeur with
him, he should be safe.
Moreover, John and William
came to this
place in their own separate
cars.
Seeing that Isabelle was about
to enter
John’s car, William, who was
still there, said,
“Miss Bailey, why don’t I send
you home

instead? John has consumed more alcohol than I have, so please let him go home first.

”

Isabelle was startled by his words as her expression was filled with embarrassment.

“I

don't want to trouble you.

”

“It's no trouble at all. It'd be nice to have a drive at night.

” Before Isabelle could reply,

William said to John,

“Go back

first since you

have drunk a lot. Tell the cook to get you

some hangover tonic before sleeping.

”

Pausing, John took a look at his father and

suddenly understood

something. With a nod,

he replied,

“Alright.

**” Following
that, he
turned to Isabelle.**

**“Please go
home in my
dad’s car. My body smells of
alcohol now.**

”

**Of course, Isabelle couldn’t
shamelessly say
otherwise, so she nodded and
flashed a smile
at him.**

**“Alright, sorry for
troubling both of
you.**

”

**Turning around, she opened the
car door and
entered William’s car.**

**After getting into his car, John
started the
engine and left the place while
observing**

**William’s car through the
rearview mirror.**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 459
When William spoke to John a
moment ago,
he seemed to be sending him a
warning with**

his expression. John quickly realized that it was negligence on his own side. Until William's car was out of sight from the rearview mirror, John retracted his gaze.

Inebriated, he leaned against the seat and closed his eyes, slowly dozing off.

When he had reached Constance Residence, the chauffeur called out to John to awaken him.

Getting out of the car, John leaned against the car for a while to sober up. Then, he slowly walked into the main building and told the cook to get him a hangover tonic.

When the tonic was ready, William returned home. Although William had consumed lots of alcohol as well, he appeared to be more clear-headed than this son.

Upon entering
the house, he directly took a
seat opposite
John.

Since his wife was asleep,
William questioned
in a lowered voice,

“Have you
figured it out?”

Resting on the couch, John was
on the verge
of falling asleep. When he
heard that, he
frowned.

“What?”

Helplessly, William asked,
“Don’t you
understand that you were
almost taken
advantage of?”

The question made John scowl.
William smiled.

“Sober up and
think about it.

It seems that you’re really
intoxicated since
you can
’t even see through it.
”

John slumped onto the couch.
Maybe I really

am drunk.

His mood seemed to have played a part as well. It wasn't his first time drinking so heavily, but he had never been so wasted before.

After a while, he finished the hangover tonic and went upstairs. With his eyes half open, he fumbled along the corridor and reached his room. Following that, he turned the doorknob and walked in.

For an instant, he felt that the room was a little different. Without turning on the light, he reached for his bed with the help of the moonlight.

Plunging into the bed, he kicked away his shoes, took out his phone from his pocket and tossed it aside. Then, he pulled the quilt closer and mumbled,

**“Sophia,
you’re such a
heartless woman.
”**

**Even in his dazed state, he still
complained
about Sophia.**

**On the other side, Sophia was
sorting the
data on her computer in the
study. Since her
shop would be ready to open in
a few days,
she and Robin had been
burning the midnight
oil. More importantly, there
were many things
that she had to learn.**

**When Sophia was done with it,
she turned
off the computer. Just then, her
phone
started ringing; it was a call
from Ian. When
the call was connected, Ian said
in an excited
voice,**

**“Sophia, do you want to
have supper
with me?”**

Sophia took a look at the time

and realized
that it was late. Still, she was
surprised that
Ian was looking for her at such
an hour.

“You
sound happy. What
happened?”

Ian gave an affirmative grunt
and explained,

“Yes, I’m really excited. I met up
with

Lorraine Jefferson and
discussed the talent
show with her. I want to see
you now.

”

Then, Sophia asked where he
was, and he said
that he was on the way to her
house. After

giving it a thought, she inquired,

“Why don’t

you get takeaway for the
supper and have it

at my place?” Since she was
done washing up

and getting changed, she didn’t
want to step

out of the house anymore.

Without hesitation, Ian agreed

to it and hung
up the call.

A short while later, Ian arrived
at her home
with barbecued food and
bottles of beer.

Sophia had been waiting for
him at the
entrance. Seeing him, she
looked behind him
and questioned,

“Why isn’t
Logan with you?”

Ian answered,

“I didn’t call him.

If he came
as well, we would have a
restless night. It’ll
only be the two of us tonight.

”

After pondering on it for a while,
Sophia
found him sensible, so she
nodded.

“Alright,
don’t call him.

”

Barbecued food matched
perfectly with
beer. Since Sophia had had her
dinner, she

wasn't hungry at all. However, the story of Ian's discussion with Lorraine on the talent show was so intriguing that she unknowingly drank more beer than she should.

The Returning Ex Chapter 460
Since Sophia was at her home, she wasn't worried at all. Although she kept saying that she had drunk too much, she never rejected it whenever Ian filled her glass with beer.

As they chatted and drank beer, they soon became tipsy.

Tottering out of the dining hall, Sophia held the handrail of the stairs firmly.

"Ian, just get yourself a room in the house. I can't drink anymore.

"

Wasted, Ian rested on the chair and gave an affirmative grunt before falling

into silence.

Upon returning to her own room, Sophia plunged into her bed and dozed off.

The next morning, sunlight filtered through the window and cast its glow at the room.

Feeling the warmth, Sophia slowly opened her eyes as a face fell into her gaze.

Ian and Sophia were lying on the bed in identical positions with some distance

between them. Fortunately, Ian had his clothes on.

Sophia batted her eyes and suppressed her urge to scream. Sitting up straight, she lowered her head and was relieved that she was still clad in her clothes as well.

Apparently, nothing happened between them last night. However, Sophia was still a little

upset and even felt uncomfortable.

After staring at Ian for a while, she had the urge of waking him up and arguing with him.

However, if he really awakened, she wouldn't even know what to say to him.

Undecided, she eventually left the room and washed up in the guest room.

Then, Sophia went to the room which John used to live in. Seeing that his belongings were still around, she collected them and hurled them into the trash can.

Since he isn't around anymore, it's pointless to keep his things here.

After dilly-dallying for a while, she got herself ready and returned to her room in a daze. Reaching the door, she was hesitating whether she should wake Ian

up. If not,
should she let him continue
sleeping?
But if she did wake him up, she
wouldn't even
know how to face him.
Whatever she would
do, it would be embarrassing
for her.
Since the door was open, she
moved closer
and took a look at the bed. To
her surprise,
Ian was nowhere to be seen.
Startled, she
batted her eyelids. Is he gone?
It's strange.
If he really left, he would have
informed me
about it.
With doubt in her voice, she
called out,
"Ian.
"

Ian's voice sounded from
downstairs.

"Yes,
I'm here.
"

After a moment's pause, Sophia
turned

around and reached for the stairs. Ian was indeed on the first floor, but he wasn't alone.

Standing on the staircase, Sophia was startled to see the other person as her eyebrows knitted together.

Meanwhile, John was glaring at her with a grave expression. Without a doubt, he must have misunderstood something.

If Sophia were in his shoes, she would have taken it the wrong way as well.

Instead of explaining herself, she questioned,

“What are you doing here so early in the morning?”

John asked in a glacial voice,

“Am I interrupting the two of you?”

Ian burst into laughter and said to Sophia,

“Please get changed first. Aren't you going to

**the shop today? We'll have
breakfast
outside.
”**

**Pressing her lips together,
Sophia remained
on the spot.
Just then, John said,
“Sophia, I
have
underestimated you. You're
swift.
”**

**Despite his ambiguous words,
Sophia
understood what he meant
immediately. A
few days ago, she told John that
she liked
Ian but hadn't managed to
confess to him.
Now, they were seen living
together. Wasn't
that swift? For some reason,
Sophia put on a
helpless smile.
“Yeah, don't you
want to
congratulate me?”
John stared fixedly at her
without uttering a**

word.

Sophia then added,

**“Are you here to retrieve
your belongings or send me
anything?”**

**Whatever it is, get it all done in
one go and
don't keep coming back. Even if
you don't find
it troublesome, I find it
bothersome.**

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 461

**As soon as Sophia finished her
words, John**

**suddenly charged toward the
stairs. His**

**action was so rapid that Ian
didn't manage to**

**react. It was already too late
when Sophia**

**came to her senses as John had
reached her**

**and clenched at her shoulders
before**

pressing her against the wall.

**“Sophia, do I
look like a pushover?”**

Ian rushed over and questioned,

**“John, what
are you doing?”**

John's grip was so forceful that Sophia felt pain in her shoulders. At that instant, she recalled that she was once pushed against the wall so ruthlessly that her back was hurt.

Coming back to the present, she immediately covered her neck.

"John, you're doing this again to me! It seems that I'm the pushover here, not the other way round!" Ian came over and tried to pull him away.

After giving it a thought, John suddenly released Sophia and whirled around with a punch that was directed at Ian. Unsuspecting, Ian didn't expect that John would do such a thing. After getting hit, he tottered sideward.

John's action astounded Sophia, for Ian was going to compete in a talent

show. If his face
was bruised, he might not be
able to join the
contest. Enraged, Sophia
snarled,
“John,
you
're a b*stard!” After pushing
John away,
she rushed to Ian and examined
his face.

“Ian, are you alright? Does it
hurt?”

John shot her a cold look.

“You
seem to feel
sorry for him.
”

Turning around, Sophia stared
at him and
growled,

“John, you're a jerk!
Why the heck
are you making a scene in my
house? I told
you to face the reality. We're
divorced, so we
have nothing to do with each
other anymore!
Please stop interfering in my
life! Don't you

understand that you're causing trouble to me? I don't want to see you again, so please don't keep coming back to my house. To say that I don't like you is an understatement; I hate you!"

John's expression darkened.

"Sophia.

"

Unafraid, Sophia glared back at him.

"John, what else can you do other than laying your hand on me?"

Hearing that, John's furious face became

stiff. A while later, he snorted.

"Are you saying that I know nothing but lay my hand on you?"

Sophia's expression turned glacial.

"Leave now. I don't want to see you anymore.

"

John nodded slowly.

“Alright.

**Before I go, I
want to ask you a question.**

**Answer me
honestly.**

**” Then, he pointed at
Ian.**

**“Did this
man stay over in your house
last night?”**

The question amused Sophia.

**“Why are you
asking this question when the
proof is right
before your eyes? Of course he
slept over.**

”

**John pressed his lips together
for a while
and grinned, while his
expression became
increasingly ferocious.**

**“It’s my
fault then.**

**Something must have gotten
into me.**

”

**Ian straightened his body and
wiped off the
blood from the corner of his**

mouth. With
that serious expression on his
face, he looked
different from his usually gentle
self. Gazing
at John, he said,
“Mr. Constance,
you’
ve
crossed the line. I hope you’ll
understand
that you and Sophia are
divorced, and she’s
gotten together with me now.
”

With that, he heaved a sigh and
turned
around. Running his fingers
through Sophia’s
hair, he looked at her lovingly.
“You’re safe
now. Get changed. We’ll have
breakfast
together.
”

Sophia stole a glance at John
with a long
face, feeling somewhat
hesitant.
Ian pushed her gently.
“Don’t

worry. I'll be
fine. Please go to your room
and get changed.
I need to talk to Mr.
Constance.

”

Sophia didn't trust John, so she
said to Ian,
“You're no match for him when
it comes to
physical strength.

”

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John turned around.

“Don't
worry. I won't lay
a hand on your loved one
again.

”

Although John was reckless, he
was a man of
his word. Pressing her lips
together, Sophia
told Ian to be careful and went
upstairs.
Before entering the room, she
took a peek
and saw that John and Ian
remained on the
spot. Then, she locked the door
and got

changed quickly.

After getting changed, she took a seat on

the bed instead of going out.

Why does John

keep bothering me almost every day? It's

annoying! With her mind in a mess, Sophia

stooped and dug her fingers into her hair.

Why did I drink so much that I didn't even

know Ian got into my room?

However, she didn't think Ian had any evil

intention since nothing had happened

between them. She figured that he was

wasted and simply entered her room when he

saw that the door was open.

While she was deep in her thoughts, Ian

knocked on the door.

"Sophia,

let's go out for

breakfast.

"

Heaving a sigh, Sophia walked

over and
opened the door. Only Ian was
seen in the
corridor, so Sophia took a peek
at the stairs
and asked,
“Has John left?”
Ian replied,
“Yes.
”

Pursing her lips, Sophia wasn't
sure whether
she should be upset or relieved.
Then,
without applying make-up, she
left the house
with Ian.

On the other end, John's car
was parked near
the house as he was staring at
the entrance,
so when Sophia and Ian came
out, he
immediately saw them.
After Sophia said something,
Ian leaned
close to her and helped tidy her
hair. They
were just inches away from
each other, and
their interaction was intimate.

Gritting his teeth, John grumbled, “Sophia, I must have been crazy to let you humiliate me like this.”

When Sophia reached the shop, she was ready to get down to work with Robin.

However, she couldn’t focus at all, as John’s cold expression kept bugging her in her mind.

Although the corner of Ian’s mouth had stopped bleeding, it became bruised. Sophia was apologetic because the talent show would begin soon, so it would be a hindrance to Ian’s future if he couldn’t join the contest due to his injury. Upon pondering on it for a moment, she decided to bring him to see a doctor.

Coincidentally, they were assigned the doctor

who treated Sophia's leg injury before.

Seeing her, he called out,

"Miss

Gwendolyn.

"

Sophia was shocked.

"You know

me?"

Dr. Holt was on good terms with William, so

he nodded.

"I helped dress up

your wound

when you were injured

previously.

"

Sophia gave a hesitant 'Oh'

before replying,

"It's you. It's no wonder that I

find you

familiar.

"

Dr. Holt took a look at Ian.

"Is

he your

friend?"

Sophia nodded.

"He's gotten a

bruise on his

mouth. Do you have any

effective cream to
fade his bruise? He's going to an
audition in a
few days.

”

Dr. Holt smiled gently.

“Let me
have a closer
look. Did you get into a fight?
Oh well, the
other party was ruthless. The
corner of your
mouth is split.

”

Sophia pressed her lips together
and fell into
silence.

Without delving deeper into the
topic, Dr.

Holt was getting the
prescription ready on
his computer while saying,

“I

heard that you
attended the birthday party of
Old Mrs.
Blackwell.

” While Sophia was
startled, he
continued,

“You even got a

good result from
fortune-telling.
”

Have I become famous again?
she thought.

When the prescription was
ready, Dr. Holt
gazed at Sophia.

“I happened to
come across
John yesterday. He was proud
when he talked
about you.
”

At the mention of John,
Sophia’s mood
turned bad.

Not knowing what happened
between them.

Dr. Holt added,
“I don’t
remember John
being so delighted when he
mentioned anyone
else.
”

Sophia frowned, for she didn’t
understand
why the doctor was telling her
this. The

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**Doesn't he read the news at all?
Why does he
seem like he doesn't know the
situation John
and I are in?**

**Upon finishing his words, Dr.
Holt passed the
medical card and prescription
slip to Ian.**

**"Alright. Get the cream from
the pharmacist
and apply it every day. Also,
don't eat
anything spicy. Your bruise
should fade in a
few days.**

"

**Ian thanked Dr. Holt, who then
turned to
Sophia and flashed a smile at
her.**

**"You can
leave with him now.**

"

**Sophia was already upset when
Dr. Holt said
those things to her, which made
her feel
even more distressed, even
though she didn't
understand why she was feeling**

this way.

After leaving the hospital, they headed for

Logan's place. Seeing Ian in such a state,

Logan misunderstood that it was the Morgans

who hurt him. Therefore, he jumped to his

feet and wanted to go to the Morgans' place

to get even with the Morgans.

Seated on the couch, Sophia quickly stopped

him, saying,

"It was John who hit him.

"

The news stunned Logan.

"Y-Y-You mean it was John who did it?" He then turned to Ian.

"Why did John punch you?"

It was a difficult question to answer as both

Sophia and Ian didn't want to talk about it.

After remaining silent for a

while, Ian asked

Logan what happened to Simon and Sally.

As a simple-minded man, Logan was successfully distracted and he soon bragged about how he schemed against Sally. Then, he talked about how Leah gave her daughter a piece of her mind. Now, Sally was grounded at her house and wasn't allowed to go to the company. Logan talked a lot, but Sophia and Ian weren't paying attention to him.

Sophia took a look at Ian and asked in a lowered voice, "Last night, why did you—" She then halted her words with an embarrassed expression.

Understanding what she meant, Ian blushed.

"I was wasted.

" He was so happy last night that he had forgotten to control his intake of

alcohol. However, he didn't get into Sophia's room intentionally. Last night, he had wanted to look for the guest room, but for some reason, he ended up in her room.

When he woke up in the morning, he was flabbergasted as well.

Fortunately, other than his jacket, he still had his clothes on.

Also, he was spared the embarrassing moment since Sophia wasn't beside him at that time.

Sophia scratched her head and thought of

John. Since he could enter the house

directly, the door was supposedly not locked.

Sophia was glad that he didn't go upstairs and

catch them in the bed.

Otherwise, it would be utterly mortifying.

Sophia sighed.

**“Just forget
about it and don’t
mention it again.
”**

**Ian pressed his lips together
and stared at
her for a moment before giving
an
affirmative grunt.
After staying at Logan’s place
for a while,
Sophia said that she was feeling
unwell and
went home. It wasn’t an excuse,
as her
stomach was really churning,
and her head
was dizzy due to the hangover.
Moreover, she
was distressed after what
happened between
John and her.
Knowing nothing, Logan offered
by asking,
“Why don’t I send you home?”
Sophia waved her hand.
“There’s no need. I’ll
hail a taxi.
”**

**Rising from the couch, she left
the place**

without even bidding farewell to Ian.

When she reached home, she stayed in the living room for a while and wailed suddenly.

Why do I feel so upset?

Since then, John never contacted Sophia nor came to her house. It seemed like they were in a cold war at the moment. Or perhaps, it couldn't be considered a cold war at all. After all, without the restraint of marriage, the cold war could simply be interpreted as a fall out between them.

However, Sophia was thankful that she was able to have some quiet for a few days.

Two days later, when she was taking a class at the driving school, she received a call from Old Mrs. Constance, who spoke in an oddly passionate tone and invited

Sophia to her
home to have a meal.
Sophia was shocked by her
hospitality. Why
is she inviting me to have a
meal at her home
all of a sudden?

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Upon hearing Sophia's rejection,
Old Mrs.

Constance sighed and explained,
"Actually,
it's Old Mrs. Blackwell who
wants to invite
you to a meal through me. After
you got a
good result from the
fortune-telling for
them, their business started
picking up.
Therefore, she wants to thank
you
personally."
"

Sophia smiled.

"There's no need
to thank me
since I have taken such an
expensive item
from them. Moreover, I got the
result out of

luck, and it didn't cost me anything, so she doesn't have to thank me.
”

Old Mrs. Constance sighed.

“Despite what you have said, she now regards you to be their benefactor. Since she's so hospitable, it's really inappropriate that you don't come over.
”

Sophia covered her forehead and said,

“Madam, I really—”

Before she could finish her words, Old Mrs.

Constance interrupted,

“Sophia,

I miss you

very much. Don't you want to pay me a visit?”

Her words rendered Sophia speechless. To

be honest, she didn't miss

anyone from the

Constance Family, including Old Mrs.

Constance. Although Old Mrs.

Constance was good to her currently, she wasn't like this in the past.

Since Sophia didn't utter a word, Old Mrs.

Constance directly made the decision for her.

"Alright. You'll come to my house tomorrow.

I'll tell the cooks to get ready.

When you arrive tomorrow, we'll have a proper chat.

"

Sophia gave it a thought. Since the next day

would be a working day, John would

supposedly be at the company.

Hence, she

probably wouldn't come across him. After

hesitating for a moment, she gave an

affirmative grunt, saying,

"I'll go

to your

house in the morning since it's not easy to

hail a taxi in the evening these

days.

”

It wasn't certain whether Old Mrs. Constance understood why Sophia decided to go over in the morning, but she immediately agreed to it.

“Alright. You can come over in the morning and have lunch with us. I'll tell the chauffeur to send you home in the afternoon.

”

Sophia replied,

“Okay.

”

When the conversation was over, she hung up the call. Leaning against the car, her expression was somewhat worried.

The next day, Sophia dilly-dallied until she believed that John must have left the Constance Residence before she hailed a taxi.

When she reached there, she was relieved that John really had left the residence. Old Mrs. Constance and Old Mrs. Blackwell were seated in the yard in front of the main building as they were chatting and laughing. Sophia walked over with a chair. Seeing her, Old Mrs. Blackwell rose from her chair slowly and called out, "Sophia."

Sophia hastened her steps. "Madam Blackwell."

Old Mrs. Blackwell flashed a smile at her. "You're finally here. I've been waiting for you."

Sophia then turned to Old Mrs. Constance and greeted her. Old Mrs. Constance nodded.

**“Why are you
calling me Madam now instead
of Grandma?”**

**Sophia forced a smile, not
knowing what to
say.**

**Then, Old Mrs. Constance
changed the topic,
saying,**

“Come on. Let’s get in.

**It’s almost
afternoon now. Look how
scorching the sun
is.**

”

**Sophia helped Old Mrs.
Blackwell get into the
living room.**

**Not knowing what happened
between Sophia
and John, Old Mrs. Blackwell
asked who**

**Sophia was fond of. She would
be glad to help
her check on the man.**

**Sophia put on an embarrassed
smile.**

**“H-He’s
busy.**

”

Old Mrs. Blackwell patted

Sophia's hands.

"You have to be careful when looking for a suitable man. If you get married to the wrong man, you will regret it for the rest of your life.

"

Sophia traded glances with Old Mrs.

Constance, whose expression was uneasy.

I did marry the wrong man. If he were the right man, we wouldn't have divorced, Sophia thought.

After chatting for a while, Old Mrs.

Blackwell asked Sophia about her family members.

Upon a moment of hesitation, Sophia replied,

"I'm the only one left in my family.

"

Old Mrs. Blackwell was startled.

"Your parents—"

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Sophia nodded.

**“They passed
away in an
accident.**

”

**Her answer elicited a stare from
Old Mrs.**

**Constance, for her husband told
her before
that Sophia’s parents dumped
her. However,
she wasn’t certain why Sophia’s
parents did
such a thing.**

Sophia smiled.

**“I’m fine. It’s
good to be alone
as I don’t have to provide for
my family. It’s
easier this way.**

”

**Feeling sorry for her, Old Mrs.
Blackwell
tightened her grip on Sophia’s
hands. Since it
was an unhappy topic, Old Mrs.
Constance
hurriedly talked about
something else. As
they chatted and laughed, the**

atmosphere
slowly became eased.
When lunch was ready, Old Mrs.
Constance,
who was supported by a
servant, said,
“Let’s
continue our chat over the
meal.
”

Sophia helped Old Mrs.
Blackwell up. Before
they could even take a step
forward, John
returned as he walked over and
said,
“Grandma, I left a document
last night at—”
Then, he froze on the spot
when he saw
Sophia, his expression turning
from serious
to cold.
Sophia looked away. What the
heck? Why do
I always bump into him when I
don’t want to
see him?
John retracted his gaze as well.
“Oh, there’s
a guest in our house.

”

“Ah.

” Old Mrs. Constance explained,

“Madam

Blackwell is here to have lunch with Sophia.

”

John nodded.

“I left a document at home last night. Have you seen it?”

To that, Old Mrs. Constance replied,

“Oh, I

saw it and placed it in your study.

”

John grunted and went upstairs.

A while

later, he came down with a document.

Then, Old Mrs. Constance suggested,

“Lunch

is ready. Why don't you have lunch with us?”

“Sorry. I'm busy today. Bye.

”

John also bid farewell to Old Mrs. Blackwell

before leaving. Apart from the first glance when he came across Sophia, he never looked at her again.

Until John was out of sight, Sophia finally relaxed and heaved a sigh of relief. Perhaps it's better this way, she thought.

Old Mrs. Constance seemed to be disappointed as she told Sophia and Old Mrs. Blackwell to enter the dining hall.

Despite Sophia's best effort to avoid seeing John, she still came face to face with him.

Fortunately, it was only a brief encounter, and they didn't even talk to each other.

During the meal, Sophia's mood seemed to have been affected as her mind was wandering somewhere else when Old Mrs.

Blackwell asked her inquisitive questions. The meal was somewhat upsetting for Sophia.

Although she had finished the food, she felt as though her stomach was still empty, and she didn't even remember what she had eaten.

Since Old Mrs. Blackwell hadn't recovered fully, she would become tired easily.

Moreover, after having food, she started feeling sleepy. Seeing that, Old Mrs.

Constance told a servant to help her go upstairs to take a rest.

Rising from the chair as well, Sophia said,

**"I have to go back to the shop."
"**

Old Mrs. Constance took a look at her and sighed.

"Sophia, you've become

so distant to
us now.
”

Her words amused Sophia, for
she felt she
had never been close to the
Constances.
After bidding farewell to her,
Sophia
reached for the car park, for Old
Mrs.

Constance had told a chauffeur
to send her
home. Not long after she got
into the car and
moved out of Constance
Residence, she came
across a car that was stopped in
the middle
of the road and blocked her
way. When the
chauffeur halted the car, Sophia
rolled down
the window and immediately
recognized that
it was John's car.
With the car window down,
John rested his
elbow on the door with a
cigarette between
his fingers. Sitting there without

looking at
Sophia's car, he had simply
parked his car in
the middle of the road with no
intention of
going away.

The chauffeur called out to John,
who didn't
reply to him.

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Sophia understood that John
was

intentionally blocking her way.

Still, she
thought that he would go away
soon. After
all, he had to go to work.

Unexpectedly, after
a while, John was on his next
cigarette, but
he still never gave Sophia's car
a glance.

Turning around, the chauffeur
said,

"Miss
Gwendolyn, I think Young
Master is waiting
for you.

"

Of course, Sophia knew that as
well. After

giving it a thought, she opened the door and went over. Upon a closer look, she realized there were already many cigarette butts beside his car. Without smoking the cigarette, John simply let it burn on its own.

Standing on the side, Sophia demanded,
“John, let me pass.”

John slowly cocked his head.

“Why did you come to my house?”

His words upset Sophia. If it weren't for Old Mrs. Constance, she wouldn't have been

willing to come over. With a long face, she assured,

“Don't worry. It's my last time coming here. I won't come here again.”

John snorted and moved his car to the side.

Just when Sophia turned around and wanted to get into her car, John said, "Come here."
"

Ignoring him, Sophia went over to her car and opened the door. Before she could even enter the car, John childishly drove the car back to the middle of the road. Great. Smiling, Sophia slammed the door and walked toward his car.

"Get into the passenger's seat,"

John demanded. Sophia retracted her hand, which was already on the door handle of the back seat.

Suppressing her fury, she opened the door and slumped into the passenger's seat. Finally pleased, John stepped on the gas pedal and turned the steering wheel. The

car turned
180 degrees and sped off.
Sophia kept her silence, but she
wasn't
afraid.

When they reached the main
road, John had
no choice but to slow down the
car. Stopping
by the traffic light, he cocked
his head and
examined Sophia, whom he
hadn't met for a
few days. Sophia had gotten her
hair dyed
and permed, which made her
look more
charming and mature. This
woman lives a
fantastic life no matter what
happens.

John smiled.
"It seems that
you're happy with
Ian."
"

With an impassive expression,
Sophia turned
to him.

"That has nothing to do
with you."

”

John’s lips quirked up.
“I’m just
concerned
about you. Since we were
married previously,
I can only be relieved when
you’re happy.

”

Sophia chuckled.
“Then rest
assured. I have a
wonderful life with Ian.

”

John’s lips were pressed into a
line.

“Right. I
guess so.

”

When the traffic light turned
green, Sophia
said,

“Let’s go. Send me back
quickly; we both
can be relieved of each other
then.

”

John stepped on the gas pedal
and harped on
the same topic, asking,
“Have

you always been
fond of Ian? I just didn't get it in
the past.

”

Sophia leaned against the seat.

“Stop talking
about me. Let's talk about you
and Isabelle.

You guys are getting along well,
right? I'

ve

seen your photos in the news.

”

Although John and Isabelle

were seen

together a few times, the

journalists didn't

claim that they were a couple,

as they only

met up for work. Moreover,

they had their

assistants with them during the

encounters.

John raised an eyebrow.

“I

didn't expect that

you

'd still read news about me. It

seems that

you still care about me.

”

Sophia looked fixedly at the road.

“I don’t follow news about you. It’s just hard not to see you in the news.”

John sneered while Sophia fell into silence, as they couldn’t have a chat peacefully at the moment. Even if John never spoke to her in such an odd way, she also couldn’t control her urge to mock him obliquely. Hence, they remained silent until the car reached Sophia’s home.

After stopping the car, John never took a look at her as he clenched the steering wheel and stared into the distance. The Returning Ex Chapter 467 Sophia opened the car door. After pondering on it for a moment, she said, “Thanks.”

Getting out of the car, she
walked toward
her house.

John rolled down the window.

“Sophia.

”

Stopping in her tracks, Sophia
turned around
and gazed at him.

“Yes?”

John slowly turned to her.

“I

have been
mulling over it for a few days,
but I still can't
see why you've fallen in love
with Ian.

”

His relentlessness about this
topic made
Sophia frown, so she stared at
him without
uttering a word.

Appearing to be puzzled, John
asked,

“What

do you like about him? Is it his
handsome
face or his singing skill?”

These qualities were
supposedly not enough

to make Sophia fall in love with
Ian as John
didn't think she was this kind of
shallow

woman. However, Sophia
simply stood there
and gazed at him, thinking that
he just hadn't
gotten over it.

With a serious expression,
Sophia explained,
"He might not be as good as
some men out
there, but he treats me much
better than
you did.

" Then, she burst into
laughter.

"I
don't think I need to talk about
my miserable
life at Constance Residence. I
did try my
best to win your heart. When
the fact that
we were divorced still wasn't
known to the
public, I was willing to accept
you if you came
back to me. However, you
never got to

understand my heart. I had only so much patience and love, so I couldn't keep waiting for you, as I'd be exhausted as well. Ian is very good to me. In comparison to you, I've finally come to the realization that I also deserve a man who treats me well.

”

Shrugging, she sighed.

“So let's end it here between us.”

After staring at her for a while, John questioned, “Was I really so bad to you in the past?”

It couldn't be said that John was bad to her.

At least, he was very generous when it came to money. However, humans were naturally

greedy. When she was destitute,
she thought
that she would be content with
having money,
but when she had a man's
financial support,
she then craved love. Realizing
that she
couldn't win his heart, she
eventually grew
dejected, fearful, and lost.
Smiling, she said,
"Not really.
But perhaps,
your bad outweighed your good.
That's why I
still wasn't happy."
"

Letting out a sigh, John wanted
to ask more
questions. However, when he
looked at her,
he suddenly couldn't utter a
word. Forget it.
Why am I getting trouble for
myself? Thus,
John mumbled and said,
"I hope
that Ian
will—"
I hope that Ian will treat you

well. Those
were the words he wanted to
say, but they
got stuck in his throat. Pressing
his lips
together, he rolled up the
window, turned the
steering wheel and stepped on
the gas pedal.

Rooted to the spot, Sophia
watched his car
leave. All of a sudden, her heart
ached again
as she pressed her hand against
her chest.

After entering her house,
Sophia lay on a
yoga mat and went into a
meditation pose.

There were many things that
she had to
ponder on, but at that moment,
her mind was
occupied with the image of
John sitting in his
car. Covering her face, she
thought, It's said
that love hurts. It seems that
I'm the victim.

Meanwhile, the talent show
that Lorraine had

invested in was ready to roll.

After getting into contact with the production team a few times, Ian got to learn what he had to do.

Since he wasn't among the first batch of contestants, he had to wait for them to finish up before he would appear.

Upon learning that, Logan brought Ian to look for Sophia to celebrate it, for Lorraine had assured Logan that as long as Ian could perform steadily, he was bound to be in the top three. The assurance made Logan feel delighted. Not wanting to celebrate it at home, he decided to bring them somewhere to have fun.

Sophia, on the other hand, had been lethargic recently. For some reason, she couldn't focus

on whatever she did.

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Logan walked over and draped his arms

around Sophia's shoulders.

"Why do you look so unenergetic? Cheer up. I'll bring you guys to somewhere fun.

" The fun place he talked about was a bar.

Sophia took a look at Ian, who was beaming.

Knowing that he was keen to have fun as well, she decided to go along with them. Nodding, she forced a smile and said, "Okay.

"

In the evening, they went to a bar, which Sophia had been to as well. On the night of her divorce, she came to this bar to try to hook up with a man, but she came across John unexpectedly. They didn't stay in the common

area.

Although Logan wasn't a businessman, he had an exclusive business suite in the bar. When he had brought Ian and Sophia to the room, he then invited more people to come over on his phone. After pondering on it for a moment, Sophia decided to ask Robin to come over as well.

When everyone arrived, and the food was ready, they began having fun. Initially, Sophia and Robin sat in one corner without joining them, but surprisingly, Logan was adept at warming up the atmosphere, which influenced Sophia. Hence, she pulled Robin over and started playing bar games with the others. The fun successfully turned her bad mood into a good one.

Since the alcohol content of the beer wasn't high, they drank a lot of it without restraint.

Robin wasn't interested in drinking beer, so Sophia told Robin to take care of her if she was drunk, then she herself started drinking recklessly.

Although the alcohol content in the beer was low, one could still be intoxicated from drinking too much of it.

Eventually, Sophia slumped into the couch in a dazed state.

Robin leaned close to her and asked,

"Sophia, are you alright?"

Sophia waved her hand.

"I'm just full.

" Then, she pressed her hands on the couch handle and got up.

"I'll use the

restroom.

”

In fact, there was a restroom in the private room, but there were too many people around currently. Separated by just a door, Sophia didn't feel comfortable using the built-in restroom.

Robin supported Sophia and wanted to go out with her, but the latter shook her head.

“There's no need. I can walk on my own.

”

Since Sophia indeed appeared to be alright, Robin didn't give it a second thought as she told Sophia to be careful and released her hand.

After coming out from the private room, Sophia headed for the restroom. She was alright initially, but upon walking out of the

restroom, her mind suddenly became a mess.

Leaning against the wall, she couldn't remember the location of Logan's private room no matter how hard she tried, since the business suites all looked the same.

Moreover, she didn't bother to remember the room number.

Thus, she took a deep breath and searched her body, but to her dismay, her phone wasn't with her. What the heck. How am I going back?

When she closed her eyes for a while, she started becoming sleepy. After murmuring for a moment, she heard someone calling out to her.

"Sophia?"

With her eyes half open, she couldn't even make out who that person was,

but she still
said,
“Oh, it’s you.
”

Standing on the side, Owen
Constance
frowned and went over to help
her up.

“Why
are you here?”

“Huh?” Sophia replied.

“Why
am I here? How
did I come here? Who knows?”
Obviously, she was inebriated.
Since his guests were waiting
for him, Owen
couldn’t stay there for too long.
After giving
it a thought, he told a waiter to
get Sophia to
the side. Then, he fished out his
phone and
called John. At that instant, the
only person
he could think of was John.
Meanwhile, John was still at the
company at
this hour as his work had piled
up recently
due to his lack of focus. Since he

didn't have anything to do at home, he decided to stay in the company to finish up his work. Thus, when he received a call from Owen, he was surprised.

The Returning Ex Chapter 469

Normally, Owen wouldn't call John. The relationship between the main family and the branch family became somewhat awkward when Old Mr. Constance told John to marry Sophia. Although their relationship had improved a little after Owen's birthday party, it became complicated again due to John's divorce.

After staring at the screen for a moment,

John picked up the call.

"Uncle

Owen.

"

Owen grunted and asked,

“Where are you?

Are you busy?”

John replied that he was at the company and

he wasn't busy at the moment.

Owen sighed and told John his location. Then,

he said that he came across

Sophia, who was

drunk and alone.

The news made John stand up straight in an

instant.

“She is drunk and alone?

Is there no

one else around her?”

With the phone in his hand,

Owen looked

around and didn't see her

friend at all, so he

answered,

“I don't see anyone

else. She's on

her own. My guests are waiting

for me, so I

can

't take care of her. Are you

coming over?”

Without hesitation, John agreed to it.

“Tell

**the waiter to get her into the
lounge. I'm
going now.
”**

**Without even taking his jacket,
John picked
up the car key and stormed out
of the room.**

**Fortunately, there were only
green lights all
the way from the company to
the bar. When
John arrived at the bar, a waiter
was already
waiting at the entrance. He said
that Sophia
was a little raucous, and he had
been waiting
for John.**

**Since Sophia was wasted and
making a fuss,
the staff members didn't let her
stay at the
business suite area and brought
her to the
rest area for staff members at
the back of
the bar. When John went over,
Sophia was
pulling at the waiters and
asking for more**

beer. Since she couldn't get
what she wanted,
she threw a tantrum and
stomped her feet.

The staff members didn't dare
offend her,
so they could only pacify her.
Walking over, John pulled her
closer to
himself.

"Who have you come
here with?"

After staring at him for a while,
Sophia
questioned,

"Who are you?"

Feeling helpless, John bent over
and lifted
her off the ground before
leaving the lounge.

With her feet off the ground,
Sophia became
quiet instantly. Draping her
arms around
John's neck, she reminded,
"Hold me tightly
and don't make me fall."
"

After leaving the bar, John
placed her into
his car. Slumping into the seat,

Sophia dozed
off quickly. As he stood by the
car, John
pondered on it and mumbled,
“Did you come
here with Logan?”
Without Logan, she wouldn’t
have come to
such a place alone and drunk so
much, except
for the day of their divorce.
Already asleep,
Sophia naturally couldn’t
answer his question.
Taking out his phone, he stared
at the screen
for a moment before shifting
his attention
back to Sophia. Then, he kept
his phone and
circled around the car. Upon
entering the
car, he started the engine and
stepped on
the gas pedal.
Since Sophia’s phone wasn’t
with her, no one
could find her currently.
Reaching her home, John
carried her in his
arms and reached for the door

before
opening it with her fingerprint.
When he was
walking on the stairs, Sophia
suddenly
started retching. Seeing that,
John hastened
his steps and brought her to the
bathroom.
The moment Sophia stepped on
the ground,
she directly vomited on John.
As a clean
freak, John immediately closed
his eyes as
the feeling was extremely
uncomfortable to
him. Tipping his head back, he
took a deep
breath and patted her back.
After vomiting, Sophia still
didn't feel any
better. She then turned back
around and
threw up into the toilet bowl.
With his eyes closed, John took
off his shirt
and hurled it into the trash can.
Realizing
that his pants were dirtied as
well, he

removed it hurriedly.

When Sophia was done with it,
she stood up
slowly and scratched her head.

John walked
over and flushed the toilet
before he turned
around and stood below the
shower head.

The Returning Ex Chapter 470

At that moment, John's body
smelled of
vomit. Initially, Sophia seemed
to have

forgotten about John's
presence, so when she
heard the sound of splashing
water, she

froze on the spot and turned
around, taking
in the naked John, who simply
didn't look at
her; he didn't even attempt to
hide anything.

After staring at him for a while,
Sophia
lowered her head and realized
that her
clothes were dirtied as well. She
then took
off her dress and threw it into

the trash can
after a moment of hesitation.
Following that,
she walked toward John.
The sight was familiar to John.
When they
were in the hotel in Tri Asel
previously,
Sophia, who was drunk, also
acted like this.
John didn't really want to recall
the incident,
but the images of what
happened kept
springing back to his mind. The
sex was
exciting and exhausting, but
generally, he had
a good time. Facing away from
Sophia, he
tried to calm himself down.
Standing below the shower
head, Sophia took
a proper wash of her body
before she turned
around and hugged John from
behind, making
him shudder and freeze on the
spot.
Without doing anything else,
Sophia simply

hugged him and pressed her head against his back. However, this move was already titillating enough for John as his mind went wild. In fact, he knew that he was being a little shameless.

He could lie to himself that he didn't have other intentions for bringing Sophia out of the bar, but when he was showering in front of her, no one would believe that he didn't want to do anything to her even if he told someone else.

**After hugging him for a while, Sophia called out,
"John."
"**

**Startled for a moment, John replied,
"So you know who I am. I thought you didn't recognize me.**

”

Without going along with his words, Sophia questioned,

“Why are you so annoying?”

Her words rendered John speechless.

Turning around, he clenched at her shoulders and asked,

“Am I really annoying?”

With her eyes half open, Sophia gave an affirmative grunt. Her nasal voice somewhat

aroused John. Unable to suppress his lust anymore, he asked,

“Do you love Ian or me?”

Without saying a word, Sophia draped her arms around his waist.

Apparently, she was sleepy and just wanted somewhere to rest her head.

John lowered his head and kissed her

forehead, but she didn't respond to him at all. Following that, he kissed her cheek and the corner of her mouth. Slowly, Sophia raised her head, which John took as an encouraging signal. Hurriedly turning off the tap, he bent over and lifted her off the ground.

After placing her on the bed, John's phone, which he tossed aside moments ago, started ringing. It was a call from Logan. Knowing why Logan was calling him, John kissed Sophia as he picked up the phone. Then, he hung up the call and switched off the phone. Intoxicated, Logan only came to his senses a long while after the call ended. Darting his gaze between Ian, Robin and the waiter, he said,

“John hung up on me.

”

With a serious expression, the waiter

assured,

“It’s really Mr.

Constance who

brought her away. She was

drunk and alone,

so we couldn’t take care of

her.

”

Logan scratched his head.

“If it

was really

John who took her away, then

she’d be fine.

They were married previously,

so it should be

alright.

”

Ian was tipsy as well, but when

he learned

that Sophia was missing, he

sobered up

instantly. After giving it a

thought, he turned

around and left the place.

Logan kept calling his name and

said,

“She will

**be fine given their relationship.
Even if
anything happens between
them, it's what a
man and a woman would
normally do
together.
”**

The Returning Ex Chapter 471

**Ian hailed a cab and gave the
driver Sophia's
home address. During the trip
to her place,
his drunk mind became
completely sober.**

**The cab stopped at Sophia's
place. When he
reached there, he saw that the
lights on the
second floor were turned off,
but he could
see John's car parked at her
porch. He's
indeed here! Ian rushed down
from the cab.**

**Although he felt less drunk now,
he still
failed to control himself and
jumped across
the fence into the garden,
rushing up to bang**

on the front door.

On the second floor, Sophia and John were

deep in the moment. She even asked him in a

daze,

“What’s that sound?”

John gave her a kiss and started moving on

top of her more rigorously.

“There’s nothing.

”

After banging the door for some time, Ian

finally took out his phone and made a call to

John. That was when he found out that

John’s phone was turned off.

Raging, Ian lost

his self-control and smashed his phone on the

floor.

Taking two deep breaths to calm himself

down, he noted that since

John’s car was still

at Sophia’s place, it was

probably an indicator

that he was in the house. So,

does that mean

he's staying the night at her place?

Ian closed his eyes and broke into laughter out of extreme frustration. So, John is taking revenge on me for staying the night here before. That's why he decided to stay tonight.

After the intimacy with John, Sophia fell into a deep sleep; she had been in a daze since the start.

Normally, John would be tired out after any physical activity, but right now, his mind was crystal clear. He went over and rummaged through Sophia's closet. Great, my clothes from before are folded and stored by her.

After some thinking, he carried her to the bathroom and placed her into the bathtub before returning to change the

bedsheet. As a young master, John had never tried doing this before, so he was very clumsy when he changed the sheets. When everything was done, he went into the bathroom to bathe Sophia, wiping her body dry and carrying her back into the room, where he put her pajamas on for her.

Finally, John took a bath towel and wrapped himself in it, strolling his way to his previous bedroom to search for something. In the closet of that room lay his clothes that he had intentionally left here from before.

Then, he took out the clothes and put them on. With a trash bag full of stuff in his hand, he went downstairs. The moment the lights in the living room turned on, Ian

immediately
noticed the change. John went
over to open
the door for him.

“Mr. Morgan,
what brings
you here at this time in the
night?”

This was the first time Ian
showed a
merciless expression to anyone.

“John
Constance, you’re too
shameless.

” Then, he
strode into the living room,
looking like he
was about to dash up to the
second floor at
any moment. Leaning against
the doorway,
John chuckled.

“Sophia has just
fallen asleep.
It was too tiring for her.
”

John’s comment made Ian
freeze. Next, John
crossed his arms and turned
around to take a
seat on the sofa, resting his legs

on the
coffee table.

“Is she this
enthusiastic too
when she’s with you?”

Ian straightened his back but
remained
silent. Then, John let out a deep
breath.

“Just now, she was calling my
name. Say, do
you think she’d call the wrong
name when
she’s with you?”

Ian’s chest was heaving, looking
obviously
frustrated. A gleam flashed
across John’s
eyes as he added,

“Or maybe
you haven’t
reached that stage with her
yet?”

Based on John’s understanding
of Sophia, he
knew she was not a woman
who would be that
easy in the matters of sex. Even
if she had
indeed slept with Ian, John still
found it hard

to believe that the two would
already sleep
with each other in the course of
a few days;
it was impossible that their
relationship
would develop that fast.
Ian slowly backed down from
the staircase
and went over to join John,
taking a seat
across him. One could tell that
Ian was trying
his best to suppress his rage.
Upon seeing that, John smiled
cheerfully, for
he seemed to have seen a
reflection of his
own frustrated self from that
day in Ian now.
Ian warned,
“Mr. Constance,
please be clear
that Sophia is now with me.
Keep your
distance from her in the
future.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 472

John raised a brow.

“She’s with

**you? But I
could clearly tell that her body
is more
receptive toward me.
”**

**Alright, that is very shameless
of him. Ian
stood up right away in a fit of
anger.**

**In response, John moved his
legs off the
coffee table and stood up after
Ian.**

**“Ian
Morgan, you’ve been present
everywhere,
which is very irritating to me.
Now, you
should know how that feels, but
still, this is
just the beginning for you.
”**

**Next, he turned
around and walked all the way
out of the door
with the trash bag in his hands.**

**“Sophia is
mine. Remember that: she can
only be mine.
”**

He then threw the trash outside.

The bag
was full of things he gathered
when he
briefly cleaned up Sophia's
room, wiping off
any trace of his existence.
Sophia was a
carefree person, so she
probably would not
even notice anything when she
woke up the
next day. After taking out the
trash, he got
into his car and drove away.
Ian stood near the sofa for a
while before
taking a look at the landing of
the second
floor. He was being careless this
time. Who
would have thought that John
would grab the
opportunity at this time?
Anyway, he didn't
stand there for long. At first, he
wanted to
go up and check on Sophia, but
he was
worried that he'd witness an
unsavory scene.
After giving it some thought, he

decided

against that.

Thus, he stood up and slowly

walked out from

the living room, switching off

the lights and

closing the door along the way.

John's car was

parked some distance down the

road. The

moment he saw Ian leaving, he

felt relieved.

As for Sophia, she had no idea

of what had

happened that night. The next

morning, she

woke up, checked herself and

took a look

around her room. Last night,

she had a

dream; she dreamed that John,

that jerk,

had done lots of disgusting

things to her.

That guy's stamina was still as

good as

before.

Then, she left the bed and

headed to the

bathroom, where she stood in

front of the

mirror and stared at her reflection. Aside from some swelling on her lips, she did not notice anything peculiar on her. That animal, John, always loved to leave love marks on her body, but she did not see any on her this time. So, that must have been a dream.

After washing up, she went out of the bathroom, but she still suffered from a slight headache. She also felt discomfort in her stomach. The feeling of nausea due to a hangover persisted. She quickly tidied up her room and went downstairs to prepare breakfast. When she got down, she saw her phone on the coffee table, which surprised her.

Now, she had zero recollection of the second

half of the previous night.

However, she remembered that she had told Robin to take care of her, knowing that once she had decided to let herself go wild with drinking, she would definitely go over her limit.

With the phone in her hand, she went to the kitchen where she cooked herself some noodles while texting Robin, thanking Robin for sending her back home. She even woke up in pajamas. If it wasn't her own doing, it must have been Robin who helped her change her clothes.

Had it been Logan or Ian who sent her home, they would not have helped her to change into pajamas. But soon, Robin returned a call to her, asking her how she was feeling and

telling her that she had gone missing for the second half of the night. She gasped after knowing that and asked, "It wasn't you who sent me home?"

Robin stammered hesitantly, "T-That time, the waiter told us that J-John Constance had picked you up and left. Shortly after that, Ian left as well, probably in search of you. Young Master Logan told me that everything was fine and he had someone send me home. I have no idea about what happened later."

Sophia hissed, thinking that the chain of events sounded different from her memory. Then, she hung up and called Ian, but his phone was unreachable. Not giving it much

thought, she made a third call to Logan, who was still sleeping because he drank as much as she did last night. Sophia quickly checked with him about last night. With his eyes still closed, Logan answered, "Yeah, it was John who sent you home. You walked into the wrong place in the bar, so John was contacted to pick you up. If you have your phone with you now, it must have been delivered to your place by Ian last night. It seemed that he was very worried about you, so he went over to check on you."
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 473
Sophia racked her brains, but she still could not understand what happened last night, so she ended her call with the

clueless Logan.

Then, she had a simple breakfast and went out to water her flowers, which was when she instantly noticed the shattered phone in her garden.

She went over and picked it up, only to recognize that it was Ian's phone; even the SIM card was still in there. It was no wonder he was unreachable.

Things started piecing together in her mind.

She clutched the shattered phone and thought about it for some time before making a call to John at last.

Unexpectedly, her first call was not picked up. Huh, he's really something.

Feeling persistent, she made another call to him, which was finally picked up. John intentionally lowered his

volume as he said,
“I’m busy right now. Talk to you
later.”

”
She followed suit and lowered
her volume as
well.

“Did you send me home
last night?”

John went silent on the other
side and she
could vaguely hear someone
else talking in the
background. He must be in a
meeting. Thus,
she closed her eyes and said to
him,
“Alright.
I’ll talk to you when you’re
free.”

”
Then, she hung up on him and
wandered over
to sit on the sofa, where she
started spacing
out. Since the SIM card was still
in the
phone, she felt that she should
return it to
Ian.
Despite having waited for quite

a while,
Sophia did not receive any
callback from
John, so she gave it some
thought and took a
cab to Logan's place. Right now,
Ian was not
staying with the Morgans.
Sometimes, he
would stay over at Logan's
clubhouse.

When she arrived, Logan was
still in bed. A
waiter went in to wake him up,
after which he
walked out barefooted in his
pajamas.

"What
is it? Why are you here so early
in the
morning?"

She immediately asked him if
he knew where
Ian was. While she spoke, she
took out the
SIM card and told him that Ian
had dropped
it at her door. Logan was
astonished.

"Ian
dropped it at your door?"

**Where's the
phone?"**

**She sighed at the thought of the
poor phone.**

**"The phone is shattered.
"**

**Logan ruffled his hair, looking
puzzled.**

**"Was
Ian that drunk last night? I'm
unsure where
he stayed the night though. Last
night, I
headed back here right after
the night at
the bar. How about this? I'll
have someone go
search for him later. He should
be safe.**

"

**Sophia was not at all worried
about Ian's
safety, for he had been living
elsewhere on
his own for years without an
issue. Now that
he was back to his hometown,
which should be
his own territory, nothing much
would happen
to him.**

Based on Logan's expression, he must have had no idea about last night's events, so she decided to give up on asking him. Not wasting her time at the clubhouse, she left Ian's SIM card with Logan and headed to the store, where she saw Robin busy at work.

She went up to Robin.

"What time did you all leave last night?"

As Robin did not have much to drink last night, her memory was sharp.

"Around ten?"

Then, we noticed that you went missing, so we went out to search for you.

We didn't have much fun after that.

"

Sophia still could not recall what happened after she had gone to the washroom. Then, Robin added,

“The waiter told us that John brought you away. Ian instantly rushed out after hearing that. Man, he shocked me! If we didn’t know, we would have thought that something bad had happened.”

Sophia chuckled weakly.

“I guess he was scared that John would beat me up when I was unconscious.”

After all, Ian was a witness to the fight that almost happened between John and her. She spent some time working with Robin. Soon, she received a call from John, informing her that he was at her place now. She was taken aback by his sudden move.

“Why did you head over? Just call me back. What’s the point of

going to my place?”

John laughed and ignored her questions.

“Where are you now? Just come home. I’m in front of the gate.

”

Sophia checked the time and it happened to be lunch break.

To be honest, she didn’t feel like meeting with John because she thought that they had cleared things up at their last meeting. On top of that, she had vivid memories of her clash with him, which would irk her for some time whenever she recalled that.

However, John did send her home last night, which made her feel a little indebted. Thus, she gave it some consideration and agreed with him. Hanging up, she then notified Robin and went out to hail a cab

home.

The Returning Ex Chapter 474

However, John was not waiting at the front

gate as he had claimed. When

Sophia arrived

at home, she found him seated

in her living

room, watching TV while

waiting for her. Her

eyes bulged in disbelief at the scene.

“How

did you manage to get in?”

He pointed up at the second

floor.

“I’ve told

you before to shut the balcony

doors. But

look, you never listen.

”

At first, Sophia had decided to

thank John

when she met him. However,

the idea went

down the drain in the face of

his trespassing.

There was no point for her to

thank him

anymore. With a sour face, she

sat across

him.

“You were the one who sent me home last night? You didn’t do anything to me, did you?”

John chuckled.

“Why? Are you disappointed? If you have any wish, just let me know. I can cooperate and help you with it right now.”

She frowned.

“Can you be any more shameless than that?” Next, she checked with him by asking,

“Did you see Ian last night?”

John was taken aback.

“Ian?”

Why would you ask?”

Sophia briefly entertained a fleeting thought in her mind before saying, “Ian’s phone was shattered and left in front of my

front door

last night. Did you do that? You hit him?"

Moments later, he denied it.

"Am I that type of man in your eyes?"

Yeah, you are. Sophia recalled that John had punched Ian in the face before on the second floor and the bruises took a few days to heal.

John huffed,

"No, I didn't hit him. Don't

worry. I actually get along fine with him.

"

What nonsense! Sophia would never believe in

that. Then, she stared at John with pursed

lips and finally muttered,

"Your

attitude is

quite okay today. Weren't you quite audacious

last time?"

He could not help but snap back with a hint

of mockery.

**“Was I as
audacious as you?”
Indeed, they almost got into an
ugly and
messy fight that day, but in the
end, he was
the one who surrendered. In
the next few
days, Sophia lived her life as
usual; he was
the only one who felt
uncomfortable at the
thought of their fight.
Now, John had finally let go of it.
A woman
like Sophia could not be dealt
with by using
harsh methods; only the soft
and roundabout
approach would work on her.
No matter how
harsh he acted toward her, he
could never
win as she was much tougher
than him.
Her rebellious streak now was
as strong as
her obedient behavior from
before, and he
had to admit that he could not
handle it.**

Anyway, the thought of Ian's
face last night
made him feel satisfied for
having gotten his
revenge. Then, he suggested,
"Sophia, can we
get along peacefully and never
fight again?"

This was probably the first time
in Young
Master John's life that he
lowered his
dignity to persuade someone,
but she merely
burst out in laughter.

"I have
never wanted
to fight with you; I am too lazy
for that. It
was you who crossed the line.
"

Not wanting to reason with her,
John took
the blame and nodded.

"Sure,
sure. It was my
fault. My fault.
" He had taken
advantage of
her last night anyway, so it was
nothing to let

her win a verbal fight.
Feeling that she had run out of
things she
wanted to say to him, and she
never had
anything important to tell him
in the first
place, she stood up and told
him,
“Alright. I
don’t have anything else to say.
You can leave
now.”

He broke into a smile.
“Cook
some pasta for
me, please? I haven’t had lunch.
Just think of
it as repaying me for sending
you home last
night.”

This dude! One would normally
act
shamelessly for only once and
quit out of
self-respect, but a person who
would act
shamelessly for more than once
was destined

to be a repeated offender. To Sophia, John was obviously heading down the path of a repeated offender.

Staring straight at him for a while, she went into the kitchen to put together a dish for him. Pasta was easy to prepare. She even had the same thing for breakfast that morning and she had all the ingredients ready.

Cheese, beef meatballs and greens were the standard, must-have ingredients in her pasta. She had some homemade salad in the fridge as well, which she took out and served in the dining hall.

John walked over and glanced at the spread that looked familiar. Across him, Sophia took her seat and texted Logan to check if he had found Ian.

It didn't take long for Logan to reply.

According to him, Ian was now with Lorraine in a discussion about the talent show, probably going over some details. He also added that he had asked Ian about the phone, but Ian said he was unaware that the phone had slipped out, thinking that he had somehow misplaced it instead.

The Returning Ex Chapter 475

During lunch, John and Sophia ate in silence.

He was a courteous guest who cleaned his plate, even finishing the sauce.

When he placed his fork down, he burped and said in satisfaction,

**"I haven't had such a huge meal in a long time."
"**

Sophia smiled.

"Why? Do the

**Constances
starve you?"**

**She stood up to clear the table,
but he took
the initiative to help before she
could start.**

**"I'll do it.
"**

**John took the plates and
utensils, placing
them into the dishwasher. Then,
he turned
around to take a look. Sophia
had moved to
the living room and taken a seat
on the sofa
with her legs crossed, still
texting away on
her phone.**

**Actually, John could tell who
she was texting.**

**He leaned against the frame of
the kitchen
door and stated,
"The name of
your store
doesn't sound nice at all.
"**

**Sophia chuckled, but her gaze
remained fixed
on her phone.**

**“You don’t like it?
Live with it. I
didn’t open that store for you
anyway.
”**

**John broke into a smile. This
young lady is
getting meaner in conversations,
but she
seems to only do it to me. Oh
well, I’ll just
think of it as her special
treatment for me.
Then, he checked the time and
told her,
“I’m
leaving. Remember to shut the
doors of your
balcony.
”**

**Sophia merely gave a
noncommittal in
response. Before leaving, he
took a final look
at her. Perhaps it could be from
last night’s
passion, but the sight of Sophia
slumped on
the sofa just like what she
usually did was
unexpectedly alluring to him.**

She didn't look like a young and naive lady, but more like a mature and sophisticated woman.

John silently breathed out from his mouth as he felt waves of emotions in his chest.

After getting into his car, he left Sophia's house. He took out his phone and saw a text from his mother. In the text, she mentioned that they had not had a meal together for some days, so she wanted to meet him for dinner.

Indeed, he had not met her for a few days.

After considering the invitation, he texted back to agree to the dinner and said that he'd contact her at night.

On the other side, Matilda read John's reply and smiled as she texted Isabelle. Isabelle

was in her office and was resting for a while after lunch. After receiving Matilda's text, she smiled and replied with a smiling emoji and a 'thank you' . Matilda immediately replied, 'We're a family. You don't have to thank me.'

John was busy with work for the entire afternoon. After work at night, he immediately received a call from Matilda, telling him that she was waiting for him at an Italian restaurant. Not giving it much thought, John believed that Matilda had chosen the place simply because she knew that he frequently had Italian food. After he was done organizing his stuff, he drove to the meeting place.

Right now, Matilda was mostly staying at the Flintstone Residence and never went out alone for fear that she'd be spotted by someone. She would have trouble explaining herself. Not long ago, Alphonse had to stay in bed for days after he was affected by the news of Matilda's divorce. The public knew that Alphonse Flintstone was a little ill, but they were in the dark about the cause. Thus, Matilda used the excuse to take care of her father and settled down at the Flintstone Residence. However, on the matter of William and Matilda's divorce, many of Matilda's behaviors were surprising. Firstly, she willingly signed the papers without bothering William. Next, even when it

came to the distribution of assets, her decision shocked many.

William was not a stingy man. In fact, he gave a lot of his assets to her in the process of their divorce, enough for her to live the rest of her life in luxury. In the end, she wanted nothing from him; she left the Constances, taking nothing away.

At that time, even Old Mrs. Constance was taken aback. Based on her understanding of Matilda, the latter was not a woman who'd behave this way. She had thought that Matilda would make ridiculous and greedy demands in the divorce.

Nevertheless, John seemed to understand the reasoning behind Matilda's actions. As his father was a soft-hearted man,

if Matilda left without taking anything from him, he would feel as if he owed her something. Once the guilt took place, the relationship between them would turn into a complicated one, for William would surely be unable to cut ties with her cleanly after the divorce.

The Returning Ex Chapter 476
That had to be the intended result of Matilda's decision, which prompted John to think of Sophia.

When they went through the divorce, she accepted everything he gave her without objection. She didn't read the papers before signing them without hesitation. Judging from her actions, she must have wanted nothing to do with him anymore; she had let

go of the failed marriage.

However, it was

John who felt that he could not

let go after

the divorce.

He drove to the Italian

restaurant, parked

his car and walked into the

place. Since

Matilda had booked a room for

them, he

managed to find it based on the

room

number. The moment he

pushed the door

open, however, he was greeted

by Isabelle

instead of Matilda. Just like

John, Isabelle

showed an astonished

expression.

“John?”

He stood at the door.

“Are you

alone?”

Isabelle blinked innocently.

“Yeah. Mrs.

Constance invited me to dinner

and asked me

to wait here.

” She stared right

at him.

“Did
you arrive with her?”

The table in front of Isabelle
was now

occupied with drinks, a sign
that she had
been waiting for some time.

John remained
standing at the door, choosing
not to enter.

“I’m sorry. My mom must have
confused the
plans.

”

At that moment, a waiter
entered with a tray
of food.

“Sir, these are the
dishes you
ordered.

”

Left with no choice, John could
only stand
aside to let the waiter pass
through. Isabelle
looked even more puzzled.

“What is it? Did
she ask you to attend because
she couldn’t
make it?”

Ignoring her, he took out his phone and called his mother, but he then realized that her phone was turned off. He smirked and immediately knew what was going on.

Isabelle stood up and muttered helplessly,

“What is it? What happened?”

John sighed.

“Nothing serious.

My mom

messed up her plans. Anyway,

I’m buying this

meal. You can enjoy the food.

I’ll leave now.

”

“Hey, hey!” Isabelle called out to John, who was leaving.

“Is Mrs. Constance really not coming?”

John replied,

“Yeah. Something

came up on

her end, so she can’t make it here.

”

Isabelle looked conflicted.

“Mrs.

Constance

booked the room and even
ordered the food.

When I first arrived, the waiter
told me that
they received orders for a lot of
food. I

c-can

't finish that alone anyway.

John, if you

haven't had d-dinner, why
not...

”

She stammered in difficulty,
appearing to

feel conflicted at her own
suggestion. After

taking a glance at her, John
replied,

“It's

okay if you can't finish
everything. I don't

like Italian food anyway.

”

Then, he nodded at her as a
final greeting

and turned around to leave.

After a while,

Isabelle slowly slumped into her

seat with a
defeated look.

John left the restaurant and
drove to the
Constance Residence. Old Mrs.
Constance was
having her dinner and was
surprised to see
him home.

“Didn’t you say that
you would be
having dinner somewhere else
today?”

He washed his hands and
entered the dining
hall.

“There were some last
minute changes.
”

Recently, the kitchen of
Constance Residence
had been serving mainly local
cuisine for
dinner, which suited his palette.
Old Mrs. Constance wanted to
visit the
monastery for prayers a few
days later and
she asked him if he wanted to
join.
Immediately, he suggested,

**“I
won’t go. Why
don’t you ask Sophia to go with
you?”**

**The old lady was stunned. Her
expression
changed and her tone sounded
mocking as she**

said,

**“Sophia? I guess that’s
impossible. Now
that the two of you are not
legally related in
any way, she will not entertain
me. Last time,
she visited for the sake of the
Blackwells,
but you came home in the
middle, which
totally spoiled her mood.
”**

**The mention of that incident
made John
smile. He stared at his grandma.**

**“You were
the one who purposely hid my
documents,
weren
't you?”**

Old Mrs. Constance pouted.

“You’re really

slow when it comes to relationships. You're such a brilliant businessman, but why are you so clueless in romance?"

John grunted to indicate his agreement with

Old Mrs. Constance.

"I guess all my talents are used in my business.

"

The Returning Ex Chapter

477 Old Mrs.

Constance told him,

"A few

days ago, your

Aunt Jennifer went for a tarot card reading

for Dylan for romance. The

result wasn't

good and she lost her appetite

for two meals

after she returned.

"

John knitted his brows.

"Card

readings are

not accurate. You can't believe

in that.

”

The old lady stared at him.

“To
be honest,
the reason I wanted you to go
to the
monastery with me is to get a
card reading as
well. I wanted to see how’s the
reading for
your romance.

”

“If that’s the case, I definitely
won’t go.

”

John smiled.

“If I ended up like
Dylan, I
might stop eating for two days
when I get
home.

”

She laughed jovially.

“Oh, it’s
hard to tell
that you care about these
superstitions. I
thought that you wouldn’t care
no matter how
the reading turns out.

”

Well, it was true that John
couldn't care less
about the predictions from the
card reading.

However, any predictions of
bad luck would
more or less affect his mood.

Old Mrs.

Constance mulled over it and
sighed.

"John,
when will you finally
understand your true
feelings?"

He froze in the middle of eating
and fell
silent at his grandmother's
remark.

After dinner, he went to the
open space in

front of the main building,
where he lit a

cigarette and held it in his
mouth. Soon, his

staff sent him a text, notifying
him that Ian

went to meet Sophia.

He smirked and replied with an
order to keep

an eye on how long Ian spent at
Sophia's

place. If Ian was still there late at night, he demanded to be notified. His staff got the order and went ahead. On the other side, Ian had been lingering in front of Sophia's door before entering her house. As Sophia was busy in the kitchen, she totally did not notice that someone had reached her place. So, when Ian called her from the living room, she jumped, feeling startled. She came out of the kitchen to greet him and beamed. "I heard that you were in a discussion about the talent show with Miss Lorraine today. How was it? Are the details finalized?" Judging by her demeanor, she must have been clueless about the

incident last night.

Ian stored away his complicated emotions and

replied,

“Yep. They wanted to

monitor the

audience feedback for the first episode

before they decide my order of appearance.

”

Sophia nodded.

“Miss Lorraine

must have

made a reasonable decision.

Hope that you’ll

shoot to fame then.

”

Ian wanted to smile, but he

could not force

himself to. Instead, he stared

right into

Sophia’s eyes.

“You’ve had a lot

to drink last

night. Are you still feeling sick now?”

The mention of her drinking

reminded her of

it.

“I drank too much last night,

so I can't
remember anything that
happened later. Did
you drop by last night to return
my phone?"

He answered,
"Yes. John was
here when I
dropped by.
"

She nodded.

"I heard that it was
him who
sent me home. Well, John at
least still acts
like a human with a conscience
sometimes.
"

Ian recalled that when John
came downstairs
last night, he obviously just
came out from
shower. Why would John take a
shower
upstairs without any reason?
Something must
have happened between him
and Sophia.
Pursing his lips in bitterness, Ian
hesitated
for some time before asking

Sophia,

**“Do you
remember anything after you
came home with
John?”**

**She went to the sofa and took a
seat with
her legs crossed.**

**“I really had
too much to
drink last night and I lost
consciousness the
moment I left the room at the
bar. I don’t
even know if I made a scene
there. It is so
frustrating!”**

**Ian smiled bitterly. Looks like
she doesn’t
even know that she had been
taken advantage
of by John.**

**There was another matter Ian
wanted to
inform Sophia about during this
visit. He told
her that he’d be in intensive
training sessions
soon. Lorraine got him a vocal
coach and a
fitness instructor to provide**

lessons in early preparation for the talent show. At the news, Sophia appeared to be more excited than him.

“Great! It’s good to have early preparations. That will help you achieve a better standing at the talent show!”

She didn’t sound reluctant at all to see him start the training. It was funny because the first thing Ian thought about was her when he was informed of the intensive training period, which was the reason behind his long hesitation. In response, he chuckled softly.

“Yeah, you think so.

The Returning Ex Chapter 478
Sophia looked earnest when she replied.

“But if you have any issues at the show, you need to let us know. We’ll work on

**getting you some
votes out here.
”**

Ian nodded.

**“Sure.
”**

**Before the visit, he had a lot to
sort out with
Sophia. For example, he wanted
to
understand more about the
incident last
night with John and he wanted
to discuss his
upcoming intensive training.
However, upon meeting Sophia
and seeing
that she was more excited than
sad at the
idea of him going away for the
training, he
suddenly lost the momentum to
ask her
anything.
In the end, he had a brief chat
with her and
left. Sophia appeared tired as
well, because
after Ian left, she closed the
door and
stretched before going up to**

her room.

The moment she switched off the lights in her room, John received an immediate update from his staff who was stalking her. Reading the text, he felt satisfied and put down his phone.

He proceeded to wash up, but when he emerged again, he noticed a few missed calls on his phone, all from Matilda.

Great, she finally came looking for me. He walked up and picked up the call. Before he could say a thing, Matilda hurriedly asked, "John, you left tonight without eating dinner?"

John almost laughed in amusement.

"Why did you arrange for Isabelle to wait at the Italian place?"

Matilda clicked her tongue in

disapproval.

“Son, why are you always so slow? For what other reason would I have arranged for Belle to be there? You’re single now. What’s wrong with getting to know Belle better?”

John sneered.

“Are you still not giving up?”

Annoyed by his attitude, Matilda retorted,

“Giving up for what? Look at you. Oh, I don’t even know where to begin. You should have been with Belle from the start. Now is the right time given that you’ve divorced Sophia, so why are you reluctant?”

John snapped back at her,

“Dad

is single too!

That lady from before is single as well. Say, do you think they’d be a good match if I do some matchmaking?”

“What?” Matilda immediately tensed up.

“Is she still after your dad?”

John smiled.

“They should have been together since the beginning. Dad is divorced now and they’re both single. They should try dating each other.

”

Matilda raised her voice.

“John Constance.

”

John was clearly mocking her by bringing up his dad and the lady, so she continued,

“Sophia is no match for Belle. Why are you being stubborn on this topic?”

John couldn’t be bothered to argue with her, so he merely stated,

“That lady has a better temper than you. She does better skincare

and even has a decent background. If I were to compare her to you, she'd have a greater advantage and she won't be overshadowed by you. I believe that it's a wise decision for Dad to choose her.
”

At this point, Matilda was stumped.

John smirked and said,
“Look;
when you're in the same situation as Sophia, you will change your attitude. So, please don't claim that you are acting in my best interest. You're the only one who would believe that rubbish from your mouth.
”

On the other end, Matilda was absolutely furious, but John didn't spare her at all. He informed her,
“I will be very

busy in the
upcoming weeks. You don't
have to call me
anymore. If you're bored, just
meet up with
your Belle.

”

Then, John hung up on her and
flung his
phone to a side with an
obviously irritated
look on his face.

He had not expected that his
mother would
still be going on about him and
Isabelle.

Obviously, Matilda's horrible
attitude ruined
his marriage with Sophia, but
she seemed to
still be oblivious to the fact that
she was the
source of all problems.

John sighed and wiped his wet
hair before
resting on the bed. When his
hair was almost
dry, he prepared to go to sleep,
but he was
then interrupted by the
incessant text

notification sounds from his phone. He reached out to check his phone and found Isabelle's text.

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"But if you have any issues at the show, you need to let us know. We'll work on getting you some votes out here."
"

Ian nodded.

"Sure."
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training, he suddenly lost the momentum to ask her anything.

In the end, he had a brief chat with her and left. Sophia appeared tired as well, because after Ian left, she closed the door and stretched before going up to her room.

The moment she switched off the lights in her room, John received an immediate update from his staff who was stalking her. Reading the text, he felt satisfied and put down his phone.

He proceeded to wash up, but when he emerged again, he noticed a few missed calls on his phone, all from Matilda. Great, she finally came looking for me. He walked up and picked up the call. Before he could say a thing, Matilda

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“John, you left tonight without
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amusement.

“Why did
you arrange for Isabelle to wait
at the
Italian place?”

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disapproval.

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The Returning Ex Chapter 479

The gist of Isabelle's text was that she felt awkward and embarrassed by

**Matilda's plan,
which she was totally unaware
of. So, she was
apologizing to John for
troubling him.
She had bombarded him with a
slew of texts,
from which he could tell that
she was feeling
anxious. Even after staring at
the texts for
an extended time, he did not
reply in the end.
Instead, he turned off his phone
and the
bedside lamp.
On the other side, Isabelle
clutched her
phone and waited for some
time, but she did
not receive any reply from John.
This must
have meant that he would not
reply to her.
She wondered if it was because
he didn't
read her texts at all, or if he had
purposely
ignored her after reading the
texts.
Feeling antsy, she held her**

phone and paced
around her room a few times.
Just now,
Matilda called and said that she
had
reprimanded John for his
attitude. Matilda
explained that John left
because he was
worried of being seen dining
with other
women, which might cause
some gossip.
It was a plausible explanation.
Lately, John
and Isabelle were captured on
camera by
nosy people a few times.
Thankfully, they
were captured when they were
at work, so
they had assistants around.
When the photos
spreaded online, the media
reported that the
two of them were business
partners, so there
wasn't any nasty gossip. With
that, previous
rumors about John and Isabelle
were

dispelled and speculations on their relationship were slowly clearing up.

Right now, if someone were to discover any slightly suspicious 'private dates'

, it would negatively affect both John and Isabelle.

Anyway, Isabelle couldn't keep a distance from John forever for fear of creating any scandal; she no longer had the patience to keep waiting.

When she was in a few business talks with

John before this, she noticed that John had taken out his phone and clicked into

Facebook. She could clearly see Sophia's selfie on his screen.

It was obvious that John still missed Sophia.

Isabelle thought that if she remained

passive, she might end up losing
him like
before.

She could only tolerate losing
him for once,
for she had no desire, nor the
mental
fortitude, to go through the
same ordeal
twice.

In the span of John and Sophia's
one-year
marriage, Isabelle's daily life
was hellish.

Now, she finally waited until
the day of their
divorce, an opportunity that she
would not
pass on anymore.

After some rumination, she
made a call to
Matilda, and the latter instantly
picked up.

"Belle!"

Isabelle let out a sigh.

"Mrs.

Constance, I

have something to discuss with
you.

" Of

course, Matilda agreed to it and

was very
receptive to Isabelle's ideas.
Meanwhile, John was in the
dark about the
plan between Matilda and
Isabelle. The next
morning at breakfast, he heard
Old Mrs.
Constance bringing up the topic
of the
monastery visit, to which he
suggested once
more,
"I'm serious. You should
try inviting
Sophia to go with you. Let's see
if she'd say
yes. Just try. What if she agrees
to it?"
The old lady chuckled.
"Alright,
I'll ask her.
Even if she says no, I will pester
her until she
agrees.
"

Upon hearing that, John smiled.
"I didn't
mean anything. I was just
suggesting that you
invite her.

”

After the two had breakfast together, John went to work and Old Mrs. Constance immediately made a call to Sophia.

Sophia went to the store early in the morning and was busy with work. When she received the call, she felt a little reluctant to pick up.

Whenever Old Mrs. Constance called her, Sophia would feel restless and anxious. After all, Old Mrs. Constance was John’s grandmother. Sophia felt that if she got in touch with the old lady, she would end up meeting John sooner or later. Well, even if she didn’t get in touch with Old Mrs. Constance, she would still run into John somehow, but the feeling was different.

Sophia stared at the phone for a

long time
before picking up the call
reluctantly.

“Madam.

”

Old Mrs. Constance sighed
wistfully.

“I

prefer to be called ‘Grandma’

.”

Sophia did not know what to
reply to that.

Sensing the silence, Old Mrs.

Constance

directly told her,

“I want to pray

at the

monastery. I really hope that

you’ll come with

me.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 480

Sophia’s initial reaction was to

turn down the

invitation. Shouldn’t Old Mrs.

Constance’s own

family members accompany her

on trips like

the monastery visit? As an

ex-granddaughter-in-law,

Sophia felt uncomfortable at the idea of going out with Old Mrs. Constance. Old Mrs. Constance sighed and explained that she saw Sophia receiving a very positive outcome from a past card reading at the Blackwell Residence, a proof that Sophia had better luck. Therefore, she wanted Sophia to tag along to share some of the luck. Sophia chuckled. "What good luck? Look at me in the past. Did I look like a lucky woman?" Old Mrs. Constance sighed. "Well, your luck must have turned around. Your stars are aligned. Don't you know that the Blackwells' stagnant business flourished after you received your reading? It's all

thanks to you.

”

Old Mrs. Constance was a professional in terms of bluffing. Scratching her head

awkwardly, Sophia said,

“I think

you should

ask John to go to the monastery with you.

He’s a lucky man too.

”

Yeah, he’s lucky in life, except

when he was

forced to marry me. Sophia

secretly

grumbled.

Old Mrs. Constance’s was

immediately filled

with disappointment.

“Sophia,

are you going

to abandon all of us after your

divorce with

John?”

Sophia clutched her phone but

remained

silent. It was true that she did

not want any

more interaction and trouble

with the
Constances after the divorce.
Sure, she could
remain friends with John, but
they should
not get too tangled up in their
daily lives.
She was fine with occasional
contact with
John, but if she had to
accompany any
member of the Constance
Family on trips, it
would only complicate matters.
Then, Old Mrs. Constance
pleaded,
“I have
never begged you for anything
before. Just
do me a favor this time, will you?
Please?
Sophia?”
Sophia let out a sigh and
relented. In the
face of Old Mrs. Constance’s
dogged
insistence, she stood no chance
of turning
down the invitation. Defeated,
she decided to
stop the lengthy conversation

and agreed to
it. Next time, she could
confidently say no to
the old lady.

Old Mrs. Constance was over
the moon and
said that she'd send a driver to
pick Sophia
up the next day, to which
Sophia curtly
answered,
"Okay."
"

After the call, Sophia fell into a
long silence
before bursting into laughter,
reminiscing
about the old days when she
didn't get along
well with the Constances.
Beside her, Robin
chuckled.

"I overheard
everything. That
grandma from the Constance
Family seems
very nice to you."
"

Sophia flashed her an
ambiguous smile.
"Oh,

really?” But in the past, Old Mrs. Constance didn’t treat Sophia nicely. Her niceties came at the same time as John’s patience for her appeared—after the divorce. No matter how she looked at it, everything was belated and unnecessary.

Sophia continued to busy herself in the store until noon. Then, she left for a grocery store close to the desserts place to shop for some groceries before heading home. It only took her a round of shopping at the meat and poultry section before she bumped into someone she knew.

Matilda and Isabelle were pushing a shopping cart, walking and chatting like mother and daughter. Since Sophia didn’t expect to run into the two here, she was

rather taken
aback.
Matilda looked alright after her
divorce from
William, which was different
from what
Sophia had imagined. Initially,
Sophia thought
that Matilda would look
disheveled or
dispirited, but her
ex-mother-in-law
appeared the same as before.
Perhaps, the
divorce was yet to be
announced publicly, so
Matilda thought that she still
stood a chance.
Sophia's eyes only stayed on
them for
seconds before she shifted her
attention,
picking her grocery items. On
the other side,
Matilda and Isabelle were still
talking and
laughing. When Matilda turned
around, she
immediately spotted Sophia.
At this time of the day, the
grocery store

was not as crowded. Sophia was eye-catching because she was dressed trendily and she had good looks, making her stand out from the rest of the shoppers.

Matilda was stunned as she frowned. Noticing the pause in Matilda's actions, Isabelle asked,
"Mrs. Constance, what's the..."

Mid-sentence, Isabelle noticed Sophia as well. Isabelle could normally hide her emotions very well, so the surprise on her face vanished within seconds. Still smiling, she pushed her cart and walked toward Sophia.

"Miss Gwendolyn, you're here too!"
Sophia slowly turned around and looked at the two of them.

“Oh, what a coincidence!”

The Returning Ex Chapter

481 Matilda pursed

her lips and stared at Sophia with a reluctant

expression, but her tone was friendlier

compared to before.

“Why are you here?”

Sophia totally ignored Matilda, but the latter

dared not provoke Sophia nowadays because

Sophia held a weapon—the knowledge of her

divorce. Then, Isabelle glanced at Sophia

before turning to look at

Matilda, who was

acting quite differently than before, to

Isabelle’s surprise.

Ignoring the two, Sophia simply picked her

groceries at the section and left with her

cart. When Sophia vanished from Matilda’s

sight, Matilda spat,

**“Who does
she think she
is? Just another cheap woman.
She thinks too
highly of herself.
”**

**Isabelle smiled gently.
“It’s okay.
Let’s not
get angry at people like her. It’s
not worth
it.
”**

**Now, Matilda had the guts to
talk bad about
Sophia at her back.
“I can’t be
bothered to
argue with people like her. Do
you know that
she’s a crazy and uncouth
woman who doesn’t
care about decency when she
argues? Saying
one more word in front of her
only makes me
feel that I’m descending to her
level.
”**

**“Yeah yeah.
” Isabelle smiled**

and went along
with her.

“Now that John has
divorced her,
the Constance Family will have
no connection
whatsoever with her! Let’s not
get angry. We
will completely cut her off from
our lives.
”

Matilda took Isabelle’s hand.

“If
not for
John’s grandpa’s insistence
back then, I
would never have allowed a
woman like her to
marry into our family. For this, I
feel very
guilty toward you.
”

Isabelle pursed her lips into a
forced smile.

“Oh well, thankfully it’s all over
now.
”

Matilda drew a long sigh.

“Yeah.

In the
future, you should get along

well with John.

We'll never bring this topic up anymore.

”

Isabelle sank into conflicted thoughts and she stole a look at the direction where

Sophia had left. To her, the problem was the great difficulty to get closer to John, for he was not enthusiastic toward her and she felt difficult to make any other moves.

With her hands full of groceries, Sophia got home and instantly received a call from

Logan. He was chuckling over the phone, telling her that trouble ensued at the

Morgans again. With his continuous interference and scheming, it was only normal for the Morgans to be putting out fires every day.

Logan couldn't tell that Sophia was uninterested, so he rambled on. "Simon went out to have fun last night and went home a little drunk. On his way back, he asked the cab driver to stop for him to puke on the street, but he ended up getting robbed out there!"

Simon was quite hot-tempered to start with. Coupled with the effect of alcohol, he was definitely unwilling to surrender, so he immediately got into a brawl with the two hooligans on the street. The cab driver was scared and didn't get out of the car to help. Therefore, Simon managed to get himself injured and hospitalized after going up alone against the two men. Sophia replied,

“Oh. Those two hooligans were hired by you, weren’t they?”

“Yeah, that’s right.

” Logan sounded proud of himself.

“Only I could teach that insolent brat a lesson.

” True. Logan had a worse reputation than Simon; only a bad guy like him could deal with another equally horrid jerk.

Logan, the troublemaker, laughed out loud.

“I went to the hospital to check on him in the morning. His arm and leg were fractured, and Leah Zimmerman was howling and sobbing at his bedside.

”

Sophia sighed at his immaturity.

“Be careful.

They must have lodged a police

report.

”

“Whatever.

” Logan didn’t look like he cared.

“I paid enough to shut the two guys up.

”Then,

Logan mentioned something else.

“Oh, by the way, I ran into John’s mom this morning at the hospital. I wanted to greet her at first, but when I thought of how she mistreated you, I straight up ignored her.

”

Actually, Matilda didn’t like Logan as well, a fact that he was well aware of. Therefore, he didn’t want to receive the cold shoulder from her.

Finally showing some interest, Sophia raised a brow.

“Oh? Why did you run into her at the

hospital of all places?”

**Logan smacked his lips and
replied,**

“Not sure.

**I saw her meeting up with a
doctor for
updates, but I felt that she was
acting very
suspiciously. She had sunglasses
on and was
tiptoeing around furtively as if
she was
scared of getting found out.
”**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 482
Sophia contemplated and said,
“I haven’t
heard anything unusual from
the Constance
Family lately. So, could she be
visiting
someone from her maiden
family in the
hospital?”**

**Hearing her statement, Logan
quickly denied
it.**

**“If that’s the case, why did
she have to
act like a thief who’s afraid to
get caught**

then? I doubt things were likely as you speculated. Instead, her sneaky behavior looked like she was sniffing around about someone else, just like me.
”

Sophia was amused by Logan’s humorous reply as she responded with an affirmative hum.
“Now that you put it that way, I think you could be right.
”

In fact, Sophia was never interested in Matilda, but since the latter had always treated her harshly throughout the year she stayed with the Constance Family, she found that experience to be more unforgettable than anything else in the past twenty years. Therefore, she didn’t want to have anything to do with Matilda, but her

curiosity
subsequently got the better of
her. Hence,
she asked,
“Can you find out
who Mrs.
Constance visited in the
hospital and who she
was sniffing around about?”
Logan laughed in response.
“Look at yourself.
You and I are not so different
after all. Don’t
worry about it, for I’ve already
gotten my
men to investigate the matter
because I’m as
curious as you are.
”

Sophia replied,
“Alright, that
should ease my
mind. I guess I’ll wait for your
news then.
”

After that, Logan continued to
go on and on
about the Morgan Family and
how he put
Simon in the hospital,
recounting his story

again and again as he had just won a glorious war. Nevertheless, she didn't rain on his parade but instead put her phone aside and went ahead to cook, only responding with an affirmative hum once in a while.

Not long after that, it appeared that Logan had somehow run out of things to say, so he asked what Sophia was doing.

In a sluggish manner, Sophia answered,

"I'm cooking, and the tap water is running, so I can't really hear you."
"

Logan paused and said,

"Oh, cook more then. I'll be on my way to your place. Bye!" Before Sophia could even respond, Logan hung up the call directly.

After that, Sophia rolled her eyes and continued to cook, but before Logan arrived, John showed up. Upon catching a glimpse of a silhouette in the living room, she thought it was Logan and said, "Just wait in the dining area. I'll be done soon."
"

John then walked closer and leaned on the door frame.

"Am I expected to be here?"

His words freaked Sophia out, whereupon she turned around and stared at the man.

"Why are you here?"

The smile on John's face slowly faded away.

"Aren't you expecting me? Who else could there be if it's not me you're expecting?"

Sophia was rendered speechless

before she
said,
“What brings you here?
Speak if you
have anything to say and get
out of here
when you’re done.
”

John folded his arms, finding
himself
desensitized to the woman’s
mean remark
because no one had ever
treated him that
way. Furthermore, while this
was his first
time warming up to Sophia, her
nonchalant
attitude caught him off guard,
so he frankly
stated his purpose.

“I came to
visit, and
that’s all.
”

“What’s worth visiting here?”
Sophia replied
with a smile.
John let out a sigh and echoed
her words.
“Yeah, what’s worth visiting

here?" I just
can
't help missing her when I don't
see her,
but now that I do, I don't seem
to feel
better either. Furthermore, the
Sophia I
know wouldn't show anyone
else her cold gaze
and annoying look. Why can't
she be happy
when she sees me, just like the
way she used
to?

Soon, Sophia served the dishes
in the dining
area, while John stood aside
and watched the
woman. I don't know why, but
this feels like
the day we divorced. That day,
John was
sitting in his office for a really
long time,
even missing his appointment
with Sophia at
the Civil Affairs Bureau. Despite
that, he
continued to sit in his office
while dwelling on

the matter.

The Returning Ex Chapter 483

While the divorce was part of the plan even

before they got married, John didn't know

why he couldn't bring himself to take that

step in the matter. Soon, Logan arrived just

as Sophia was done serving all the dishes.

When he saw John, he paused and said,

“Look

who we have here! It seems that I just got

here in the nick of time. Come, let's eat!”

Logan wasn't surprised to see an unexpected

guess. Instead, he welcomed John as if it was

his home.

Seeing Logan, John heaved a sigh of relief

and turned his attention to Sophia.

“So,

Logan is the one you've been waiting for, isn't

he?”

“Get a fork and knife for yourself,

” Sophia

demanded with a darkened face.

Meanwhile, Logan seemed to respond more enthusiastically than Sophia did as he headed to the kitchen to grab the utensils for John.

“Come on, help yourself!”

Witnessing Logan’s reaction, Sophia was

rendered speechless by it. It looks like Young

Master Jefferson has no idea how to deal

with people tactfully. Can’t he sense

something wrong when he sees my

ex-husband hanging around with me? Come

on, which part of that makes sense to him?

Nonetheless, Logan proceeded to sit down

and talk about the Morgan Family as he

proceeded to tell his story.

“It’s

all thanks to

John that I was able to teach

the sibling duo

a lesson by showing that old

man, Bryce, the

evidence. Well, I bet you did

that for Sophia,

didn’t you, John?”

John shifted his gaze to Sophia,

but the

latter didn’t look back, as she

only ate her

meal with a gloomy face. He

then responded

with an affirmative hum.

“Yeah,

that’s right.

”

Logan laughed out loud and

said,

“I knew it!

You didn’t do anything no

matter how

arrogant those two idiots were,

until you

decided to strike them. I guess

it must have

really gotten on your nerves

because Sophia

was hurt.

”

However, John didn't say anything in response, while Logan went on and on with some inappropriate topics.

“How did both of you end up with a divorce? I don't understand, to be honest.

”

“There is a lot you don't understand, but for now, just keep your mouth shut and eat!”

Sophia shifted her gaze to Logan and shushed him.

Logan was slightly taken aback, asking,

“What's wrong with you? Are you in a bad mood? Because you wouldn't usually talk to me like that”

“Yup, I'm in a bad mood,

”

Sophia replied.

Hearing her reply, Logan curiously asked,

“Oh, come on! After all the exciting stories I’ve been telling, how can you still be so moody?”

“Well, I guess I’m to blame for that,

” John explained.

I’m surprised he knows that.

Sophia continued to put on a gloomy look throughout the meal without saying a single word. After

that, the office hours in the Constance Group nearly came to an end, so John didn’t stick

around for too long, which he left shortly

after a brief chat with Logan.

Upon reaching his company by car, he entered

the lobby, only to be greeted by Isabelle.

Seeing her, he knitted his brows and

approached the lady.

“What’s going on?”

Upon noticing John's return,
Isabelle smiled
and uttered,
"Nothing. I went
upstairs, but
you weren
't around. So, I told your staff to
let me know once you're back."
"

Soon, John
caught a glimpse of two gift
boxes on the
table, responding with an
affirmative hum
while gazing at Isabelle.
"By the
way, what
brings you here today?"
Isabelle answered with a calm
expression,
"Nothing really important. I
passed by your
company when I was on my
way to meet my
client just now. Besides, I just
gave Zack the
delivery order."
" In response,
John replied
tersely in agreement.
After a short contemplation,

Isabelle stated,
“Other than that, I have also
stated the
things that you need to take
note of in the
order because it may look a
little complicated
this time. The amount of the
required
materials is more than usual, so
please feel
free to contact me if you have
anything you
don’t understand.

” As John
nodded, Isabelle
reacted with a smile and said,
“I’m going to
make a move now. So, I’ll leave
you to it.
”

In the meantime, John stood in
place as he
watched Isabelle leave. Then,
he turned his
attention to the receptionist
and asked,
“Are
these gifts from Miss Bailey?”
In the face of John’s question,
the two

receptionists nervously replied,
“Yes, we
tried to turn her down, but she
insisted that
we keep them, saying that
they’re all just
some small gifts.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 484
Fortunately, John wasn’t going
to blame
them. Instead, he nodded and
said,
“Well, if
you ever receive any gift that
looks big and
expensive again, don’t turn
them down. Just
get Zack.
”

The two receptionists nervously
responded
with a nod.
“Yes, understood.
”

Then, John turned around and
walked toward
the elevator to return to his
office upstairs,
where he saw a stack of files on
his desk.

Upon taking a glance at them,
he supposed
they were from Isabelle. After
that, he
proceeded to skim through the
papers for a
bit before putting them aside,
as he was
getting a little sleepy due to his
hefty lunch.

Hmm. I rarely feel so sleepy at
this time.

Soon, John massaged his brow
ridge and
leaned on the chair for a few
minutes when
his office door was suddenly
opened. The
next moment, he was greeted
by Dylan, who
came in with a document in his
hand, which he
needed John to sign on. As he
took over the
papers, he directly asked,
“Do
you have any
blind dates tonight?”
Dylan paused and said,
“Yup.
”

John responded with a smile while signing on the document's last page.

"I wish you the best of luck!"

Dylan stared at his cousin and replied,

"Nah! It's just for show, man! I'm never a believer in matchmaking.

" Nevertheless, he soon smiled faintly and added, "Anyway, I'll just wait and see how things play out. What's mine will be mine sooner or later.

" In response, John only paused and looked at Dylan.

Later that night, John stayed back for overtime before he finally decided to leave work. When he stepped out of the elevator, he was greeted by Matilda, who was standing

in the lobby. Nonetheless, the sight of his own mother didn't put a smile on his face when he recalled what she did earlier.

Meanwhile, Matilda looked as if nothing had ever happened before and seized John's arm.

"I've been waiting for you here the whole day.

I thought you were only going to leave at midnight. How can you not be concerned about your health, my boy? You need to rest when it's time to rest. It's getting late now, and you should've probably called it a day sooner.

”

"Why are you here?" John stared at Matilda and asked her.

Matilda took her hands off John's arms and let out a sigh.

"When I passed

by this place, I
figured I should drop by at that
moment
since it was about time for
everyone to leave
work, but as I approached the
receptionists,
I was told that you hadn't left.
So, I decided
to wait here, although I didn't
expect it to
take so long.

" After that, she
held John's
arms again and said,
"I haven't
had dinner! So,
let's find something to eat
together.

"

Tired from work, John was
reluctant to tag
along for dinner, but Matilda
appeared to be
rather insistent as she grasped
his arm
tightly.

"Your grandpa and
grandma don't
seem to be happy with me
lately. They

wouldn't give me a break even
when we sat
down together for a meal, and
I'm really
tired of their lecture. Thus, I
don't feel like
eating at home. I'm miserable
enough, so why
can
't they stop complaining about
me and
start thinking from my point of
view?"

After listening to his mother's
reply, John
swallowed his words that were
already
forming at the tip of his tongue.
Nonetheless, he knew Matilda's
life would
probably be tough in the days
to come, but at
the same time, he reckoned she
brought it all
upon herself.

As they stepped out of the
building, Matilda
entered her son's car like she
owned it and
said,
"Let's go! I know a place

with some
awesome food! It's usually not
that crowded
there, so we might be able to
get a place if
we head there now.

" Without
saying a single
word, John drove to the
destination that
Matilda described. When they
arrived at the
restaurant, John noticed that
there weren't
many cars parked around the
restaurant,
probably because of its remote
location. It
looks like they don't get a lot of
customers
here.

Upon exiting his car, John set
his eyes on the
restaurant's plaque and asked,
"Is the food
here good?"

"Why don't you find out for
yourself?"

Matilda laughed it off and
proceeded to
enter the restaurant with John.

Since the
restaurant wasn't crowded,
their arrival was
quickly noticed as a waiter
approached them
and asked,
"Hello, how may I
help you?"

"We have a reserved room,
"

Matilda said.

The waiter blinked his eyes,
instantly
catching on to Matilda's words.

"I see. Please
come with me.

" After that, both
of them
entered a lounge that wasn't
really big before
they were given a menu each.

The Returning Ex Chapter 485

"Hold on,

" Matilda waved her
hand and said.

"Is there someone else?" John
frowned in
confusion.

Matilda smiled in response and
answered,

"N-No, it's just that we should

order some drinks first. I've been super thirsty since I waited in the lobby back there. Then, she proceeded to act like she was going through the beverages on the menu, ordering a glass of fruit juice before she continued to skim through the menu. Not long after the waiter left, the door was opened again in less than a minute.

Nevertheless, it was Isabelle who came in instead of the waiter. While opening the door, she appeared to still be talking.

"I was caught in the jam, Mrs. Constance. So, I..."

Soon, she stopped mid-sentence as her expression became awkward. On the other hand, John's face darkened the

moment he saw Isabelle, but Matilda didn't seem to notice his son's sulky look. She then stood up and said, "Hey Belle, you're here. Come, please have a seat! We were waiting for you."
"

Isabelle slowly walked closer and sat before John while embarrassedly saying, "So, John is here too, huh."
"

Matilda answered on her son's behalf, "Yeah, I passed by his company when I was on my way here, so we decided to come here together. Here is the menu, and let's place our order."
"

Isabelle appeared a little cautious when she

glimpsed at John, whereupon she took the menu that was handed to her. Meanwhile, the man was only seen with a sulky look on his face. So, this is where my mom wanted to take me. I knew something was wrong with her from the beginning. Afraid to place her order, Isabelle only picked two dishes before passing the menu to John, but the man didn't respond until Matilda took it and began flipping through it. "This fish looks pretty nice, John. Do you like it? What do you say we try this one?" Soon, John took a cigarette box out of his pocket and lit up a cigarette without even answering Matilda's question. While his reaction implied that he was unhappy, Matilda

shifted her eyes to Isabelle,
who carefully
shook her head.
Then, Matilda sighed and said,
“Alright, I
think we should try this fish out,
as well as
some salads. This dessert looks
good too, so
maybe we should try this one
out. Oh yeah,
we must never miss their
signature cuisine,
and also, I’ve heard about their
delicious
mushroom soup. So, we should
get one of
those too.
”

In the meantime, John only
remained silent
all this while until the waiter
left, leaning on
his chair as he flicked his
cigarette into the
ashtray. Not long after that,
Isabelle
pondered for a while and
uttered,
“I thought
it was just you and me, Mrs.

Constance. I
didn't think John would be
there too, so
that's why I got scared when I
saw someone
else in here.
”

Matilda said,
“Well, that was
the initial plan,
but since I happened to pass by
John's
office, I realized he hadn't left
work, so I
figured we could perhaps grab
dinner
together. After all, the more the
merrier,
right?”

Meanwhile, John only
responded with a
nonchalant smile, implicitly
taunting Matilda.
At the sight of her son's
reaction, Matilda
decided to keep quiet, knowing
that she
shouldn't push her headstrong
son too far, or
her plan could backfire.
However, she was

still rather grateful that John didn't embarrass her by walking out on her despite his anger. I guess that still counts as a success.

The next few moments, none of them said a single word until the dishes were served.

While there weren't many customers in the restaurant, the dishes were served pretty quickly. Upon waiting for all the dishes to arrive, Matilda courteously treated Isabelle by placing some dishes onto her plate.

"Come, Belle. You should take more of this. This one is packed with nutrition!" Then, she picked up a fork and knife before passing them to John.

"Let's dig in."
"

After receiving the fork and knife, John glanced through every dish on the table, which he found unappetizing. Therefore, he laid down his fork and knife shortly after that and said, "You guys can carry on. I'm going to smoke outside.

" He then took his cigarette box out, ready to stand up from his seat.

Afraid that John would secretly ditch them, Matilda quickly placed her hand on his phone on the table.

"You can go ahead and smoke outside, but leave your phone here.

"

The Returning Ex Chapter 486
The next moment, John stared Matilda down, but his mother showed no sign

of giving in,
stubbornly placing her hand
over his phone. A
few seconds later, John turned
around and
left the room before Matilda
proceeded to
close the door and sneer,
“Hmph! That brat
still has much to learn if he
really wants to
mess with me.
”

Soon, Isabelle said in a hushed
tone,
“Mrs.
Constance, I doubt John is
happy about this.
Do you think we’ve crossed the
line
somehow?”
“What’re you talking about?”
Matilda replied
in confusion.
“Everything that
I’ve ever done
has always been for his own
good. It’ll be
fine, so don’t take it to heart.
We’ll just
enjoy our food here while

waiting for him to
return.

”

A few moments after John left,
his phone
that was left on the table began
to vibrate,
which turned out to be an
incoming call.

Matilda directly declined the
call, but John’s
phone rang again a few seconds
later.

Therefore, she took a closer
look, only to
realize that the call was from
Logan. Nothing
can be important from Logan!
Once again, she
hung up the call, thinking how
she never really
approved of John’s association
with Logan in
the first place because she
reckoned that
Logan was a bad influence on
her son.

Meanwhile, Logan was staring
at his phone
unhappily.

“What’s wrong with

**John? Why
won
't he pick up my call?"
At the same time, Sophia was
watching
television when she noticed
Logan's
frustration.**

**"Why are you
calling John? If
you
're bored, do something else
that's worth
your time, but let me make this
clear to you!
Don't you dare call John over,
or I swear I'll
make you regret it.
"**

**Logan then turned his attention
to Sophia
and replied,
"Come on! I just
want to ask him
something about the Morgan
Family because
I believe he must have
discovered some
useful information about Leah's
dirty work.
Now that I've taken care of**

those two
imbeciles, that b*tch is my next
target!”

Switching to a new channel,
Sophia said,

“Do
what you want and leave. I’m
getting sleepy,
so I’m going to bed soon.
”

Unwilling to give up, Logan
decided to call
again. This time, someone
picked up the call,
but the voice he heard was
Matilda’s instead
of John’s.

“Why do you keep
calling, Logan?”

After a brief pause, Logan asked,
“Where is
John?”

Before Matilda could say
anything further,
Isabelle’s voice was heard on
the other end,
saying,

“Please try this, Mrs.
Constance. This
one tastes really good! This is
for John. I

think he is going to like it!”

**Logan was seen with his mouth
agape before
he hissed.**

**“Is Isabelle with you
now?” As**

**soon as Sophia heard that, she
blinked and
squinted without saying a single
word.**

**Logan’s question apparently
caught Matilda by
surprise, so she only brushed
him off with an
affirmative hum.**

**“Is there
something
important that you’re calling
John for?” Well,
there is indeed something
important, but
Mrs. Constance must never
know about it.**

**After a short hesitation, Logan
answered,**

**“Nothing. I just wanted to call
him for a little
chat. Isn’t he with you all?”**

**In response, Matilda told him
that John was
away as he had gone to the**

washroom.

After hearing that, Logan decided to give up pressing on.

“Alright, I guess I shall leave you guys to it. Perhaps I’ll call John again later.

”

Upon hanging up the call, he laid down his phone and sniggered, “I can’t believe John is now dining with Isabelle. How can he eat before a lady like Isabelle? I guess I’m really impressed by that.

”

Sophia replied with a smile, “Miss Bailey is pretty and kind-hearted. So, don’t get jealous of her.

”

“I’m jealous of her?” Logan approached Sophia and pointed at his own eyes.

“Listen.

I'm not trying to blow my own trumpet, but I can tell whether someone is fake. I may not be good at a lot of things, but judging characters is definitely not one of them. In fact, I even dare to say I'm second to no one when it comes to that.

”

Looking askance at Logan, Sophia laughed and said,
“Alright! Alright! I get it! If there isn't anything else important, please leave now. I'm going to hit the hay soon.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 487
Although the night was still young, Logan pondered for a while and realized he had imposed on Sophia throughout the afternoon, so it was perhaps time for him to make a move. Therefore, he

didn't stick around any longer
as he directly
said goodbye to Sophia.
Meanwhile, Sophia was sitting
on the couch
while enjoying the television
program, which
was a music talent show. All
talent shows are
more or less the same! The first
few stages
are not worth watching at all
until the final,
when the competition gets
intense. Shortly
after that, Sophia grew tired of
the show
and directly turned off the
television. Then,
she locked the door and the
windows before
she headed upstairs.
Isabelle is quite a nice lady,
actually. If John
could marry her, their
cooperation is going to
be fortified as their forces grow
even
stronger. By then, I'm sure
there'll be a lot
they can accomplish. Upon

returning to her
room, Sophia contemplated for
a short while
before she decided to walk to
the balcony
door to make sure that it was
locked.

Not even a fly can slip into my
room with all
openings shut. Soon, she
shifted her eyes
outside the window as she
thumped her
chest. Oh gosh! Something is
bothering me!

In the meantime, John seemed
as if he had
disappeared ever since he went
out to smoke,
while Isabelle and Matilda had
already
finished their meals. Baffled,
Matilda said,
“Wait for me here, Belle. I’m
going to head
outside and have a look.
”

Isabelle nodded and sat in place
as Isabelle
stepped out of the room and
headed to the

lobby, where there were only a few customers. After she failed to find John there, she exited the restaurant, only to find him sitting in the car.

Angry with her son's attitude, Matilda immediately walked closer to the car and knocked on the window. She then noticed John had lowered his seat while seemingly taking a nap. Upon hearing the knock on the glass, John slowly turned his head around and looked at the window. With the window left ajar, Matilda could hear what the man said.

"Are you done eating? Come on, let's take you home."
"

Matilda questioned in a hushed tone,

"What're you doing, John?"

"What're you doing?" John

smiled and echoed
her words.
Frustrated with her son's
reaction toward
her question, Matilda lashed
out,
"What have
I done wrong? I just want you
to be with
Belle.
"

John wound down the car
window and refuted
his mother.
"You want me to be
with her?
Why don't you be with her
instead? Why
must you make the call for
me?"
Matilda pursed her lips, finding
it hard to
talk sense into John's head.
John and
Isabelle are meant to be
together. They'll
just be starting everything anew
despite
their divorce. What's wrong
with him?
John adjusted his seat and

replied,
“If you
keep doing this, I’ll never dine
with you ever
again, and this will be our last
time eating
together.”
”

Soon, Matilda began to lose her
patience.

“Are you out of your mind? So,
you’re going to
abandon your mom for
Sophia?”

In fact, John had always been
level-headed
and indifferent in nature due to
his family
background. Because of that, he
had adopted
a nonchalant stance about
family values. Not
long after that, he stared at
Matilda and
replied,
“You’re the one who
abandons
everyone you love for Isabelle!
No wonder my
dad abandoned you, and it
looks like you still

don't understand why.

”

“John!” Matilda raised her voice because she

would never allow anyone to say something

like that to her. There is no way

William will

abandon me! After all, I'm the

apple of his

eye as always.

John demanded,

“Where is my

phone? Give it

back to me.

” With the phone in

her hand,

Matilda lowered her head and

returned it to

him by throwing it into the car

through the

window.

“Take it back! You're

just as

stubborn as your dad is! Why

can't you see

the way I see this matter?”

Nevertheless, John directly

started the

engine and wound up the

window, seemingly

with no intention to give
Matilda a ride home.
In a fit of rage, the woman
kicked his car as
the man just drove off without
saying a
single word.

The Returning Ex Chapter 488

Matilda stood in place and
gritted her teeth
angrily. At the same time,
Isabelle watched
the entire interaction between
the mother
and son from the window
upstairs.

Although she might not be able
to hear their
conversation, she could tell that
things didn't
go well between both of them.

Soon, she went
back to her seat and sat in a
sulk. Why is
John so hard to tackle? Not long
after that,
Isabelle returned to her seat,
and Matilda
came back to the room.

As Matilda showed up, she tried
to force a

smile and explained in John's defense, saying that he had left earlier because he was busy.

On the other hand, Isabelle pretended as if she didn't know anything and replied,

"I see.

Well, I think he must be really busy with his work, so it's okay.

"

In the meantime, Matilda wasn't in a hurry to leave either. Thus, she sat back in her seat and uttered,

"You need to have a relationship no matter how busy you are.

Too bad that kid, John, just never understands.

" In an

attempt to comfort Isabelle, Matilda added,

"John is just a little indifferent.

After all, he

has never really had a lot of friends since he

was little.
Besides, he dedicates all his energy and time to work, as we all know, which is why he tends to be a little insensitive when it comes to romantic relationships. No human is perfect, so perhaps we should give him time to open up. Please just bear with him, my dear.
”

Isabelle responded with a smile as she was overwhelmed by fear deep down. I wouldn't mind waiting if John is going to open his heart up in the end, but as I keep waiting and tolerating him patiently, I'm afraid that someone else could steal his heart away.
While John had already footed the bill, Matilda and Isabelle directly left the restaurant and took a cab home

separately.

After waiting for Matilda to leave, Isabelle flagged down a cab and hesitated for a short while before she named the address of Sophia's residence to the driver.

Although she had never been there, she previously heard from Matilda that John gave Sophia an apartment unit to live in when they divorced.

Sophia must be living so comfortably right there since Matilda once mentioned that it was a strategic location.

As the car slowly approached her destination, Isabelle told the driver to drop her off somewhere nearby, which she decided to walk there by herself. At this time, Sophia was already asleep with the lights out. Upon taking a look from afar, Isabelle

proceeded
to walk closer shortly before
she abruptly
stopped in her tracks and
quickly hid behind a
tree.

It turned out that she saw a car
parked
outside Sophia's residence with
its headlights
off. Then, she noticed a man,
who was leaning
on the vehicle, staring at
Sophia's unit on the
second floor. At the sight of
that, Isabelle
was overwhelmed by a sting of
pain and
jealousy. Under the illuminating
streetlight,
she could tell who that person
was by his
figure even without looking at
his face. She
then continued to stand behind
the tree
while peeking at John, who was
seen holding a
cigarette without smoking it.
After that, the
man tossed it onto the ground

and trod it
before he reached out for his
phone and
appeared to be reading
something in an
absorbed manner.
Standing under the streetlight,
John didn't
show a lot of expression on his
face while
lowering his head, but Isabelle
could tell that
he was smiling faintly yet gently.
After
standing there for some time,
he finally
turned around and got into his
car, whereas
Isabelle hid behind the tree
until John drove
off and disappeared from sight.
Soon, Isabelle took a deep
breath and slowly
emerged from behind the tree,
approaching
the spot that John parked his
car. Then, she
saw several cigarette butts on
the floor
before she unhappily trod on
them while

feeling a twinge of pain deep
down as if
someone was pinching her
heart.

Meanwhile, Sophia was in her
sleep and had
no idea what happened outside
her residence.

As soon as she woke up, she
stretched
herself and proceeded to go
about her
morning ablutions in a relaxed
manner. Then,
she tidied up her clothes and
did her laundry,
but she was soon caught in a
trance when she
turned on the washing
machine.

The Returning Ex Chapter 489
Sophia found something inside
the washing
machine, which turned out to
be the dress
that she wore earlier wrapped
in her
bedsheet. Soon, her mind
began to have
flashbacks of images that
seemed blurry to

her. In fact, she had been having vivid dreams so frequently that she somehow got them mixed up with reality. This looks like they've been washed before. I just haven't dried them. Staring at the dress, she remembered wearing it that day when she hung out with Logan. Therefore, she put it back into the washing machine and washed it again before she proceeded to prepare her meal while recalling what had happened earlier. Gosh! Everything that happened that day seems like a mess in my mind right now. I guess I must have drunk a little too much than I could handle. However, Sophia failed to recall what happened even until she was done preparing

her breakfast. Fearing that she'd think of something erotic, she decided to give up recalling as she didn't want those dirty thoughts to pop up in her mind. That can only exist in my dream but never in reality.

After taking her breakfast, she received a call from Ian, who mentioned the matter that she had been recalling. Besides, he told her that he had finished packing his stuff because he had to be away for his training, so he'd like to say goodbye to her. I can hear Logan's voice. It sounds like Ian is now with him, and Logan is giving him a checklist of things that he should bring along. Upon hearing that, Sophia said, "Are you going to

leave right now? If you are, I'll
head over
right now.
”

Ian hesitated and said,
“I'm
now at Logan's
place.
”

In response, Sophia responded
with an
affirmative hum, immediately
hanging up the
call before she grabbed her
belongings and
set out. In fact, she didn't do
that just to
show Ian her support but also
to give him her
blessing. By the time she got
there, Ian was
already standing at the
entrance with a car
parked by the roadside, which
suggested that
his ride had arrived. While Ian
already had
his luggage placed in the car,
Sophia quickly
got out of the vehicle and
scurried toward

him.

“Ilan.

”

When Ian saw Sophia approaching, he felt his pent-up irritation surging through him.

Nevertheless, when he noticed the lady’s nervous look, his annoyance dissipated. Well, let’s not make my life miserable and unhappy.

After all, I doubt Sophia knows what happened that day too. Soon, Ian showed a smile and greeted Sophia with open arms.

Then, he said, “Come, give me a hug! I don’t know how long until the next time we meet.

”

Sophia said with a smile,

“I’ll pray hard for you, and you’ll succeed!”

Ilan nodded and wrapped his arms around Sophia.

**“Alright, since you’re
blessed with
good luck, I should probably
stick to you to
get more of those positive
auras.
”**

**Meanwhile, Logan patted Ian’s
shoulder and
said,
“Don’t worry. My sis is
right there, and
I believe she’ll take care of
things for you.
So, just relax and get famous.
”**

**After brief contemplation, Ian
let go of
Sophia and stared at her, saying,
“If John
ever comes and disturbs you,
just tell him off
with my name. I wouldn’t mind
that.
”**

**Sophia sniggered as she tried to
pacify Ian.
“Alright, alright! I heard you
loud and clear!
He won’t be able to take
advantage of me.**

”

Soon, the driver wound down
the window and
said,

“It’s about time, Mr.
Morgan.

” Then, he
gently rubbed Sophia’s hair
with his palm and
waved at Logan before he
entered the car
and directly left.

After that, Sophia sighed and
said,

“I doubt
we can be crazy as we used to
be the next
time Ian comes back. By then,
he is probably
a famous public figure.

”

“Nah!” Logan walked closer and
rested his
arm over Sophia’s shoulder.

“It
looks like it’ll
just be me and you from now
on, Sophia.

”

Disgusted by his words, Sophia
shook off his

arm and replied,
“Knock that off!
You make
me sick, actually.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 490
After putting Logan down with
her insult,
Sophia reached out for her
phone and looked
at it.

“Alright, it’s about time for
me to go. I
still have to accompany John’s
grandma to
the monastery later.
”

Logan disapproved of Sophia’s
action and
said,

“Come on, are you serious
about hanging
out with his grandma? You guys
are still
acting like a married couple.
What difference
did your divorce make?”

In fact, Logan wasn’t alone
because Sophia
felt the same way. Something
has been wrong

with John for the past two days.
Furthermore, it didn't seem
right for him to
come over to dine with me like
the divorce
was for nothing. No way! This is
not who I am,
and I must put a stop to this. I
used to think
there was still a chance for us to
work things
out, but now, I've changed my
mind.

The next moment, Sophia
pursed her lips and
said,

"In that case, I guess I
know what to do
now.

" Then, she flagged down a
cab and told
the driver the address of her
destination.

Although she could have saved
the trouble if
she had taken the ride of Old
Mrs.

Constance's driver, she insisted
on heading to
the Constance Residence by
herself. Upon

arrival, Sophia didn't enter the residence but instead waited outside the entrance. It was only when Old Mrs. Constance's car came out that she entered it.

As soon as they both saw each other, Old Mrs. Constance excitedly held her hands.

"Why didn't you come inside? What were you waiting for?"

Sophia looked down and smiled.

"Nothing.

"

Old Mrs. Constance sighed and said,

"I was

initially planning to visit the monastery with

John, but it looks like he's been busy with

work recently.

"

Oh dear! I hope he doesn't tag along because

I don't want to see him.

Noticing Sophia's

silence, Old Mrs. Constance

didn't say a single word more.

While the monastery was situated in the mountain, it was still visited by many of its pious devotees, even on working days. As the car pulled up in the car park at the foot of the mountain, they made their way up the hill.

Fortunately, the path up the mountain was not that steep and that it wasn't so tiring for the ladies to hike until they arrived at the monastery, where their arrival was received by a priest.

As the priest recognized Old Mrs. Constance, he immediately led them to the backyard, giving Sophia an indication that the old lady must be a regular visitor of the place. On the other hand, Sophia had never been to this

monastery before. Listening to the choir, she miraculously felt relieved as it put her mind to ease. Soon, they were greeted by the High Priest who was waiting for them in the chamber.

In that instant, Sophia felt as if she was a child who hadn't seen the outside world at all, following suit when Old Mrs. Constance crossed her arms in front of her chest to greet the High Priest upon seeing him. When the High Priest noticed Sophia, he smiled and said,

"I guess this must be the same lady who came here the last time. Am I right?"

Old Mrs. Constance responded with an affirmative hum.

The High Priest smiled and said, "I can tell

from your look that you're
blessed with good
fortune.

”

Upon hearing that, Sophia
wasn't sure
whether the High Priest said
that out of
courtesy or because he had a
keen foresight.
Nonetheless, she only smiled in
response
while another priest gave them
hassocks to
kneel on. Then, Old Mrs.
Constance stated
her purpose to ask about her
grandson's
marriage, and when she said
that, her eyes
unknowingly shifted to Sophia.
Meanwhile, Sophia had no idea
what she could
do except kneeling with Old
Mrs. Constance
in silence. Soon, the High Priest
began to
preach for a bit, which Sophia
didn't bother
to understand a single word of.
After that,

they stood up and headed to a chamber in the backyard.

When they got there, a wooden box caught Sophia's eyes as it reminded her of another similar one that she saw at the Blackwell Residence. Besides, the wooden box with tarot cards seemed to be surrounded by a few priests who were chanting. Then, the old lady turned around to Sophia and asked, "Why don't you come and pick one yourself?" Sophia chuckled and said, "No thanks. I'm good because I don't have anything to wish for anyway."
"

The Returning Ex Chapter 491
Old Mrs. Constance sighed as she closed her eyes to pick a tarot card. Soon, the High

Priest held that card in his hand,
turning
around before he sat in a
wooden chair.

Meanwhile, Sophia shifted her
eyes
elsewhere, realizing the
chamber's door to be
made of bamboo with a vintage
appearance.

She then secretly walked out of
the chamber
and stood at the entrance while
gazing at the
quiet backyard with barely any
visitors.

Sophia continued to wait a little
longer, but
when she noticed nothing new
in the chamber,
she decided to head down the
brick path until
she reached a corner where she
saw a main
hall on the left. Then, she saw a
few priests
talking to a pious follower who
appeared to
react solemnly and courteously.
Observing their interaction,
Sophia stood in

place for a few seconds until
the follower
turned around. Nonetheless,
she didn't move
but instead stared at the latter,
who turned
out to be John. After that, the
man slowly
walked down the stairs at the
main hall
entrance toward Sophia.

"Is my
grandma still
in there?"

Sophia responded with an
affirmative hum
and replied,
"She is in there,
asking the High
Priest about your marriage life
in the future.

”

Judging from his casual
appearance, I doubt
he didn't come here directly
from his office.

Not long after that, Sophia
added,

"Old Mrs.
Constance said you couldn't
come because you

were busy, but it looks like
you're not as busy
as she said.

”

John smiled and said,

“I

managed to find time
and come here.

” Considering

the

circumstance that she was in,

she restrained

herself from losing her temper
even though

she knew Old Mrs. Constance

had an ulterior

motive in taking her here. Soon,
she heard

the choir once more. Feeling
calmer, she felt

as if she could think and analyze
more

rationally.

Upon scanning his surroundings,

John said,

“I

bet you haven't been here

before. Perhaps I

could show you around.

”

Sophia replied positively and

walked beside
John along the brick path as she
suddenly
said,

“I’m going to start a
business soon, so
I’ll be busy. By then, I won’t be
able to be of
help.

” While Sophia wasn’t sure
whether John
understood what she meant,
the man only
responded with an affirmative
hum.

Sophia said,
“I’m actually pretty
curious
about what Old Mrs. Constance
finds out
from the High Priest.

”

John then turned his attention
to Sophia.

“You sure you don’t have
anything you want to
ask the High Priest?”

Sophia shook her head.

“Nah!

I’m good, and
I’m happy about my current

life.

” Upon a brief contemplation, she added, “Furthermore, Ian is also doing pretty good right now, so I guess I’m better off without marriage at the moment.

” After hearing that, John squinted and responded with an affirmative hum.

Sophia let out a sigh and said, “I’m content with my current life, and it’s only now that I realize how miserable my life used to be.

”

John stared at Sophia and said, “I guess I must have let you down back then.

”

“Glad you know that. Fortunately, I won’t have to bear with that disappointment anymore,

” Sophia answered

with a sarcastic
smile.

Upon hearing that, John only
pursed his lips
in silence. As both of them
made their way
from the backyard to the main
hall, Sophia
refused to go there due to the
crowd.

Therefore, they only stood in
the corridor
while staring at the crowded
main hall.

Sophia then beat him to it and
asked,

“Did
you change my bedsheet that
day when you
took me home?”

John blurted out,

“You threw up
that day.

”

Well, I think he isn't lying
because I really
did puke that day. Soon, Sophia
nodded in
response.

“In that case, I didn't
do anything

inappropriate, did I?"

**How do you define
'inappropriate'? John
reckoned the matter that
happened the
other night was nothing out of
the ordinary.**

**After all, there was nothing
strange that had
happened between them, so he
only
responded with a brief reply.**

**"No.
"**

**John's reply eased Sophia's
mind, finally
putting an end to their
conversation.**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 492
As both of them remained silent,
Sophia got
a call from Old Mrs. Constance,
who said she
was already done with
consulting the High
Priest. After telling her where
she was,
Sophia made her way back to
meet up with
John. As soon as she saw her
own grandson,**

Old Mrs. Constance paused and smiled.

“I thought you said you didn’t have time.

”

“I managed to find some time here,

” John responded with an affirmative hum.

Old Mrs. Constance nodded, ready to make a move, since there was nothing else important to do at the monastery.

Although she initially planned to eat a little something there, it appeared that she was no longer in the mood for that anymore, so the few of them later proceeded to leave the mountain.

In fact, they didn’t stay at the monastery for long until they left, which Sophia reckoned was because Old Mrs. Constance

got an answer she didn't like to hear from the High Priest. If it weren't for that, Old Mrs.

Constance wouldn't leave so soon. As soon as they entered the car, Sophia asked the old lady what she learned from the tarot card reading.

Old Mrs. Constance evasively answered, "Let's just say I believe that our fate is in our own hands.

" Upon hearing that reply, Sophia understood what that meant. While John drove everyone toward the city, Old Mrs. Constance suggested that they should have lunch together, to which Sophia politely rejected.

"I'm sorry that I can't join you guys because I'm needed at my shop. My business

is about to start, and there is a lot I need to attend to.

”

Old Mrs. Constance knew that was just an excuse, but before she could say anything, John beat her to it and said, “Alright then, go ahead and do what you should. We could always eat another time after you’re done with your business.

”

The man’s reply caught Old Mrs. Constance by surprise, as she didn’t expect him to let Sophia leave like that. Soon, John stared at his grandma from the rear mirror, forcing her to keep quiet. Meanwhile, Sophia heaved a sigh of relief and responded with an affirmative hum, whereupon she got out of the car upon arrival. With her

eyes set on
the plaque, Old Mrs. Constance
frowned and
said,
“I don’t like the name of
her shop.
”

John leaned on his chair as he
watched
Sophia entering the shop.
“Well,
it may not
sound like a perfect name, but
Sophia likes it,
and that’s all that matters.
”

Old Mrs. Constance let out a
sigh and said,
“She is still mad at you.
”

John smiled and said,
“That’s
exactly what I
hope because it at least shows
that she still
cares.
” After a short while, John
drove off
with the Old Mrs. Constance as
she uttered,
“Your dad has been caught up

**in some
business in the past two days,
but I don't
know what to say about both of
you.**

”

“What's wrong with my dad?”

**John sounded
surprised.**

**Surprised, Old Mrs. Constance
asked,**

**“Don't
you know? Your dad has been
coming home
late recently, and it's not
because of work.**

”

**Then, she let out a sigh with a
gloomy look on
her face. From the way
Grandma looks, this
matter doesn't seem to bode
well. Soon, she
added,**

**“Keep this matter to
yourself so that
you won
't feel upset when you hear this
from
someone else later on.**

”

“So, this matter has something to do with my dad. Alright, I’m all ears,” John said with a smile.

Old Mrs. Constance sighed and said,

“Something bad has happened to the woman who was going to marry your dad but went back on her word later. She is now lying in the hospital, and your dad has been visiting her for the past two days. I heard there is no one else taking care of her, which is why he keeps going there. I didn’t ask him why he is doing that because he is already an adult, so he should know what he is doing.

”

John paused, as he had never heard about this matter before. So, it’s true that Dad has

been coming home late for something personal instead of work. After that, John gave an affirmative reply and added,
“Like you said, he is a grown man, and I trust he knows what he is doing.”

The Returning Ex Chapter 493

With a smile, Old Mrs.

Constance replied,

“It looks like you don’t even want to care about your father’s problem. I guess I must have worried too much.”

John let out a sigh and said,

“I can’t even figure out my own problem, let alone taking care of his.”

Old Mrs. Constance leaned back on the seat and said,

“Your problem is a lot easier than your dad’s to take care of.”

John chuckled.

“Things with me are more complicated than you think.”

Sophia is more and more rational, and I doubt that’s a good sign.

After taking his grandma home, John got changed and took lunch at home before he headed to his office. Soon, he received a call from one of his men telling him that Third Young Lady Jefferson had picked up Ian, who had now begun his training. Upon hearing that, John sat back in his seat and smiled.

“Alright, understood.”

John hung up the call and laid down his phone

with a smile on his face. Third Young Lady Jefferson is indeed a person who walks the talk. Despite my casual suggestion, she took care of it so soon. After that, John proceeded to bury himself in work throughout the entire afternoon until it was time to leave work. He only snapped out of his absorption in work when Zack dropped by to say hello. Then, he looked at the time on his monitor screen, massaging his brow ridge. "You may leave first. I still have some unfinished business here, so I'll leave once I'm done."

Hearing his superior's words, Zack nodded.

"Don't stay up too late. You need to cut

yourself some slack.

” After Zack

left, John

took a few more files and

continued to

compare the figures on them

with those on

the screen. Not long after that,

the office

door was open, but John didn’t

look this time.

“What’s the matter? If you have

a document,

just put it on the table.

”

Nevertheless, he

soon heard a chuckle.

John paused as he turned

around before he

knitted his brows.

“Why are you

here?”

Isabelle curled her lips upward

and said with

a deep voice,

“Something has

been bothering

me deep down, so I came here

to talk. This is

about us, and I’d like to hear

from you.

”

Although John understood what she wanted to hear, he knew what he did the night before was a little too mean to Isabelle.

Therefore, he put his work aside and crossed his arms, placing his hands on his thighs.

“I

wasn't being mean to you yesterday. I left earlier because I was busy.

”

Isabelle walked closer and sat opposite John.

“I didn't know Mrs. Constance would do that because I thought she had already gotten over with what happened the last time. So, I just want to say sorry for upsetting you.

”

“Well, you didn't.

” John smiled and said,

“It's

no big deal anyway.

”

Isabelle appeared rather guilty.

“I

**subsequently realized that it
could**

**jeopardize both our companies’
reputations if**

**anyone saw what happened
yesterday, and I**

**should have thought that
through. If Mrs.**

**Constance ever calls me for
lunch or**

**something next time, I’ll be sure
to contact**

you first.

”

John chuckled and replied,

**“Never mind! It’s
not necessary.**

**” I’m not going to
eat out with**

my mom anytime soon anyway.

**In the meantime, Isabelle was
seen holding a**

**shopping bag that looked
similar to the one**

**she left at the reception
counter earlier.**

Then, she handed it over to

John and said,
“This is a gift from our client.
Actually, they
gave us a dozen of these, so I
figure I should
give you one too.
”

John didn't bother asking
anything but
instead thanked her with a brief
reply. After
putting the gift on the table,
Isabelle leaned
on the chair and said,
“Mrs.
Constance has
always been kind to me, and we
enjoy each
other's presence. Therefore, I
reckon she
did that because she still can't
get over our
engagement earlier, so I'll
perhaps find a
suitable time to talk to her
about that.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 494
In a casual manner, John
answered,
“Don't

**bother doing that because my
mom never
listens.
”**

**Seemingly understanding why
he said so,
Isabelle nodded in agreement.**

**“Yeah, Mrs.
Constance can be a little
stubborn at times. I
have actually talked to her
about that several
times, but it looks like my
words all fell on
deaf ears.
”**

**Unwilling to continue the topic,
John brought
up his confusion about the
delivery order
that Isabelle gave him the last
time.**

**“Now
that you’re here, I have a few
things I’d like
to ask you about the delivery
order.
”**

**Isabelle then leaned closer
toward the desk
in response.**

“Show me.

” As the lady leaned closer, John caught the scent of a jasmine aroma. Nevertheless, he didn’t like the smell, so he knitted his brows without revealing too much facial emotion.

When Isabelle took a look at the delivery order, she chuckled and said, “Oh, the labeled location here can be a bit of a pain in the neck. Let me show you the remark that I stated here.

” She then reached for her phone and showed John a picture. Upon taking a quick look at it, John uttered,

“Just send me the picture, and I’ll take a look myself.

”

Isabelle paused for a short

while before she
said,
“Oh yeah, how come I
didn’t think of
that?”

Calm and indifferent, John
seemed as if he
didn’t notice anything unusual.

Meanwhile,
Isabelle quickly sent the
delivery order with
her own remarks written on it
to John while
feeling nervous at the same
time.

Nonetheless, she had another
complete copy
with more information on it,
which she
decided to keep to herself so
that she could
have more chances to talk with
John. On the
other hand, the copy that she
had just sent
John was a draft with messy
notes and
labels, which she doubted John
could
understand.

Isabelle sighed and changed the

subject.

“By
the way, how is Old Mr.
Flintstone doing? I
heard from Mrs. Constance that
he’s been in
a terrible shape lately, which is
why she is
busy looking after him.
”

My grandpa is indeed in terrible
shape, but
it’s all thanks to Mom! He’d be
just fine had
she not pissed him off. I must
say she never
ceases to ‘impress’ me with her
excuses.

After brief contemplation, John
replied,

“He
is getting better recently,
although he still
needs to be looked after. My
mom doesn’t
trust a maid to take care of
Grandpa, which
is why she is doing all the job by
herself.
”

Isabelle then sighed.

**“Well, we
all get all
sorts of illnesses anyway when
we grow old,
but I don’t think it’s a big
problem. My
grandpa used to...**

**” She stopped
her speech
mid-sentence and winked with
a smile.**

**John knew what she was going
to say,
recalling how he pissed Old Mr.
Constance
off when he insisted on
canceling his
engagement before the latter
was sick for
the next few days. At that time,
John had
also received the news, in
which William
asked whether he’d like to pay
them a visit,
only to be stopped by Old Mrs.
Constance,
who thought her grandson’s
presence could
ruin the matter given the
circumstance.**

Meanwhile, Isabelle pursed her lips in response.

“I guess you’re busy now, so I shall leave you to it. Goodbye!”

However, her face still remained stiffened because excusing herself was her only way to get out of this awkward stalemate.

John responded with an affirmative hum.

“Alright, see you. I trust you could find your way out of here yourself because I’m still a little busy here.

” When Isabelle heard that, she stood up.

“It’s alright, don’t worry about me. See you around then.

” She smiled and turned around, leaving John’s office. In the meantime, the man’s smile slowly faded away

and was replaced with a complicated look. As Isabelle exited the office, she entered the elevator, instantly keeping herself together. Then, she sniggered, finding it ironic that she had become a hypocrite herself, whom she once hated the most. Upon stepping out of the Constance Group, she turned around and stared at the building while resentfully murmuring, "What's wrong with you, John? Why is your heart with someone else?"

The Returning Ex Chapter 495
Needless to say, John had no idea what was on Isabelle's mind as he continued to finish his work before he reached for his phone. Then, he began browsing through Sophia's friend list

on his social media account,
seeing a selfie of
her smiling face that was taken
outside her
shop in the illuminating twilight.
Besides, he
could clearly see the words
written on the
plaque hanging above the shop
entrance. No
response! She really knows how
to grind my
gears!

Meanwhile, Sophia was a little
curious that
John hadn't contacted her in
days ever since
they came back from the
monastery. It looks
like this guy has become
someone else after
that day. Did he really
understand what I
said to him, or has he finally
realized that it's
better off for him to let go? Or
maybe he is
being mad and sulky with me.
Soon, Sophia
gave up trying to figure out
what was wrong

with John as she reckoned she should spend her time on her shop's opening ceremony instead.

As for the day her opening ceremony would be on, Sophia didn't deliberately pick a day but instead decided to go about it since she was done with all the necessary preparation.

The night before that, she posted an announcement on her social media feed about her shop's opening the next day.

The following morning, the shop entrance was occupied with so many flowers that barely any space was left. One of them was from Zack, who texted Sophia and emphasized that he did that out of his own goodwill, which had nothing to do with John.

Sophia was amused, thinking that it didn't matter to her anyway. On the other hand, Logan decided to buy some fireworks since he knew Sophia had more than enough flowers.

Thinking the fireworks would be overkill, she stared at Logan and asked, "What're you going to do with the fireworks in broad daylight?"

Logan widened his eyes in surprise.

"Oh, come on, what can I do? You're running your shop during the day. If your shop opened at night, I'd light up the entire street with fireworks.

"

This guy really doesn't mind throwing his money away! As the fireworks blew up in the bright sky, Sophia could barely

see anything
except hearing the boom.
Meanwhile,
different desserts that Sophia
and Robin
made were served in the shop.
While Logan
sat by the window, Sophia took
a bit of every
dessert to let him taste. Then,
Logan pinched
her face and complimented her.
“No wonder I
like you so much!”
Sophia patted his hand.
“Knock
that off!”
Logan took a moment to
ponder, letting out a
sigh.
“Too bad Ian isn’t here.
”

Ian’s training was usually held
in isolation,
which he barely even got to
check his phone.
Therefore, Sophia hardly stayed
in touch
with him, so she had no idea
how well he had
gotten used to his new life.

Soon, a few other nearby merchants came over to show their support as Robin quickly attended to them.

When Sophia saw that, she quickly helped her out after a brief chat with Logan.

At the same time, Zack arrived, but Sophia didn't notice his presence.

Nevertheless, he went ahead and sat down beside Logan, who shot a gaze at him and asked,

"Isn't your boss coming?"

Zack smiled and reached for his phone.

"My boss is a little stuck up. He said some trivia like this one isn't worth his time to travel all the way here. Instead, he just told me to take a few photos and bring them back to him. I mean, how can an adult

like him still
behave like a child? Only God
knows what he
is up to.
”

Logan paused in silence upon
hearing that,
while Zack continued to
murmur,
“I don’t
know what’s going on with both
of them. They
don’t seem to be at each
other’s throat
lately.
”

Logan chuckled and replied,
“Let’s not think
about it then. It’s obvious that
both of them
still have feelings toward each
other,
although I have no idea why
they insisted on
having a divorce. They must
have gotten tired
of a happy life, I guess.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter
496 Zack clicked
his tongue as he grabbed the

desserts that
Logan hadn't tasted and began
enjoying them.

While many of the guests who
came were
customers, Sophia and Robin
were kept busy
until the afternoon.

After Zack was gone, Sophia
came closer to

Logan and asked,

"Zack just
came, didn't he?

Why did he leave so soon?"

Logan leaned back in his seat
and squinted.

"Maybe he is busy at work.
"

Sophia sat opposite Logan and
said with a
smile,

"It feels good to run my
own business.
"

Logan responded with a smile.

"The way I see

it, you're pretty friendly and
enthusiastic in

treating your customers. Keep
this up, and I

believe your business will get

better and
better.

” He then shifted his gaze
outside the
window and added,
“Alright,
I’ve been here
throughout the morning, so I
figure I should
go back home and take a nap.
Moreover, I’m
so tired as I woke up early this
morning to
buy those fireworks.
”

Sophia smiled and replied,
“Okay! Go home
and rest then. There is nothing
else going on
here anyway.
”

As Logan stepped out of
Sophia’s shop, a car
parked by the opposite side of
the road
caught his eye, whereupon he
sniggered and
murmured,
“What did I say?
Something is
wrong with the two of them for

sure.

”

It turned out that John was sitting in his car while staring at Sophia's shop, where she could be seen busy with her work through the French window. She looks just about the same as when she was busy in the kitchen back then. Soon, the man leaned back in his seat and produced a cigarette box, feeling calm on the inside. In the meantime, Sophia had been busy attending to her work until the afternoon when there were no customers. Then, she proceeded to make herself a cup of coffee and sat in the chair by the window. Drinking while appreciating the street view on the outside, she suddenly paused what she was

doing and pondered for a moment. Then, she put her cup down on the table and went ahead to make another one, taking it with her as she stepped out of her shop.

While John's car was still parked by the roadside, she approached the vehicle, only to find John seemingly asleep in there. A few seconds later, after she knocked on the glass, John slowly wound down the car window.

She then passed the coffee over to him.

"This is for you. Finish it, and you could head back to your company. If you want to rest, you might as well go home and take a nap.

"

John took the coffee without saying a single word, while Sophia turned around and

returned to her shop. After that, she sat back in the seat with a relaxed look on her face. A few minutes later, John finally drove off, whereas Sophia happily took her gaze off the man's car.

The first day of business was a hectic one as there were more customers than she expected. It was only until the evening that Sophia could finally take a break when there were no more customers. Soon, both owners happily stretched themselves after a long day, while Robin said, "I used to run a shop back then, but the business was never as hectic as this one."
"

After a brief contemplation, Sophia gave a suggestion.

“Let’s celebrate the good start of our business tonight. My treat!”
Feeling an urge to actualize her thoughts, Sophia immediately took Robin back to her place to get changed. Considering their similar builds, she reckoned Robin could just wear her clothes. After settling down, she gave Logan a call and told him about the celebration. While Logan agreed to show up without hesitation, Sophia thought she should get more people to join them since Ian was not around. Therefore, she gave Zack a call, thinking she should repay him for the flowers he bought to support her. The celebration wouldn’t be complete without Zack. Nevertheless, Zack appeared a

little hesitant
the moment he answered
Sophia's call, not
because he didn't want to join
them, but
because he wasn't sure
whether he should
tell John to tag along. Upon
hearing his
concern, Sophia told him to
forget about
John and added,
"John is a busy
man, so we
might as well forget about him.
Furthermore, he's likely going
to ruin the fun
if he is around."
Zack knew
what she meant,
so he didn't say a single word
more. After
confirming the time and their
rendezvous,
Sophia set off for the
destination with
Robin.

The Returning Ex Chapter 497
Their rendezvous turned out to
be a karaoke
that Logan picked as he said he

was a VIP member there, where he could get some discounts. After flagging down a cab, they hit the road and headed toward their destination. Soon, the driver asked,

“Did you rub anyone the wrong way recently, ladies?”

Sophia paused, confused by the driver’s words.

“Um... no? Who could we rub the wrong way?” Nevertheless, the driver only stared at both ladies from the rearview mirror without saying a single word. Not long after that, the car pulled up outside the karaoke, but when Sophia exited the cab, the driver reminded her about her safety.

“Be careful because it’s getting late now. The street is

no place for
ladies like you two in the late
night, so try to
stick with your friends.

”

While those words sounded like
a friendly
reminder to Sophia, she smiled
and thanked
the driver. As soon as they
entered the
karaoke, the driver drove off,
clearly seeing
the entrance from the rearview
mirror. Then,
he pulled over by the roadside
and remained
in the car.

Meanwhile, Logan was already
waiting inside
by the time Sophia and Robin
arrived. Soon,
they were greeted by a table of
food and
boxes of beers placed by the
door. Besides,
Logan was seen with two of his
men whom he
brought along from his
clubhouse, and Sophia
had known them since the last

time they
played poker together.
Therefore, they hit it
off pretty quickly, while Zack
only arrived
twenty minutes later.
Nevertheless, it didn't
take him long to fit in as he was
less reserved
at that moment than his usual
self.

Despite the exciting occasion,
Sophia wasn't
blinded by it, learning from her
previous
experience in which Logan and
the rest spent
half a day looking for her after
she got too
drunk and wandered off.

Therefore, she
restrained herself from
indulging in alcohol,
this time with the incident
deeply etched in
her mind. No matter how many
times Zack
toasted her, she always waved
her hand and
turned him down.

"Nah! I'm

good. I'm actually
still having a hangover from a
few days ago,
so if I drink more than I can
handle now, I
might be gone forever.
”

Zack didn't know what
happened previously,
so he only smiled and said,
“Well, there are so
many of us here, and you think
we can't take
care of you? Come on, you're
worrying too
much!”

Soon, Robin saw what Zack did
and leaned
closer.

“Let me drink on
Sophia's behalf. I'd
like to enjoy some beer tonight
because I
never really got to do this back
then.

” In
fact, she wasn't exaggerating
her story
because she had always been
rather
disciplined, never allowing

herself to attend
any crazy party in the past.
Apart from that,
Robin was also guilty about
what happened to
Sophia, who got drunk and
went missing the
last time due to a promise she
made to take
care of her friend. Therefore,
she decided
to make it up to Sophia by
drinking on her
behalf.

Logan then chimed in,
“Alright,
it’s fine by me
since Robin insists, plus I’ve
never seen her
drink before. You’re quite the
man, Zack!

From what I remember, no one
could make
Robin drink the last time we
had fun
together.”

After hearing what Logan said,
Zack decided
to cut Sophia some slack and
toasted Robin

instead. Halfway through their celebration,
Sophia even headed outside to order some food from the manager in order to dampen the effects of the alcohol. At the same time, everyone was enjoying the food and drinks while having a great time in the room.

A few moments later, Robin gazed at Sophia and said,
“I’m going to use the washroom. I’ll be back soon.”

She didn’t drink a lot, and she looks fine, besides her rosy cheeks.
“Alright, you know where the washroom is, right?”

Sophia nodded and asked.
“Yeah, I got this. Don’t worry.”

Robin nodded in response and exited the room after that,

leaving Sophia behind, who was eating while listening to Logan sing, in the room.

A few minutes went by as Sophia looked at the time when Robin still hadn't returned.

The next moment, she laid down the things in her hands while wondering to herself. Don't tell me this lady got drunk and wandered off like I did the last time. After a few more minutes, Sophia got too worried to keep waiting, after which she decided to stand up and search for a friend. It was then that she realized their room was slightly far away from the washroom, which was situated at the end of the corridor.

The Returning Ex Chapter
498 Sophia made her way to the washroom in a relaxed manner,

but when she called out to Robin at the basin top, her voice was met with silence.

Therefore, she decided to enter further into the washroom, where she was greeted by a few cubicles. Then, she knocked on the door of every cubicle and asked whether Robin was in there, but to no avail.

In that instant, Sophia was overwhelmed by a panicky feeling. When Robin left the room, she seemed to be properly walking, and her eyes looked fine. Thus, I reckon she must be sober. After that, Sophia exited the washroom and looked to her left and right to see whether she could spot anything unusual.

This is an area where people frequently pass by, so nothing bad could possibly happen

here, I guess.

As soon as Sophia returned to the room,

Zack leaned closer and asked, "What's wrong?

Did I scare your friend, Robin, so badly that she ran away?"

Sophia frowned and said, "I

couldn't find her.

"After that, she turned around and saw

Robin's phone on the table, instantly recalling

the same thing that happened when she

herself went missing without her phone with

her earlier. Then, she scratched her head

and dragged Logan aside.

"Robin is missing.

Can you help me find her?"

"Missing?" Logan paused.

"How

come? Did she

learn that from you?"

Sophia furrowed her brows and replied,

“I don’t know, but can you ask the manager and see if we could check the security footage or something? Look, she didn’t even bring her phone with her, so there is no way we can reach her right now.”

Logan didn’t take her seriously, but he stood up and answered, “Alright, alright. I’ll ask the manager right away. You’re really a bad influence for Robin, Sophia. Do you know that?”

Needless to say, Sophia was not in the mood for jokes as she only followed Logan out of the room to confront the manager. Upon hearing Logan’s request, the manager politely agreed without much hesitation. Then, he

took them both to the security room that was guarded by a few men. Soon, the manager approached one of the personnel and instructed him to specifically extract the security footage that showed Sophia's room entrance. Since they were able to provide accurate details about the time, it didn't take long for them to find the part of the footage they were looking for. With her eyes glued to the screen, Sophia saw Robin exiting the room as the latter made her way to the washroom. While Robin was walking there, her normal walking posture obviously suggested that she was still sober at that time. A few minutes later, Robin was seen exiting the washroom, but she didn't

come out by herself. Instead,
she was
dragged by someone in black
attire with a cap
that covered the person's
appearance in the
footage.

Sophia was taken aback by that
shocking
sight, while Logan was left with
his eyes wide
open.

“Who is that person? I'm
sure whoever
did that isn't among us.
”

Obviously!

The next moment, Sophia
immediately told
the staff member to rewind the
footage,
noticing the mysterious figure
already
waiting outside their room
before Robin
exited. This fella is apparently
waiting
outside our room to prey on us.
Since Robin looked like she was
in a mindless
trance when she came out of

**the room, she
might have been mistaken as
one of the
customers who had just merely
gotten drunk.**

**Therefore, the passers-by didn't
take that**

**seriously, thinking it was just
another**

**common sight. Besides, the
footage also**

**showed that the mysterious
figure took**

**Robin to the elevator before
making for the**

**exit. Then, the surveillance
camera at the**

**karaoke entrance also managed
to capture**

**the moment when Robin was
stuffed into the**

**car moments before she was
taken away.**

**Upon seeing that, Sophia's
heart sank.**

"No!

**This matter has gone terribly
wrong now! We**

need to call the cops right away!

This is

getting serious!" Meanwhile,

Logan, who had drunk quite a bit, immediately sobered up. He then cursed as he finally realized that this matter was much more severe than the last time Sophia went missing. At the same time, the hotel manager, who knew that the issue had gotten out of hand, quickly reached for his phone and called the police.

The Returning Ex Chapter 499

Sophia watched the security footage again and deduced that Robin's abductor didn't work alone because the door was opened from the inside. Therefore, she believed this was planned from the very beginning. Soon, she recalled the question that the driver asked her earlier tonight. Did he already realize that we were being tailed at that

time? At the thought of that, she patted her forehead in a panicky manner. In the meantime, Zack, who was waiting for their return, eventually lost his patience as he decided to call up. When he learned that Robin had been abducted, he was shocked.

“What?! Has Robin been kidnapped? Darn it! This is serious. Have you called the cops?”

After receiving a confirmed answer, Zack remained silent for a while and said,

“I’ll give my boss a call. He is a little bird, and he might be able to help find some useful clue.

”

At this moment, Sophia no longer cared about her unwillingness to associate with John, knowing that two brains were better than one

after all. Soon, she said,
“Alright,
thank you.
”

Without further ado, Zack rang
John right
away after hanging up the call
with Sophia.

Meanwhile, John was reading
some documents
in the Constance Residence
when he received
a phone call from Zack. He then
said in an
indifferent tone,
“What’s the
matter?”

Zack said with an anxious voice,
“Something
big has come up! Sophia needs
help!”

Not long after that, the police
arrived and
started to ask for information
about the
case. As it all happened so
quickly, Sophia had
no idea how she could
elaborate to the
officers. Thus, she only just
showed the cops

the security footage, while Logan pointed at the person in black and said, “We don’t know this fella, but he’s been sneaking around outside our room, and I bet this is a planned abduction. Now that our friend has been kidnapped, we don’t know how they are going to treat her.”

The police then proceeded to go through their security footage, but before they could decide what their next move was, John showed up. In fact, he ran to the room, only to find Sophia gone before he made his way to the security room. While John was panting, Sophia looked at him in surprise and asked, “What’re you doing? And what’s your

hurry?”

Actually, John hung up on Zack and rushed to this place before the latter could finish what he was going to say. When he arrived, John placed his hand over Sophia’s shoulder and sized her up.

“What happened?

Are you in trouble?”

Zack, who witnessed John’s reaction, felt a little helpless as he said,

“Boss, you hung up on me before I could even finish explaining everything. I said Sophia needs help, but it’s for her friend, Robin. You’re probably too tense, Boss.

”

Upon hearing Zack’s words, John heaved a sigh of relief.

“Man, I thought you were in

some kind of deep trouble! I
nearly had a
heart attack for that.
”

Sophia then shook off John’s
hand from her
shoulder and answered,
“Robin
has been
abducted. If you’d like to help,
use your
connections to investigate the
matter.
”

Meanwhile, John knew this was
going to be a
sticky situation when he
noticed the police,
but nonetheless, he gently said,
“Please just
wait in the room. I’ll take care
of the matter
right here. Everything is going
to be fine,
trust me.
”

Worried, Sophia chose to
believe in John
that everything would be fine.
Then, Logan
came over and wrapped his arm

over Sophia's
shoulders.

"Come on, let's head
back to the
room first. Leave the matter
here to us.

"

Soon, John's eyes fell upon
Logan's arm, but
he later dispelled his doubt,
aware of the
latter's bluff character. At the
same time,
Sophia knew she couldn't be of
much help
anyway, so she pondered and
said,

"Keep me
posted on everything when
you're done.

"

As the smarter of the two in
dealing with the
police, John knew what kind of
information
they were looking for. On the
other hand,
Logan couldn't help but feel
alarmed every
time he saw the cops
considering his

historical rivalry with the law enforcers.

The Returning Ex Chapter 500

After Logan was told to wait with Sophia in the room, he silently walked away with her, seemingly reluctant to stay with those people any longer. Meanwhile, Logan's men were still in the room, but they were all no longer in the mood to continue having fun as they quietly waited for the rest to return.

As soon as Sophia got back to the room, she sat on the couch with her head lowered,

feeling a hunch that Robin's kidnap had something to do with her.

Robin once told me that her social life is pretty simple because she only has a few friends. Furthermore, she didn't usually go out due to her strict upbringing. In fact, I was the

one who invited her to hang out those nights. Sophia racked her brain to figure out how Robin had gotten into trouble with anyone she might have crossed, but to no avail.

Nonetheless, she was sure that this was a coordinated abduction, which she was partly responsible for. The more she dwelled on that, the greater the pain that she felt deep down.

At the same time, Logan made a few phone calls in the room to have his men investigate Robin's kidnap. I bet the vehicle's registration number that we saw in the security footage was a fake one. Why would they use a real one and risk blowing their cover when committing a crime like this?

While Sophia was waiting in the room, Zack soon came over with John, whose expression appeared calm and collected. Then, John told her that he had dispatched his men to search for Robin's whereabouts just as the police were looking into the matter. Therefore, he believed it wouldn't take long before the result was announced. With everyone's mood ruined, Zack came over and said, "Let's go home. It's too noisy here, so we might as well wait for their news at home."
"

After grabbing everything they needed, everyone set off for Sophia's place to gather there, thinking that they could keep her company since she was all alone by herself. While Sophia sat on her couch

at home and
waited for the news, Logan
headed to the
kitchen and got her some warm
water.

Cupping the glass of water in
her hands,
Sophia said,
“The shirt Robin
wore today is
mine. We both have similar
builds, so I
reckoned she could just come
here and wear
one of my shirts.
”

Upon hearing that, John, Zack,
and Logan
turned around and stared at
Sophia, but she
didn't meet their gazes. Instead,
her eyes
fell upon the kettle on the table
as she said,
“We took a cab to the karaoke
just now, but
on our way there, the driver
asked whether
there was anyone we might
have crossed. I
didn't take his words seriously

at that time,
so I said no. Later, when we
arrived at our
destination, the driver told us
to watch out
for our own safety.
”

Logan stared at Sophia and
asked,
“Do you
mean that this fella had been
tailing you
ladies all along?”

At that moment, John chipped
in,

“Are you
saying that this guy was after
you but
mistook Robin for you?”

“I don’t know whether I’m
overreacting, but
as I put the pieces together, this
seems to
be the most logical possibility to
me,

” Sophia
closed her eyes and said.
Meanwhile, John only stared at
Sophia while
wondering, If whoever did this
was really

after Sophia, then it must be
someone whom
she previously rubbed the
wrong way, but
there are only a few people
who don't really
like her. Soon, John stood up
and said,
"I'm
going to make a phone call."
"

Then, he stepped
out of the house and stood in
the courtyard,
giving Matilda a call.

A few seconds later, the call
was quickly
answered as Matilda happily
said,

"Hey John,
what's up?"

John paused briefly and replied,

"I have some
questions for you, and I hope
you could be
honest with me."
"

The man's stern voice took
Matilda aback.

After a few seconds of silence,
she sounded

more serious.

“What’s wrong,
John? You
sound scary.

”

John then took a deep breath
and asked,

“Did
you send someone to mess with
Sophia?”

Confused, Matilda said,

“What’re you talking
about? Did you just say I sent
someone to
mess with Sophia? Did you hear
this from
her?”

“No!” John added,

“Something
has come up
with Sophia, and I just want to
know whether
you
’re behind this. Tell me the
truth.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 501
While Matilda only reacted with
silence, John
patiently waited for her to
respond. Soon,

she chuckled and said,
“John, is
that woman
really more important than
your own mother?
Am I seriously the first suspect
that comes
to your mind? Are you going to
assume that
it’s my fault every time
anything happens to
her?”

Desperate to get to the point,
John
demanded an answer from his
mother.

“Just
tell me what I want to know.
The police have
interfered with the matter now,
but there is
still time for me to do
something to keep you
out of trouble if you are behind
this.

Otherwise, we’ll just keep
investigating the
matter.

”

Matilda said in a serious
manner,

**“I didn’t do
it!”**

**“Alright, then I’ll not interfere,
”**

**John said
before he directly hung up the
call. Upon
hearing Matilda’s insistent
denial, John
started to believe in his
mother’s innocence
as he was able to feel her rage
over the
phone. My mother wouldn’t lie
if she really
did that to Sophia. Instead, she
would admit
it and justify her mistake at the
same time.**

**Soon, he put down his phone
and wondered
who else it could be besides
Matilda.
Sophia has a short fuse, but she
doesn’t have
a lot of friends either, which
makes it less
likely for her to step on
anyone’s toes. With a
pair of furrowed brows on his
face, John**

realized that his relationship issue was actually far more serious than he thought it was. That night, John and Logan decided to stay in Sophia's place, whereas Zack had to leave because he still had work the next day.

Since John was likely not able to show up for work on time, Zack was expected to fill in for him until he came. Therefore, he decided not to stick around for the night.

At the same time, Sophia was up all night in her room while waiting for the news. The following morning, the police called John and informed him that Robin had been found in the middle of the night. After that, he quickly scuttled upstairs to tell Sophia about the news, whereupon she immediately sprang

from her bed.

“Where is she now? I want to see her!” Without even getting changed, she hopped into John’s car directly and set off for the police station.

When Robin was found at midnight, she was seen to be extremely frightened but unhurt.

After being rescued, she settled down in a

lounge with a tired look on her face. As soon

as Sophia went inside, she immediately broke into tears, hugging Robin while apologizing to

her. Meanwhile, Robin, who had cried earlier, felt a lot better at the moment as she

comforted Sophia and assured the latter

that she was fine. In the meantime, John

shot a gaze at Robin and turned around,

leaving both ladies behind in

the lounge.

Then, Sophia proceeded to ask Robin what had happened, but even Robin herself couldn't really give an accurate account of the incident. According to her, her mouth was suddenly covered by someone when she went to the washroom the night before. After that, she lost her consciousness, unable to recall anything when she was taken by her abductors. When she opened her eyes, she found herself alone under a tree in a remote hilly region. Fortunately, her arms and legs weren't bound, so she fumbled her way down the mountain and took a while before she finally saw someone who later helped call the police.

Robin's statement didn't provide any useful clue as she couldn't even tell whether the person who covered her mouth was a man or a woman. Soon, she gazed at Sophia and said,

"I don't know who did that to me because I don't remember making any enemy.

" In response, Sophia only rubbed her back gently, knowing that it was not the right moment to tell her friend what she knew yet.

Since Robin was unharmed, Sophia reckoned that the abductors abandoned her in the middle of nowhere after they realized they got the wrong person. After John dealt with the necessary procedures, he was told that they could leave. At the same

time, Sophia wanted to clear her confusion but decided to keep those questions to herself with Robin around. Therefore, she deemed that they should leave the police station for the time being since Robin hadn't been home throughout the night, as she had also received a number of missed calls from her family.

The Returning Ex Chapter 502

In the end, everyone gathered at Sophia's place. While she was busy cooking, Robin was sitting in the living room and calling home at the same time, telling her parents that she bunked down at Sophia's place. In fact, Robin had already informed her family the night before that she would be coming home late

due to their celebration.
Therefore, she told
them that she was afraid that
she'd disturb
them if she came home too late,
so she
decided to stay over at her
friend's place
instead.

When Sophia was done with
cooking,
everyone proceeded to enjoy
their meal.

Then, Logan called for his men
to see Robin
home. After that, Logan looked
at John and
asked him,
“Did you find out
what happened?”
John shook his head.

“Not a
single thing.
”

Although the surveillance
camera managed to
capture the suspects' car
heading toward the
urban area, they were
eventually able to get
away with it due to the blind

spots in the traffic there. Therefore, the police couldn't track down the places the suspects had been to. Instead, they only concentrated on the mountain where Robin was found even though they still failed to find any useful lead in the end.

Nonetheless, the police promised to look into the matter, although they couldn't guarantee that the mystery could be solved. After all, the information they had was way too limited to proceed with the investigation any further, plus there was nothing serious that happened in the end. With their limited powers, the police would rather direct their focus on criminal cases that were more urgent and serious.

Therefore, they could all empathize with the law enforcers, considering the number of cases they had to attend to throughout the city. Thus, it was no surprise that they would prioritize those serious cases over trivial incidents like this one. Unlike his usual bluff manner, he spoke up for the police.

“It’s not easy for them either.”

Sophia came closer while hugging her shoulders.

“They’re all after me, aren’t they?”

John didn’t dare to jump to conclusions, but from the looks of things at the moment, it appeared that the matter was as Sophia inferred that whoever did this was indeed

after her. Sophia then sat on
the couch and
asked herself,
“Who did I
cross?”

John went ahead and said,
“I
spoke to my
mom last night. She is innocent,
and I’m sure
she didn’t lie because I know
that’s not who
she is.
”

Sophia didn’t think Matilda was
behind the
abduction either, knowing that
she wouldn’t
be able to pull off something
like this by
herself. She is too dim-witted to
do
something like this. The most
she’d do is
probably just hiring some
two-bit thugs to
rough me up. Anything more
than that would
prove too challenging for her.
At the thought
of that, Sophia nodded and said,

**“It’s not
her.
”**

**Logan then pondered and said,
“It must be
Isabelle then. You both haven’t
exactly
gotten along with each other
well either, just
like the last time when you
ladies argued over
some nightdress.**

**” Sophia
knitted his brows
and wondered. Really? Isabelle?
But I have a
feeling she is not behind all this
because she
is not dumb after all. She may
have a crush
on John and would rather do
anything for
him, but she doesn’t always
have to do it
herself. Furthermore, it’d draw
a lot of
attention to pull off a stunt this
big unless
it’s perfectly planned and
coordinated.
Therefore, I think Isabelle is**

smart enough
to keep herself out of trouble
like this one.

Sophia shook her head and
replied,

“I don’t
think it’s her either.

”

“Why not? My intuition tells me
she is the

one!” Logan blurted out,

“Isabelle is always up
to something. Don’t let her
innocent look fool

you! She is full of deceptions,
and no one

should ever hang around with
her.

”

Upon hearing that, Sophia shot
a gaze at

John and noticed his furrowed
brows,

realizing his calm expression
despite Logan’s

provocative remark. After that,
she took her

gaze off the man, wondering
why he didn’t

stand up for Isabelle even when
Logan

accused her.

Upon making his point, Logan shifted his gaze to John and asked, "What do you think? Do you think Isabelle is behind all this? I think it's her."
"

John paused and said, "Well, I can't conclude anything until I investigate the matter. After all, we need evidence to confirm our suspicion."
"

The Returning Ex Chapter 503
Logan didn't say a single word more, only pursing his lips. Meanwhile, John didn't stick around any longer before he decided to leave for his office due to work. When he left, Sophia said something without looking at him.
"Thanks for your help last

night.

”

John looked back at Sophia, knowing that she was saying that to him. In response, he responded with an affirmative hum.

“Just doing the least I could.

” In that instant, both of them appeared rather polite to each other. Not long after John left, Logan, who was beat as well, decided to make a move too.

At the same time, Sophia felt a headache as she proceeded to head upstairs for a rest, collapsing into her bed for some shut-eye.

In the meantime, John was exhausted as well, although he still had the energy to go about his work. I guess I will return to the company.

Zack was on the way to the office with some documents when he saw his superior returning. Therefore, he went up to him before asking, "So, how's the situation?"

John responded with an affirmative hum.

"We found her, and she is fine."
"

Zack heaved a sigh of relief.

"That's good news. What about the abductors? Did the police manage to find out who did this?"

John didn't say a single word as he returned to his own office. Confused with his action, Zack followed behind his boss into the room.

John then sat down and explained his analysis to Zack, whereupon the latter frowned and asked, "Isabelle? I don't think

so. She just
seems too timid for the job.
”

John responded with an
affirmative hum and
said,
“I don’t think so either. It’s
just not
necessary for her to do that.
”

Although she
may not get along well with
Sophia, I don’t
see why she’d take it too far.
Furthermore,
Sophia and Isabelle haven’t met
each other
up in a while, so it just doesn’t
add up to
assume she is the culprit.
A few moments later, Zack
probingly asked,
“Do you need me to get
someone to spy on
Isabelle?”

John nodded slowly and said,
“Go ahead. That
should ease our mind.
”

Zack agreed and left while John
remained

seated, massaging his temples before he reached for his phone. Then, he saw a message from Isabelle telling him that she would be dining with Matilda later that night. Nevertheless, John couldn't care less about that because Matilda wouldn't want to meet him up in person anyway. My mom would perhaps still want to dine with me if it weren't for that call. I guess I really did piss her off the last time we spoke over the phone. Anyway, it doesn't matter to me since I can now have a peace of mind. While he was clearing his thoughts in his office, William came over with some files in his hands. In fact, he wasn't planning on coming in until he saw John

inside when he passed by his office. Like his usual appearance, William asked, "What happened? I heard from Zack that you had something to deal with in the morning. What was going on?" John contemplated and replied, "Sophia needed some help last night, so I went over and lent a hand. " While John downplayed the incident, William didn't take it seriously either. He then nodded and added, "Sophia is all by herself without a family. Although the both of you are divorced, she is the one your grandpa was worried about the most before he died. So, I think we should help her out more often. "

John gave a positive reply
before he asked
William another question,
“I

heard from your
grandma that you’ve been
making frequent
trips to the hospital for a
friend.

” His reply
put William in a trance as he
stared at his
son with an awkward look.
William didn’t deny but instead
nodded.

“Yeah, I have a friend who’s
been admitted to
the hospital. There is no one
else to look
after her, so I went there to
help out.

”

“Guess my mom isn’t aware of
it,

” John smiled
and said.

Witnessing his son’s smile,
William
embarrassedly said,

“I guess
that doesn’t

matter now.

”

John replied,

“I wish Mom

understands that,

but you need to stay hidden, or

trouble is

bound to follow.

”

William smiled and said,

“Yeah,

I’ll do my best

to keep a low profile. After all,

I’m clearly

aware of the consequence that

unconfirmed

rumors can bring.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 504

From the way William spoke, it

didn’t seem

like he was hiding anything as

he sounded

frank and open.

However, that was how William

normally

behaved, so John figured that

William

probably didn’t cross the line.

William wanted to leave after

chatting for a

while, but he pondered for a moment and stood still after turning around.

“I heard from your Uncle Owen that Dylan’s dates haven’t been going well. Since you’re around Dylan’s age, if you’re free, try asking him if he has any specific requirements. He couldn’t just continue on blind dates like this, and I think he should have a target.”

John paused.

“You’re right. I’ll talk to him about this when I have the chance.”

Then, William left. Staring at William’s silhouette, John thought to himself, William is a capable man with a good temper. How did he even end up with Matilda in the first place?

The thought of this made John grin.

I shouldn't be thinking about this.

William hadn't gone to the company before noon, so he got really busy during the afternoon. Hence, Zack only came over after working hours.

Noticing that all of the staff outside were almost gone, Zack shut the door.

"I got someone to investigate Isabelle, but we couldn't get anything at all. I'm not saying that we can't find anything at all, but it's just that her recent activities have been straightforward, and none of them involved Sophia or any shady people."
"

John mumbled an answer at that. Still, there weren't any expressions on his face.

**Zack sat back in his seat before
staring at
John.**

**“Who else should we
investigate? I
don’t think there’s anyone left
anymore.
”**

**Hearing Zack’s statement, John
started
pondering as well.**

**“I guess we
can try
investigating the Morgan Family
as well,
although I don’t think that they
would be
possible.
”**

**However, besides the Morgan
Family, he
really didn’t know who else
could Sophia
offend.
Her social circle was too small.
If the Morgan
Family was removed from
suspicion, there
was no one else that John could
investigate
anymore.**

**Agreeing to the suggestion,
Zack nodded.**

**“The Morgan Family is the only
one left.**

”

**Soon, he left while John
remained in his seat.**

**A while later, he received a text
message**

**from Isabelle along with a
picture of her and
Matilda having dinner, although
there wasn't**

**any correlation between the
picture with her
text at all.**

**‘Mrs. Constance is complaining
that you don't
trust her. Are there any
misunderstandings
between you two?’**

**John took a glance at her text
before exiting
his WhatsApp.**

**He didn't want to answer
Isabelle's question
and didn't want to know what
she was having
with Matilda.**

**Then, John took his phone and
left the office**

to get his car, after which he headed to Sophia's place.

He parked his car a distance away from her house before walking over to her front door.

The front door and the door leading to the living room were wide open while Sophia sat on the couch in her living room, watching TV.

At the same time, she was chatting away with someone on the phone.

John slowly walked closer and soon could earlier hear Sophia talking by the time he reached the front door.

It was probably Robin on the other end of the call. Sophia's eyes were fixated on the TV while she spoke with a hint of a smile as she asked her friend if she was feeling better.

Not knowing what Robin

replied, John heard

Sophia again.

“He’s still under

intensive

training, so I couldn’t get in

contact with him.

Moreover, I don’t really want

him to know

about this because I’m afraid he

might get

distracted.

”

Robin replied something again

before Sophia

started giggling.

“Yeah. Ian has

always been

nice to me.

”

John stopped dead in his tracks

as he stood

where he was and stared at

Sophia.

However, Sophia didn’t notice

him at all, as

she was immersed in her phone

call.

It was obvious that Sophia held

Ian in high

regard, as she’d mention Ian so

frequently

that it was hard to miss.

John paused for a moment before he turned around and went out.

Then, he stood on Sophia's lawn for a while as she continued speaking on the phone.

There was probably a lot to talk about

between the two girls.

John sighed. I probably shouldn't wait any longer.

Without meeting Sophia, he walked out of the lawn and closed the gates with him.

The Returning Ex Chapter 505

When John got back to his car, he took his cigarette pack out.

He wasn't one with a smoking addiction, but

he had been smoking more frequently during this period of time.

At this rate, he was already developing an addiction to smoking.

Still, John pondered for a

moment and kept his lighter after taking it out. He merely placed a cigarette near his nose before smelling it.

The lights in Sophia's living room are still on.

A few seconds later, John placed the cigarette down before starting his car and left.

However, Sophia was oblivious to all of these.

After she hung up on Robin, she got up to close the door.

When Sophia noticed that the gate to her lawn was already closed, she was surprised.

She could recall that the gate was left open when she went to throw the rubbish just now.

After staring at the gate for a while and glancing outside, Sophia didn't notice anything wrong, so she went

back to her house and locked the door and the windows before going back to her room. The next few days were extremely productive for Sophia, as she was busy with her driving lesson and shop. Her shop's business was way better than back when Robin was working alone, and now they were getting more takeaway orders.

Logan had been very supportive and would always order from her almost every night.

Great business, smooth days as well as the fact that John hadn't been coming over to bother her suddenly made Sophia feel hopeful about her future. Ian's talent show trailer had been successful as well.

The show made its release on the Internet,

and Sophia had been sitting in front of her laptop on that day itself. To be honest, Sophia knew that Ian wouldn't be making his appearance so early in the show, but she still watched it due to respect, just like how she respected Ian. Logan, who was watching the show at his clubhouse, also called Sophia as they started discussing the show. Right then, Sophia's phone vibrated. Someone was trying to call her through WhatsApp, and upon checking her phone, she realized that it was a WhatsApp call from Ian. Since Ian was calling her, she naturally hung up on Logan. Ian probably just got his phone back, so Sophia quickly accepted the call and asked how he was doing recently.

Without hesitation, Ian replied that he was fine while Sophia informed him that she was watching his show.

At that, Ian sighed in a low, raspy voice.

“To be honest, I kind of regretted joining this show. I shouldn’t have come.”

Initially, Sophia thought that Ian was wrongfully treated at the show.

However, Ian suddenly lamented, “I haven’t seen you in such a long time after I left, and I really, really miss you.”

Learning the reason the man regretted joining the show, Sophia was taken aback.

She didn’t know if it was because they talked on the phone, but Ian didn’t sound like he

meant it in a friendship kind of way. Still, if she were to say that he meant it in another way, that would likely be her overthinking.

She just couldn't help but feel like someone like Ian deserved someone as smart as Isabelle.

Ian's ideal girl was probably someone who was knowledgeable as well.

Sophia paused before she started laughing.

"To be honest, we all really miss you as well!

Logan had been nagging that we don't even have enough players for a Monopoly match after you left.

”

However, Ian only chuckled at that and didn't say anything else.

Sophia didn't know why she suddenly felt awkward, so she immediately changed the

topic and asked Ian about what he was doing and practicing there.

Although Sophia didn't really know what Ian was talking about, he still patiently told her about his entire schedule for the day.

After talking about nothing for a while, Ian told her that he had to go. His phone was going to get confiscated again.

Knowing that she needed to hang up soon, she sighed.

"Alright. It's late anyway, and you should sleep early."
"

After hanging up, Sophia's grip on her phone tightened as she frowned and thought to herself, Why did it become so awkward between me and Ian now? Could it be due to us not contacting each other for a long time?

The Returning Ex Chapter 506
Sophia decided not to overthink it as she couldn't figure anything out. She found out that many of the earlier contestants were not bad after watching the show for a while. According to the voting system, many of the contestants who went for the hype of it were already eliminated. Those that were able to get into the show were all very talented. Sophia was slightly intrigued, as all of these contestants were great. I wonder if Ian could rise up above these people. It might be bad if he couldn't, as the Morgans will probably taunt him about it. The thought of that made Sophia start pondering about the Morgan family. Logan did tell me that Simon

was admitted to
the hospital after he got beaten
up. Then...

Wait, then what about Matilda?

What was Matilda trying to do
when she was
sneaking around the hospital
like that

Oh! Right. She probably wanted
to see the
woman that William wanted to
marry back
then.

After that, Sophia's mind
started wandering
all over the place.

Suddenly, she thought of
something evil and
pursed her lips.

I wonder what Matilda will do if
William's
relationship with that woman
gets rekindled?

The idea of it made her feel
curious.

After pondering for a while,
Sophia
immediately went to wash up
to prepare to
sleep. She had been going to
her shop on time

every day, just like when she went to work, so she maintained a regular schedule.

However, after lying down, Sophia recalled something. Taking her phone, she tapped into that unknown account on her Facebook.

This account's feed had been emptied up until recently when it posted a new status.

It was a picture of her shop's plaque.

'No Response'

.

Then, that account captioned it as: 'Terrible'

.

Sophia was taken aback. Indeed, this should be someone from the Morgan Family.

However, after thinking about the possibilities, she concluded that this account was most likely Matilda's. Sophia didn't remember if she

had added
Matilda on Facebook, but she
figured she did
after thinking about it.

Then, she quitted the app.

Matilda is
probably really bored to the
point of stalking
my life.

Still, Sophia wasn't mad about
it. Instead,

she felt happy. She wasn't
afraid of others
watching her as the more they
watched her,
the more it motivated her to
live well.

Comparing her life to Matilda's,
it seemed

like she was having it way
better than
Matilda.

This is enough. She was grateful
for the life
she led.

The next day, Sophia went to
her shop to
start off a busy day.

However, people from the
Blackwell family
had come before any customers

did.

The matriarch of the Blackwell family came over with a car and entered the shop with the help of a maid.

Sophia was surprised when she saw her.

Although the matriarch of the Blackwell family was healthy, she'd still need other's help and supervision, as she was already old after all.

Sophia was really afraid that something bad might happen if the matriarch of the Blackwell family didn't be careful.

She immediately walked over.

"Madam Blackwell, what brings you here?"

The matriarch of the Blackwell family looked happy when she saw Sophia, as she extended her hand over for Sophia to grab on.

**“Come
on! Let’s have a seat inside.
”**

**Kate released herself from her
servant’s
hold before grabbing onto
Sophia’s arm.**

**“I
came over because I overheard
that you
opened your own shop. How is
it? Is your
business alright?”**

Sophia nodded.

**“It’s not bad.
Sometimes it
even gets so packed that I
struggle to handle
it.
”**

**The matriarch of the Blackwell
family
scanned the surroundings of the
shop.**

**“Looks
like a nice place.
”**

**However, the reason the
matriarch of the
Blackwell family came today
wasn’t just to**

visit the shop. Instead, she wanted to invite Sophia over to her place to have a meal.

Sophia chuckled before looking like she was troubled.

“I don’t have much time recently, so I’m not sure if I can make it.”

Still, the matriarch of the Blackwell family had already predicted this reaction, so she refused to release Sophia from her grasp.

“I just want you to come over for a meal. I don’t have any bad intentions. It’s just that I heard that you’re here alone and I really like you as a person. Why don’t you just come over for me? Would that be alright?”

Sophia felt helpless when she heard her.

It seemed like Kate really knew

what to say
so that Sophia couldn't reject
her.

The Returning Ex Chapter 507
Since Kate had already made
her intentions
clear, it would be impolite if
Sophia rejected
her.

Not knowing what to say,
Sophia pursed her
lips.

Right then, the servant next to
her
suggested,
"Miss Gwendolyn,
why don't you
just go over? The Blackwells are
really
excited to see you."
"

After considering for a moment,
Kate
suggested,
"Why don't you just
close your
shop for a day? I'll cover your
loss."
"

"No, no, it's not that."
" Sophia

sighed.

“Alright. Just inform me when you’re planning to have a meal, and I’ll arrange my schedule.

”

Kate finally smiled at that. Then, she left after getting what she wanted, as she didn’t want to bother Sophia from her business anymore. However, when Kate was about to leave the shop, she turned around to face Sophia.

“You’re a really good girl.

”

Any average human would die to get closer to the Blackwells, but Sophia looked as if she just wanted to run away. This made Kate like her even more.

After sending Kate off to her car, Sophia waved.

“Have a safe trip.

”

Right then, Kate rolled her

window down and
looked at Sophia.
“I’ll send my
driver over to
fetch you, so you can just wait
for us.
”

Sophia smiled and nodded
before waving Kate
goodbye.
After the car drove away, Kate
finally sat up
straight.
The servant, who was sitting
next to her,
lamented,
“Miss Gwendolyn
looks like a really
nice girl.
”

Kate smiled at that.
“It’s too
bad that her
family background isn’t that
good.
”

The servant chimed in with an
agreement.
After a while, Kate continued,
“But, we can
still be close in other ways.

After all, our family's business did get better after that tarot reading.

”

The Blackwell Family had run into a rough bump a while back. As the matriarch of the Blackwell Family got ill, their business was stagnant due to slow capital return, and some problems came up with their bank loan.

In short, they were in a huge mess.

However, things started to change for the better after the matriarch of the Blackwell Family's birthday party.

Kate had always been a superstitious person and would pray whenever she could, so now she started treating Sophia as her savior.

The matriarch of the Blackwell Family believed that it was Sophia's

**tarot reading
that resurrected the Blackwell
Family.**

**The servant naturally couldn't
say anything
against her, so she could only
chime in
agreement.**

Kate pondered for a moment.

**"To be honest,
I had the intention of setting
Fabian up with
Sophia, but I dropped that idea
now that I
think about it. The Third
Blackwell Family
probably wouldn't want it
anyway. My third
daughter-in-law probably wants
a
daughter-in-law from a good
background, as
she didn't seem to like it when I
tried to hint
at her about it, so I don't want
to be the bad
person. Moreover, Sophia
would disagree too.
I mean, look at her. She looks
like she wants
to run every time she sees me.**

”

By the time Sophia sent Kate off,
the shop’s
morning preparation was
almost done.

Sophia looked like she was in a
daze as she
stood behind the counter.

It had been days since John last
showed up,
and she would occasionally
think of him when
she got home after a long day
of work.

John used to annoy her so much
when he’d
come over almost every day to
look for her.

Now that she hadn’t seen him
in days, she
couldn’t help but miss him
again.

I’m such a hypocrite.

After snapping out of her trance,
customers
started filling in.

It was usually the office workers
who came in
the morning to take away some
desserts and
coffee as their breakfast.

After Sophia handled a few customers,
another customer came, and she asked while her head was still lowered,
“What can I get for you?”

The person replied,
“I’m going to order a lot more than usual today.”

Dumbfounded, Sophia’s head snapped up.

The person that she was still thinking about suddenly showed up.
John appeared in his working suit while he stood in front of her with his hands in his pockets.

“Pack a few more sets for me according to your likings so that I can bring some back for my staff as well.”

Robin grinned and walked over, as she hadn’t seen John for a long time

already.

“Follow me
to see if there’s anything to
your liking so
that I can pack them up for you,
Mr.

Constance.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 508

John gave Sophia a few more
glances before
turning around and following
Robin to the
refrigeration cabinet.

Sophia could vaguely hear John
and Robin
chatting about what desserts
and drinks
would suit each other as she
stood behind
the counter.

From the side, Sophia noticed
that John
looked colder now. He looked
different from
how he was in the past.

She felt like the way John
looked now would
probably scare people away,
and girls wouldn’t
want to go after someone like

this.

**Sophia didn't know if she was
blinded in the
past, but she just found people
like John very
attractive.**

**I guess there was something
really wrong
with my taste.**

**After Robin finished packing up
the meals,**

John came over to pay.

**However, Sophia refused to
accept his
money.**

**"It's on the house. Since
you've helped
me so much in the past, I won't
be charging
you for these.
"**

John didn't hesitate as well.

**"I'll
be
supporting your business more
in the future,
then.
"**

**Right after, he nodded at
Sophia and left.
Sophia stood behind the**

counter as she
thought to herself, John seems
really
different from how he was
before today.

At one point back then, he was
shameless and
slow to understand, but he
doesn't act like
that anymore.

It seems like he went back to
how it was
when he didn't love her.

Sophia smiled a little at that.

That's good.

It's better like this anyway.

There wouldn't
be anything between them
anymore.

After John drove away, Robin
walked over.

"Hey, did Mr. Constance come
over for you?"

Hearing the question, Sophia
snorted.

"Why
would he come over for me? I
haven't been in
contact with him for a long time
already. He
probably came over to buy

some stuff
because he was passing by.
”

Robin nodded before she
pouted.

“You’
re
right. I’ve never seen the two of
you
contacting each other, although
I’m with you
every day.
”

Then, Robin looked outside
while she leaned
on the counter.

“But, are you
willing to let go
of him, though? Mr. Constance
is a really nice
person, and it would be a loss
to let him go
just like that.
”

Sophia smiled.

“It’s not about
being willing or
not. It’s just that I’m more than
often sad
when I was with him, so how
can we continue

going on like that?”

Robin grunted at that and didn't say anything anymore.

They finally got to rest for a while after the rush hour in the morning was over.

There wasn't much left at the shop anymore, so Robin busied herself to make more desserts while Sophia watched and learned from the side.

Right then, Robin asked, “Have you guys found that person that kidnapped me back then yet?”

There weren't any updates from the police, and John didn't say anything when he came over just now, so there probably wasn't any update yet.

Robin sighed.

“To be honest, I don't really

care if we can't find that person
since I
wasn't injured anyways. It's just
that I feel
like I'm left hanging, and I can't
seem to let
go of the breath that I've been
holding.

”

Sophia nodded.

“You're right.

As long as those
people aren't captured, it's
hard to feel at
ease.

”

Robin hummed in agreement.

“But I feel like
Mr. Constance would continue
investigating
this. Just now, I almost...

”

Robin lowered her tone before
she turned
around to Sophia.

“I almost
wanted to ask
him when he would be able to
find the
mastermind behind this.
However, I thought

about it later on and realized that he had no obligation to help us, so I didn't ask him in the end so that I don't sound so immature.

”

Sophia chuckled when she heard Robin. Yeah. John really didn't have any obligation to help her.

After the morning rush hour, Sophia went for her driving lesson since there weren't many customers during the noon.

When the driving lesson ended in the afternoon, she took a cab back to her shop but ended up stuck in a traffic jam and stopped in front of a mall. Pondering for a moment, Sophia decided to get out of the cab and head to the mall to get some stuff. The male and female apparel

were located on
the second and third floor of
the mall
respectively, so Sophia took the
escalator up.

Right after Sophia got off the
escalator, she
turned around and ran into
Matilda.

Matilda just bought some stuff
and was
standing in front of a shop
while being on the
phone.

The Returning Ex Chapter 509
Matilda's voice was loud, and
she looked
upset.

It was possibly due to Matilda's
bad temper
and her habit of frowning
during the past
few years that her facial
expression looked
terrifying. Although she's just
speaking on
the phone, she looks scary.
Sophia stopped after thinking of
that and
started walking over.
Matilda overlooked Sophia as

she was
shrieked into her phone with
anger evident in
her voice.

“He went there every
day?!”

The person on the other end of
the call
replied something and Matilda
harrumphed.

“That sl*t! It seems like my
warning back
then wasn’t threatening enough.
How dare
she still come over?!”

Sophia could already figure out
what was
happening when she heard
Matilda.

Matilda was obviously pissed
off that William
had been taking care of that
woman whom he
almost married at the hospital.

After a few more scoldings,
Matilda hung up
after saying,

“I’ll destroy that
b*tch this
time!”

Sophia paused before she ran

to hide when she saw Matilda strutting over to the direction of the escalator. As Matilda was pissed off, she didn't notice the person next to her and went down from the escalator. Thus, Sophia followed right behind her. Seeing that Matilda went out to get a cab, Sophia followed along as well. Sophia could already guess that Matilda was heading to the hospital. Matilda wasn't one to beat around the bush, and from the conversation that Sophia overheard just now, Matilda probably wanted to go to the hospital to cause a scene. Sophia pondered for a moment before taking her phone out. She was in a predicament, for she wanted Matilda to go cause a scene

since this
wouldn't be beneficial toward
Matilda if
things went out of hand.
However, she felt
like she couldn't just let Matilda
do that as
John had helped her out after
all.

After thinking it through,
Sophia decided to
contact John.

The call was connected in no
time as John's
voice rang out.

"Sophia.
"

Sophia hummed in response.

"I
just saw your
mother just now, and she was
heading toward
the hospital in anger. I feel like
something
bad might happen.
"

John paused before he came
back to his
senses immediately. After
telling Sophia that
he understood, he hung up

hurriedly.

Sophia placed her phone down.

It seemed like

John was coming to the

hospital.

Sophia's cab tailed behind

Matilda's to the

hospital as the latter could be

seen getting

out of the car. She had a

handbag with her as

she walked toward the hospital

in a rush.

Sophia came out of the cab as

she watched

Matilda getting stopped by a

person.

It was the doctor that checked

Ian's injuries

last time, Dr. Holt.

Dr. Holt stood in Matilda's way

and said

something incoherent while the

latter

shrugged him off and pointed

her finger at

him.

"Don't think that I don't

know why you

guys are blocking my way! Why

won't you guys

let me have a look myself if you
guys have
nothing to hide? What did that
sl*t give you
for you to help her, huh? Or,
could it be that
you have something with her as
well, so that's
why you're helping her?"

What Matilda said was so
offensive that Dr.
Holt's face immediately
darkened.

Even Sophia, who was tailing
Matilda, felt like
what she had said was really
rude.

She couldn't go up to stop
Matilda as the
latter's short temper fuse was
already lit up,
so she could only hide aside and
hope that
John could reach soon.

Dr. Holt looked upset.

"Madam
Flintstone,
please think before you talk as
you hold
responsibilities for the words
that come out

from your mouth.

”

However, Matilda looked like she lost grasp of reality as she harrumphed.

“Who are you to tell me what to do? I wasn’t even looking for you, so why did you appear in front of me? I’m warning you not to stand in my way. I want to meet that sl*t right now and see what kind of tricks did she pull to attract the attention of a married man.

”

Dr. Holt stared at Matilda for a moment before he spoke in a normal tone.

“Married man? According to what I know, William is single.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 510
Matilda froze at where she stood as a ridiculous expression appeared

on her face.

“He even told you guys about that?”

Faced with her question, Dr. Holt refused to say anything.

A few seconds later, Matilda suddenly smiled.

“So that’s why William chose to get a divorce during this period of time. The two of them had probably gotten in touch a while back and felt like I was getting in between them, didn’t they? Is that why he wants to kick me away now? In their dreams! Just watch me destroy these shameless people!”

Then, Matilda started making her way toward the hospital again.

She had come here before and knew which ward that woman was staying at, so it wasn’t hard for her to find that woman.

However, Dr. Holt still stood in her way.

“Please calm down, Madam Flintstone. This is a hospital, and you’ll be made to leave if you cause a scene.

”

Still, Matilda couldn’t care less about getting thrown out because she looked like she was about to pounce in anger.

“Do it, then. Make me leave. Do you think that I’m afraid of you?

Let me tell you guys this; I am not afraid of anything. Do you think that I would still care so much when they’ve already done something so shameless? Come on. At most, we could all stop acting and bring the issue out into the open so that others can judge for us.

”

Sophia couldn’t help but feel

intrigued.

Matilda is really not bad at this.

**Was it all an
act when she made herself look
so vulnerable
in front of her?**

**Dr. Holt closed his eyes after
glancing at
Matilda.**

**There was no way to stop her at
this point as
there were more and more
onlookers
gathering here.**

**If Matilda really caused a scene
here, it
would absolutely wreak havoc.**

**Seeing that Dr. Holt stopped
saying anything,**

**Matilda harrumphed and
pushed him away
before she started heading to
the warding**

area at the back of the hospital.

**After Matilda left, Dr. Holt
immediately**

contacted John as well.

**However, John was still stuck in
a traffic**

**jam, and he felt increasingly
anxious the**

longer time went by.
He had been running into red
lights at every
junction on his way to the
hospital.

On the other hand, William had
already
returned to the Constance
Residence.

However, he didn't get John to
come back as
Matilda might start causing a
ruckus when
she saw John with her
temperament.

John was still stuck in a junction
when he
received a call from Dr. Holt
before he
accepted the call.

After hearing Dr. Holt's report
about what
happened, John sighed.

"Sorry
for causing an
inconvenience. What about this?
You can just
ignore her so that she couldn't
ruin your
reputation when she starts
sprouting

**bullsh*ts. I'm on my way now,
and I'll settle
everything else.
”**

**After that, John hung up when
the traffic
light turned green and slammed
on the gas
pedal.**

**Sophia followed Matilda to the
hospital wards
and went upstairs as well,
although she didn't
dare to get too close to Matilda.
Matilda had already caused a
scene at the
wards as many doctors and
nurses started
going over to her.**

**This time, it was impossible for
Sophia to try
to get closer as the situation
was completely
out of hand.**

**Matilda's criticisms were
exceptionally loud,
and she accused the woman of
being a
homewrecker. She claimed that
the woman
was picky and dumped her**

husband when she
was young, but she just couldn't
stand seeing
Matilda being happy, so she
came to seduce
William again so that he would
divorce his
wife.

There were a few sobs while
Matilda
continued scolding and cursing,
but Sophia
couldn't tell if her cries were
genuine or not,
as the situation was too messy.
Sophia was helpless as she
stood in the
corridor.

William must have done
something terrible in
his past life to marry a woman
like this in his
current life.

Although Matilda always told
her that she
doesn't deserve John, from
Sophia's
perspective, someone from a
lesser
background like hers was way
better than

**someone as short-tempered
and ill-mannered
as Matilda.**

**When John reached, the
situation had
escalated and gone completely
out of hand.**

**The doctors and nurses that
came to help
were all attacked by Matilda as
she pushed
all of the medical equipment
and medicines to
the ground.**

**That woman had just come out
of surgery and
still couldn't get out of her bed.**

**Therefore,
when Matilda came over to
cause a scene, her
wound split again.**

**The doctors and nurses in
charge
immediately went over to tend
to the woman's
injury.**

The securities came as well.

**However,
Matilda started thrashing
around and threw a
tantrum on the ground, causing**

**the security
guards to be at a loss on what
to do to her.**

The Returning Ex Chapter 511

**John walked over and squeezed
past the**

crowd before he grabbed

Matilda and asked

coldly,

“Mom, what are you

trying to do?”

Matilda burst into tears the

moment she

turned around and saw John.

“John, it’s your

dad. Your dad cheated on me

with this sl*t!

It’s good that you’re here now.

Look, this is

the reason why your dad wants

to divorce me.

Look at this; this is the woman.

”

John looked upset as he

grabbed Matilda and

ignored what was happening in

the ward.

“Let’s just leave this place and

talk about it

when we get back home.

”

However, Matilda shrugged him off.

“What are you talking about? I don’t have a home anymore. I’ve already left the marriage without anything after how your dad treated me. How could I be so stupid to leave all my money with him so that he could spend it on that woman?” Then, Matilda raised her finger to point at the woman in the ward.

“Do you know that this homewrecker had already tried to seduce your dad once a few years back but disappeared for a while after I beat her up? She’s back again now. I’ve never met anyone so audacious. This is just too much.”

Those patients and their families who were

onlooking started whispering to each other.

Although John couldn't hear what they were gossiping about, he knew that it probably wasn't anything good. Faced with this complicated situation, John could only sigh.

"You can't solve anything by causing a scene here either way. Let's talk about this at home. Dad's at home, so you can talk to him about how you feel. The security guards are going to make you leave if you continue staying here, so there's really no point in causing a scene."
"

However, Matilda couldn't be bothered as she remained as stubborn as a mule.

"I want to make a scene! I want to let everyone know that your dad and this woman

aren't good
people! They're both terrible
people.
Terrible!"
No one would stand a chance
against
Matilda's unreasonable claims.
Then, the
woman turned around and
started blabbering
to those who were looking,
"Do
you guys know
that this woman inside and my
husband were
already a thing a long while ago?
My husband
even tricked me into getting a
divorce and
made me leave without
anything. I didn't even
ask him for anything, but he
turned around
and started being all
lovey-dovey with this
woman here. I mean, can you
guys even trust
men nowadays?"
Sophia was impressed as she
looked from
afar. Gosh, I must say that

Matilda is really good at this. If she continued causing a scene, the Constance Family was going to be viral again.

Although William had the thought of reconciling with Matilda, it probably wouldn't happen after this. Matilda was a competent person, but she had never used her abilities in the right place.

However, John raised his voice after waiting by the side for a while.

"If you really want to cause a scene, then let's do it. Let's make it even more huge by calling Grandma and Grandpa over so that you can tell them what you went through, and they can do you justice. I'll also invite the media over to write your articles and release a

media press for
you. Are you satisfied with
that?"

Matilda, who was still crying on
another

person, stopped right then.

Although she
wasn't afraid of most of the
things that John
mentioned, she felt slightly
afraid when he

mentioned bringing the

Flintstone Family

over. Matilda's days in the

Flintstone Family

hadn't been great recently. It
seemed like

none of them could stand her,
and they all

felt like this divorce was her
fault.

The other day, even Old Mrs.

Flintstone said

that she'd want William to get
away from

someone as gullible as her and
remarry

someone else to enjoy the life
of a normal

person. If they knew that she
came here to

cause a scene, the Flintstones might actually take this opportunity to allow William to follow his will.

Crossing her arms, Sophia was leaning on the wall as she watched from afar.

A while later, she noticed that the crowd had started to disperse as John came out of the crowd while dragging onto Matilda's arm. Sophia immediately hurried to find a place to hide.

The Returning Ex Chapter 512
John actually noticed Sophia, for he could recognize her sneaky looks in the crowd with just one glance.

However, he didn't have the time to greet Sophia right now. Instead, he dragged Matilda out of the ward and left.

Matilda had exposed John's identity when

she was busy criticizing others
just now, and
some people started recording
with their
phones when they heard her.
I don't know if this would go
viral, but
honestly, I really don't know
what to say
about this.

After leaving the department,
the two of
them got into John's car.

John's face was dark, while
Matilda looked
like she was in a daze.

When John started driving,
Matilda suddenly
burst into tears again before
they could
reach the hospital's entrance.
She continued scolding how all
the efforts
she had made were all wasted
and that
William should be sorry about
it.

Then, she went on about how
she sacrificed
so much for the family, but
William ended up

cheating on her and made her
leave without
anything.

John had enough of listening to
all of these,
so he could only drive with a
dark face while
his mother continued crying
and complaining.

He drove all the way to the
Constance
Residence, and when they
reached, the gates
were already opened.

William's car was already
parked in the
parking lot.

John refused to look at Matilda
after he
stopped the car.

"Go on. Dad is
waiting for
you in the living room."
"

Matilda wiped her tears off and
got out of
the car in a huff before heading
into the
house.

She looked like she was ready
to start a

fight with John.

However, when Matilda entered the living room, she was stunned.

Not only was William and Old Mrs. Constance in the living room, but even the two Flintstones were present as well.

In fact, all of them were sitting on the couch with upset faces.

Matilda's strong facade immediately disappeared when she saw those two from the Flintstones as she stood unmoving.

"Dad, Mom, why are you guys here?" Right then, Old Mrs. Flintstone took her phone and threw it at Matilda.

**"Look at what you've done."
"**

After the mess just now, the footage of Matilda causing a scene at the

**hospital had
gone viral.**

**William's face was dark when
he stared at
Matilda. It was completely
different from
back then.**

**In the past, William would be
patient and try
to console Matilda whenever
she threw a
tantrum. Although he would
look impatient,
he would never have reacted
like how he did
today.**

**William looked like he was
completely done
with her.**

**John didn't come out of the car
as he raked
the seat of the car down before
lying down.**

**He really didn't want to listen
to those people
arguing in the living room.**

**Moreover, with
Matilda's chaotic personality,
they probably
wouldn't reach an agreement
anyway.**

Right then, John took his phone out and contacted Sophia.

When the call was connected, John sighed.

“Thanks for today.

”

“It’s fine. You don’t have to thank me since I didn’t help out anyway.

”

Sophia’s tone was clipped, and it sounded a bit like she was gloating at him.

However, John didn’t want to care about

these anymore as he replied,

“At least you

still informed me, so I still have to thank you

for it.

”

顾思也没说话。

Even after he thanked her, she didn’t say anything.

Therefore, John was slightly agitated, but he

didn’t hang up on her. Instead, he asked

Sophia about what she was doing.

Sophia was already back at her shop, so she told him that she was resting since there weren

't many customers at the shop right now.

John pondered for a moment, after which he chuckled.

“Sophia, are you relieved that we got a divorce earlier?”

Faced with John’s question, Sophia actually laughed louder than he did.

“Mr. Constance, have you mistaken something? You’re the one who suggested our divorce.”

However, John only replied a few seconds later,

“Yeah. I was the one who suggested it, but I don’t understand why I

wanted to get a
divorce in the first place now.
”

Sophia thought about it for a
moment before
she answered thoughtfully,
“Maybe you’
re
unhappy and disgusted by me
the more you
looked at me because I wasn’t
someone that
you
’ve wanted in the first place but
was
forced onto you.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 513
Even after Sophia gave a long
explanation,
John merely replied,
“Maybe.
”

When he thought about it, he
did harbor
some sort of dislike toward
Sophia in the
past, and it developed the
moment he met
her.
Back then, he didn’t know

anything about Sophia at all, but he had decided that he didn't like her. However, he indeed didn't completely dislike her, as he would sometimes think of her as a nice but pitiful person that was forced to be with him when he looked at her.

Maybe he felt sorry for her as well.

Sophia knew why John contacted her. There should be a fight going on right now at the Constance Residence.

John probably didn't want to get involved but felt uncomfortable about it, so he wanted someone to talk to.

Sophia didn't want to retort him, so she got comfortable and started talking about everything and anything with him.

A while later, John asked her

about Ian's
situation.

However, he knew clearer than
anyone else

about Ian's situation right now.

Still, Sophia didn't know that,
so she told

John about how they spoke on
the phone

about two days ago.

John replied with an 'oh' and
trailed off at

that.

Indeed, Ian had too much free
time with him,

so he actually still had the time
to make

phone calls.

According to Sophia, she had
been watching

the music show every day now
and was hoping

that Ian could get a good result.

John narrowed his eyes. If Ian
really

managed to debut, he would
probably be very

busy.

When he got busy, he wouldn't
have time to

think about Sophia then.

John chuckled soundlessly. It seems like I should help Ian out. However, while he was still talking to Sophia, he saw someone coming out of the main building.

The Flintstone couple came out with Matilda while she cried.

John immediately bid Sophia farewell before he hung up and got out of the car.

The Flintstone couple's facial expression looked better when they saw John.

"Hey, John."
"

However, Matilda turned her head to a side as she didn't want to look at John.

John nodded at the Flintstone couple.

"Grandpa, Grandma, why are you guys leaving so soon?"

Old Mr. Flinstone sighed.

**“We
are leaving
now. Your grandma was so
pissed off when
she saw the news, and I’m
afraid that she
might get even more pissed off
if we
continued staying here.
”**

**John didn’t see the news, so he
was slightly
shocked.**

**“The news had already
come out?”**

Old Mrs. Flintstone sighed.

**“News spread
quickly nowadays. As soon as
there are any
slight movements, it will start
spreading.
”**

Matilda harrumphed at that.

**“It
could be
that woman hiring people to
make it viral so
that she can use the
opportunity to set us
up.**

”

..

Old Mrs. Flintstone was speechless as she turned to Matilda.

“Just stop talking for now.

You don’t even know what you did wrong even until now. You’re helpless.

”

Matilda wiped her tears before getting into the car along with the Flintstone couple.

John stood where he was before, watching the Flintstones driving away.

When Matilda entered the car, she snorted.

“You guys also saw how William was like just

now. He must have been cheating on me with that woman for a while now. I won’t believe him even though he denies it.

”

Old Mrs. Flintstone turned around to look at Matilda.

**“Even if he had
cheated, what you
did today was still wrong. You
causing a scene
would just make you guys drift
away even
more. Remember what I told
you last time?
William will surely feel bad that
you got
divorced without anything.
There would be a
chance for you guys to reconcile
if you’
ve
acted well but looked at you
now. Look at
what you’ve done.
”**

**“What should I do, then?”
Matilda shifted
around her seat to face Old Mrs.
Flintstone.
“I’m really pissed off today.
William must
have divorced me because of
that woman.
Since they don’t want me to be
happy, I won’t
let them be happy as well. Now
that I’**

**ve
already ended up like this, I
ain't afraid of
anything anymore.
”**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 514
Although Old Mr. Flintstone
was sitting in
the front seat, he was very
tempted to turn
around and slap Matilda.**

**“Why
are you so
impatient? Has your brain
decayed after all
these years? How could you not
have any
improvement? You immature
little girl.
”**

**Matilda was still afraid of Old
Mr. Flintstone,
so she pursed her lips and
lowered her voice.**

**“What was I supposed to do? I
just feel like
what I did was completely
normal.
”**

**Right after that, Matilda's
phone started**

ringing, which surprised her.
Taking her
phone, Matilda saw that it was
a call from
Isabelle, so she stared at it for a
while. She
knew Isabelle called because
the latter saw
the news on the Internet, after
which she
couldn't help but sigh. After the
first call
went unanswered, Isabelle
immediately
followed up with a second call.
Closing her eyes, Matilda
informed her
parents,
"Someone's calling
me.
"

Then, she accepted the call and
greeted with
a cheerful voice,
"Hello, Belle.
Why did you
suddenly call me? What's
wrong? Did
something happen?"
When Isabelle heard that
Matilda didn't

sound different from how she was like previously, she was confused. Isabelle lowered her voice.

“Mrs. Constance, have you seen the news?” Matilda knew that she would surely contact her because of this, so she chuckled.

“I haven’t. What’s wrong?” Isabelle probably felt like it wasn’t suitable to speak about this issue on the phone, so she suggested, “Mrs. Constance, are you free now? Why don’t we meet up? I have something to tell you.”

Matilda thought about it before agreeing. She didn’t want to return to the Flintstone Residence, and those people from the Flintstone Family were probably waiting for

her to get back.
Honestly, I really don't want to
see any of
those people right now.
Matilda immediately agreed
before
instructing the driver,
"Please
drop me off at
the junction in front. I have to
go settle
something important."
"

Old Mrs. Flintstone leaned back
on the seat.

"That was Isabelle, isn't it?"
Matilda mumbled a response
before lowering
her head and kept her phone
before she
heard Old Mrs. Flintstone
remarking,
"Don't
get too close to her. It's not
good to be close
to her considering both of your
statuses."
"

Matilda was taken aback as she
looked up
abruptly at Old Mrs. Flintstone,

but the latter ignored her and looked outside of the window with a frowning expression.

Now that her footage had gone viral, she didn't know what to do to lower the footage's engagement.

The Constance Family wanted to announce that the two of them were already divorced.

However, Old Mrs. Flintstone felt like once their divorce was publicized, there wouldn't be any chances for Matilda and William to get back together anymore.

It was impossible for someone with Matilda's temper to find another person as patient as William.

In this entire world, William was probably the only person who could tolerate so many of Matilda's bad habits.

Looking away, Matilda argued,
“I really like
Isabelle. At least, she’s way
better than
Sophia. Isabelle is educated,
unlike Sophia.
Sophia is just a wild village girl
that doesn’t
deserve John.
”

Old Mr. Flintstone, who was
sitting at the
front, couldn’t stand the way
Matilda was
speaking anymore.

“Why does
John’s liking
need to be related to you? Why
are you
worrying about others when
you can’t even
understand what’s wrong with
your action
today? You better save your
energy for
that.
”

Matilda immediately shut up at
that. She
never talked back to her father,
for he was

never a person who'd spoil his kids.

After the driver stopped at the junction in front, Matilda got out of the car.

Before she left, Old Mrs. Flintstone didn't forget to remind her, "Listen to me, stay away from Isabelle. You've been spoiled by William and us for so many years now, so you never really know how to think things through. Think about it, alright? Gosh, talking to you makes me really tired."
"

Old Mrs. Flintstone looked away after that and instructed the driver, "Let's go."
"

Then, the driver drove away slowly. After standing by the side of the road for a long

while, Matilda waved around to halt a cab.

The Returning Ex Chapter 515

Stay away from Isabelle? Are they telling me

they want me to get closer to Sophia?

Seriously? These people are all tricked by

Sophia's appearance.

Sophia was someone who wouldn't hesitate to

trick her mother-in-law, and Matilda would

never accept Sophia because of this.

When Matilda reached the cafe in a cab,

Isabelle was already waiting there.

She smiled when she entered the place.

"I'm

slightly late because I was stuck in a traffic

jam just now.

"

However, Isabella's facial expression looked

somber as she stood up immediately.

“Mrs.

Constance, are you alright?”

Matilda forced herself to be calm.

“I’m fine.

What could be wrong?”

Then, Isabelle took her phone and unlocked it

while the footage of Matilda causing a scene

at the hospital popped up coincidentally.

The situation looked out of hand as Matilda

kept crying and sniffing in the footage, but

they could already figure out what happened.

Matilda watched the footage as she tried to

remain as composed as she could.

“That’s

nothing much. It’s not like it’s something

huge, right?”

Isabelle kept her phone at that before

turning to Matilda.

“Mrs.

Constance, did you

get a divorce?”

Let’s talk about Matilda.

**Although she always
gave Isabelle false information
about John**

**and Sophia, she didn’t lie
consciously. Matilda
wasn’t a good liar, and the
wrong information
that she had relayed was just
her subjective
judgments.**

**Right now, Matilda didn’t know
how to cover
her excuse up through
observations.**

”

**So, she nodded after pursing
her lips for a
moment.**

**“Yes, William and I
are divorced.**

”

**After that, Matilda didn’t forget
to add on,**

**“Causing a scene at the hospital
today was**

**actually one of my plans. Since
those people**

won

’t let me be happy, I won’t let

them be
happy as well. Now that this
issue is leaked,
the Constance Family are
probably in a mess
as they try to make a new
proposal to go
against this playboy.

”

Then, she pushed her hair back.

“To be
honest, there’s nothing that I
can do since we
are already divorced. However,
it’s not like
we can
't survive without each other.

After
I’ve lost William, aren’t I still
living just the
same?”

Isabelle stared at Matilda with a
serious look
on her face.

So this was why Matilda would
always come
up with all sorts of excuses
whenever she
mentioned the idea of visiting
her at the
Constance Residence.

After that, Matilda would resort to saying that she had been living at the Flintstones Residence. So she had probably gotten divorced back then, huh? Isabelle initially wanted to take advantage of Matilda to get on the Constance Family's good side and find a way to get close to John.

However, now that Matilda was like this...

Matilda didn't even notice Isabelle's facial expression as she kept talking and daydreaming about how she would never consider it if William tried to contact her again.

After leaving William, she also said that she wanted to find someone way better than William.

From the sound of it, it seemed like Matilda

was dissatisfied and was trying to console herself.

Isabelle stopped talking as Matilda continued babbling as well.

To be honest, Matilda held a grudge after going to the Constance Residence just now.

William and Old Mrs. Constance sounded

determined as they decided that they

wanted to announce William and Matilda's divorce to the public.

Matilda knew that her reputation would be gone entirely the moment this news was

announced to the public.

The Flintstone couple also wished to take

things slow, but it seemed like the Constance

Family had reached an agreement and had made a decision.

Although Matilda was upset about it, she

couldn't do anything. She could only complain so that she would feel better about it.

After going on for a while, Matilda finally realized that Isabella hadn't said anything at all.

Staring at Isabelle, Matilda asked,

"What's wrong, Isabelle?"

However, Isabelle smiled and didn't say anything.

After pondering for a moment, Matilda tried to assure her.

"Don't be worried, for I'll still be at your side regarding you and John. I'll still try to create more opportunities to help you to get closer to John since I've always decided on you as my daughter-in-law.

"

Still, Isabelle couldn't listen to

all these any
longer.

The Returning Ex Chapter 516

Matilda made countless similar
promises to
Isabelle, but there was no
progress between
Isabelle and John at all. Matilda
kept saying
that she'd help Isabelle, but did
she ever?

Isabelle pinched her glabella in
frustration.

“Mrs. Constance, is there no
hope for you and
Mr. Constance? Did you do it
impulsively?”

“Impulsive? No, no. I have long
noticed that
something is not right with him.
He started
hooking up with that woman
years ago. My
guess is that their relationship
has persisted,
so what do I need a man like
him for?”

Isabelle forced a smile.

“Ah, is
it?” It
happened that her phone

buzzed, so she
picked it up, but the
conversation from the
other side was inaudible to
Matilda. Isabelle
agreed to something a few
times and ended
the call, after which she looked
at Matilda.

“Mrs. Constance, I have
something going on in
the company. I’m actually
excusing myself
specifically to meet with you,
and I have to
rush back now.
”

Failing to sense the change in
Isabelle’s
attitude, Matilda replied,
“Sure,
go ahead.
Work is more important.
”

Isabelle clutched her bag and
stood up
without even looking at Matilda.
“Well, let’s
talk again when we’re free
then.
”

Matilda watched as Isabelle walked out of the cafe, got into a cab, and left. Then, the smile on her face promptly vanished. She slowly turned around and covered her face, for she had no courage to check out that video of her on the internet. In that video, she looked horrible and totally different from her elegant and poised manner from before. Matilda sat there sighing and wallowing in regrets for a while before leaving the cafe altogether. When she hailed a cab back to the Flintstone Residence, she specifically instructed the cab driver for a detour and passed by Sophia's storefront. Just now, when she was at the Constance Residence, Old Mrs. Constance

mentioned

Sophia's name and went on to accuse Matilda of picking on Sophia for a year, making her fall short of her role as a mother-in-law.

Frustrated, Matilda admitted that she did not fulfill her role as a mother-in-law, but Sophia failed as a daughter-in-law as well.

Whose daughter-in-law would physically fight her mother-in-law?

The cab reached Sophia's storefront, where Matilda asked for the cab to stop. Sophia was still greeting customers in the store.

Matilda could see her smiling at customers through the French window. I wonder what the customer told her because she appears a little shy.

Still, Matilda looked down on Sophia. Look at

that unsophisticated smile!
How could Sophia
even be compared to Isabelle?
Feeling angrier the more she
watched, she
dryly ordered the cab driver to
continue the
journey,
“We can leave now.
Looking at that
country bumpkin just makes me
gag.
”

The cab driver promptly drove
away without
a word. In the store, Sophia had
no clue that
Matilda just dropped by. She
waited for the
customers to leave before
hurriedly taking a
seat and checking her phone.
Her current pastime was to
watch the videos
of Matilda online, which was an
excellent way
to de-stress. Losing the cool and
the stature
of Mrs. Constance, Matilda
appeared no
different from the loud women

from the
countryside. The internet has a
long memory.
If she was ever unhappy, she
could search up
this video to entertain herself.
The female patient was, of
course, included
in the video as well. She lay on
the bed in pain
and was attended to by a nurse.
Now that Sophia looked more
closely at it,
the woman appeared younger
than Matilda,
and due to her bare face, she
looked less
threatening than Matilda.
Smacking her lips,
Sophia thought that if William
had any taste
at all, he would never choose
Matilda between
the two women.
She wondered how it was going
on Matilda's
side. Before this, she had
wanted to reign in
Matilda with her knowledge of
the divorce,
but Matilda leaked the news

out herself. Hah!
What a joke!
Sophia replayed the video a few
times before
Robin came over to take a look.
“You’ve been
watching this for many times.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 517
Pointing at the crazy Matilda in
the video,
Sophia advised her friend,
“Gosh, look at this.
When you are looking into
getting married in
the future, you must steer clear
of any
mother-in-law like her. No
matter how much
you love the man, you cannot
marry him. Do
you know how difficult she is? A
naive rabbit
like you would be hunted and
chewed down to
bones the first day of your
marriage.
”

Robin stared at the video for a
while and
asked Sophia,

**“When you first
married John,
didn’t you learn about his
family?”**

**Sophia clicked her tongue and
answered,**

**“No.
I didn’t know better back then.
”**

**Also, Old Mr. Constance treated
her very
nicely, and everyone dared not
show their
true faces in front of the
patriarch, causing
her to mistake the friendliness
as
acceptance.**

**At the start of the trouble, she
was in a daze
as well. When Old Mr.
Constance was gone,
and she was left alone, she
desperately
needed a family member on her
side.**

**She fell right into a huge family
like the
Constances, and she wanted to
be part of
them, but she later realized that**

they didn't
want her to be a part of the
family. It was a
misunderstanding that cost her
precious
time.

Robin took a seat and rested
her chin on her
hands.

"Did John treat you
well?"

Did John treat me well? That
was hard to say
because there were instances
when he
treated her nicely and vice
versa. After
giving it some thought, she
decided to go
with an answer, saying,
"I
guess... he treated
me pretty okay."
"

Robin broke into a smile.

"Look,
even when his
mother hated you, he still
treated you nicely.
He sounds like a decent man."
"

A decent man? What rubbish is that? If he had even cared for me, Matilda would not have stepped all over me. Some matters were hard to be explained, so Sophia merely laughed it off. "Yeah, John is decent."
"

Robin pursed her lips and added, "Actually, one's relationship with their mother-in-law is not tricky to solve."
"

Sophia smiled at her. "Well, it depends on the person, I guess. Perhaps, it is not tough for you. I was a bit socially awkward, so it was difficult for me."
"

The conversation ended right there as Sophia and Robin went to work for a

while before
closing the store. Sophia let
Robin leave
before her. As for herself, she
counted the
cash at the register before
locking the doors
to leave.

She didn't feel like going home,
so she
wandered around on the
streets. After
dinner and a long stroll, she
finally took a cab
home.

When she reached her door,
she was shocked
to find that the lights on the
second floor
were switched on. She was
taken aback and
wondered if someone sneaked
into her house
again. Grabbing her 'weapon'
from last time in
the garden, she unlocked her
door and
cautiously went up the stairs.
The lights in the corridor were
on, and her
bedroom door was wide open

as well. She inched closer and tightened her grip on her weapon. The moment she reached the door, she immediately saw a man in her bed.

John was in her bed, and his shoes were on the floor. He took off his jacket, and even his tie was loosened. Seeing it was John, she carefully went up to him.

“John?”

Reeked of alcohol, he was asleep with a flushed face. Realizing that the man was John, she put away the weapon in her hand and stood there while watching him. Did he get himself drunk because he's upset?

She went over and pushed him.

“John, wake up. How did you get in?”
I'm a hundred percent sure that I locked all the doors on the balcony. John

flipped around
and mumbled in a low voice,
“Sophia, stop
fooling around.
”

She scratched her head.
“Come
on, tell me
first. How did you get in?”
His eyes closed in a stupor
before he started
responding to her,
“The lock on
your door has
my fingerprint record.
”

She was stunned because she
clearly
remembered deleting his
fingerprint from
the records. He chuckled
gleefully, saying,
“Last time when I sent you
home, I
re-entered my fingerprint.
”

Gritting her teeth in anger,
Sophia thought,
What a jerk! He does not waste
any
opportunities, huh?

She went over and pushed him again.

“Alright.

Wake up now. Why did you drink too much and come to my place?”

The Returning Ex Chapter 518

This time, John showed no response at all; he truly fell asleep. After struggling for a while,

Sophia was tired as well, so she sat down on the bed.

“If you want to sleep, go to the guest room. Today is the final time I’m allowing this. If you try to act dumb when you’re drunk, I’ll call Zack to pick you up.”

John remained unresponsive. Sophia wanted to lift him, but she could not even move him an inch. After two tries, she gave up on moving him.

**She went into the bathroom
and washed up
before leaving her room for the
guest room,
where John had previously
stayed in. The
guest room was well-stocked,
and the only
thing she needed to adjust to
was the
unfamiliar bed.**

**She lay down, switched off the
lights, and
drifted to sleep after cursing at
John. In the
middle of the night, she felt
that something
was off and lifted her blanket,
but it was
pinned down. Hence, she
struggled for a bit
before removing the blanket
and switching on
the lights.**

**John, who had been sleeping
soundly in her
room, was now sleeping beside
her with his
leg on hers. In fact, he reached
out and
hugged her in his sleep.**

She was beyond furious and clenched her teeth as she yelled at him, "John, are you deliberately doing this to me?" He was still in a daze, for he was not faking it at all because he really had too much to drink. Upon hearing her voice, he lifted his arm and pulled her into a hug. "Go to sleep. I'm tired."

She pushed him away.

"You animal! What the f*ck are you doing?"

John grabbed the blanket and went back to a night of deep sleep. As for Sophia, she jumped down from the bed and left the guest room.

Walking back to her room, she locked her door as a precaution. With this, she believed that John would not harass her

anymore.

Indeed, the rest of the night passed without an incident, and Sophia had a good sleep until the sun was up. When she woke up, no one was asleep beside her, whereupon she washed up and left her room soon.

In the corridor, she thought about it and

went over to John's room, where he was still fast asleep in the bed. It appeared that he indeed had too much to drink last night.

She had wanted to wake him up to deliver a

scolding, but upon seeing his condition, she

gave up on that idea. What's the point of

arguing with a drunkard? I guess I'll just add more layers of security on my side.

With that thought in her mind, she went

downstairs to make breakfast.

When she was done cooking, John happened to walk down the stairs.

Since it was a Saturday, he didn't need to work. Yawning, he strolled downstairs and announced, "Sophia, I'm hungry."
"

She brought the breakfast from the kitchen to the dining hall while scolding him under her breath before saying, "Come here and eat now. After breakfast, you need to leave immediately."
"

He wandered over, planted himself across her, and checked out the food on the table. Sophia clearly still cared about him because she made an extra portion for him. During

breakfast, she declared,
“I’ve
deleted your
fingerprints from my lock. Don’t
come to my
place anymore.
”

Unaffected, he shamelessly
agreed and
explained,
“I had too much to
drink
yesterday, and I remember
nothing at all.
”

She sneered. He doesn’t
remember a thing?
Who’d believe that?
When they were done with
breakfast, he
went to take a seat on the sofa.
Sophia
happened to finish cleaning up
in the kitchen
and walked out to see him still
around.
“You
can leave now.
”

Since he didn’t have to work
today, he was

very relaxed.

“I’m waiting for
Zack to send
some fresh clothes over.
”

He was hungover from
yesterday’s drinking,
and on top of that, he didn’t
take off his
clothes for the entire night. His
shirt was
now extremely wrinkled and
embarrassing to
look at.

Sophia suppressed her irritation
and told
him,
“But I’m going to work
soon.
”

He continued acting
shamelessly.

“Go ahead.
What are you afraid of? Are you
scared that
I’m going to steal?”
She pursed her lips and gave it a
thought
before agreeing to the
arrangement.
“Alright. You can wait here but

**don't pull any
tricks. When Zack's here, you
better leave
right away.
”**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 519
John merely flashed her a grin
without a
word, after which Sophia finally
left home
with lots of worries in her mind.
However,
she could not exactly pinpoint
the reason
behind her worries.
It was impossible for John to
steal from her
place. Even her house was a
generous gift
from him. How would he even
eye anything in
her place?
When she arrived at the store,
Robin was
already there. The hard worker,
Robin, was
done with all the cleaning and
was sitting on a
chair, watching something on
her phone.
Seeing Robin, Sophia went over**

and smiled.

“What’s wrong? Why do you look concerned?”

Robin breathed through her mouth and

commented,

“Look, why is this

incident

getting out of hand?”

Sophia inched closer and

realized that Robin

was talking about William and

Matilda’s

divorce. The Constances had

released a public

statement admitting to the

divorce and

explained that it was a decision

made on the

grounds of incompatibility. As

for the woman

in the hospital, she was only a

friend of

William, and they never

developed an

inappropriate relationship. The

Constances

did not elaborate more than

that.

Earlier, John’s divorce had been

a messy

affair. This time, it was William's turn to get a divorce. There must be a lot of heated discussions online about the Constances' affairs. Not bothering to take a look, Sophia knew that the discussions were never anything positive anyway. Straightening her body, she went over to the bar counter to tidy things up. "On this matter, it's a family issue at its core. But many out there love to take part in affairs that are none of their business. Marriages and divorces should not be an issue of interest to these outsiders.

”

Robin nodded in agreement. "The netizens are really mean in the comments. Even I feel bad when I read the discussion, so I

wonder what
the Constances would feel if
they read
these.

”

What would the Constances
feel? Well, they
would definitely feel
uncomfortable. Sophia
was reminded of the drunk
John from
yesterday. He probably drank
himself to
oblivion due to his parents’
divorce. Normally,
even at social events, he’d drink
within his
limits.

The store was busy as usual in
the morning,
and Sophia had no time to think
about
anything else. When they were
closed for the
lunch break, John stopped by
with takeouts.

When Sophia and Robin
stopped working, he
walked in and announced,
“It
seems that I

arrived at the right time. Let's
have lunch!"

Robin was happy to see him.

"Mr. Constance,

you

're sending us lunch!"

Sophia stood at the bar counter.

"Why are
you here?"

John laid out the food on the
table and

remarked,

"Did you notice that

you've been

repeating the same sentence a

lot to me

recently?"

Why are you here? What are

you here for?

It was always one of the two
variations.

Sophia was not in the mood to

talk, so John

looked at her and explained,

"I

haven't eaten

lunch as well, but I didn't want

to go home. I

wanted to get some lunch

buddies.

"

Hearing his excuse, she smirked.

“Isn’t Zack
a human too?”

He laughed at the mention of
his assistance.

“Zack has a new target lately.

He’s busy going
after that girl and has no time
for me.

”

She was taken aback by the
news, and her
mind instantly clung to the new
information,

drifting away. I wonder what
type of girl is

Zack interested in?

Slowly, she walked over to the
table, and

John handed her the cutlery.

Robin was

already seated and eating. She
took a seat

beside Robin, and the latter
exclaimed,

“Yum,
it’s good. I’m famished!”

Sophia had nothing more to say.

John was

apparently in a low mood today
as well, and he

remained silent throughout lunch. Robin was clueless about everything, but she looked at John and commented, "Mr. Constance, I just read the news online. It seems that the issue is getting blown out of hand."
"

He merely replied, "Oh? Is it? I didn't read it."
"

Robin sighed. "A divorce that's being scrutinized by the public must be super uncomfortable."
"

John flashed a half-smile without much interest. After some consideration, Sophia finally asked him, "Is everything fine on your mom's side?"

**John replied after a pause,
“No
big deal. My
maternal grandpa has her under
his thumb,
and nothing much would
happen to her.
”**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 520
Had the Constances not called
the
Flintstones for help, John
guessed that
Matilda would be even more of
a trouble.**

**After taking in some mouthfuls
of food, John
placed his fork down and
leaned into the
chair to stare at Sophia and
Robin, who were
enjoying lunch. Noticing that he
stopped
eating, Robin looked at him.**

**“You’re not
eating?”
He couldn’t help but sigh.
“I
don’t have the
appetite.
”**

The girls knew the reason behind his lack of appetite. When the internet exploded from the news, the netizens brought up John's divorce and went over it again.

The Constances had a good reputation in the past, but as a result of William and John, their family name was tainted. Sophia got a little mad when she recalled Matilda's expression from the video yesterday. Indeed, a woman like her would cause a lot of damage if she were to throw a fit. Taking a few bites, she placed her fork down as well.

"Your grandmother must be super angry right now."
"

John chuckled at the comment. Of course, she's indeed furious. Yesterday,

when he entered the main building, he found her pounding on her chest, saying that she felt stuffy. Beside her sat William with a sullen expression.

It was rare to see that expression on William. In the past, Matilda had created lots of trouble and threw many tantrums, to which William showed no response. He always preferred to muddle through the trouble, appeasing both the Constance Family and his wife. He had never clearly expressed his irritation at Matilda like how he did yesterday.

A while later, John stared at Robin.

"I've sent someone to investigate your issue."

”

Robin hurriedly looked at him, after which he elaborated in a robotic tone, “My men investigated within you and Sophia’s social circles but found nothing suspicious. I talked to the police as well, and they suspected that they’d got the wrong guy. However, I could not ascertain if the man specifically targeted one of you. It’s possible that you were targeted because of someone you didn’t even know. Do you remember who went to the washroom with you that night? Did someone wear a similar outfit as you?” Sophia was surprised at the conclusion. Didn’t the man target her? A few days had passed since the incident, and Robin could not recall who she met at the washroom.

That night, she had some drinks and was in an elated mood, so her brain was tripping. When she entered the washroom, she didn't even bother to register the women around her. I mean, I was entering the restroom, so what was there to look at? Therefore, Robin shook her head.

"I can't remember anything."
"

Hearing the same reply, John sighed.

"It's alright. We'll take this slow. From what we observe now, both of you don't seem to have any security threats around you."
"

Robin pursed her lips and combed through her memories.

"I don't have any enemies; the

same goes for Sophia. Perhaps,
someone
mistook me for another
woman.

”

John didn't say anything after
that, but he
still looked tense. When Robin
was done with
lunch, he stretched and said,
“You guys
should get back to work. I'll
leave now.

”

He sounded very
straightforward. Without
looking at anyone, he stood up,
brushed his
shirt, and left. Sophia remained
seated and
watched as he left in a cab. A
while later, she
let out a stuffy sigh.
Indeed, the commotion online
about William's
divorce dragged on for some
time, and she
stopped paying attention to it
soon. When she
checked the comments, it
wasn't even much

of a deal.

A few days later, the Blackwells called

Sophia and informed her about the dinner

taking place on the next day and that they'd

pick her up. She agreed to it, and since the

dinner was around evening, she decided to

close the store earlier, which she brought up

to Robin beforehand. Smiling, Robin asked,

“Are you going on a date?

“What date? It's just a dinner with ulterior

motives.

” Sophia was not interested at all.

Robin sat across her and said, “I

thought you

were meeting with Mr.

Constance.

”

Faced with her business partner's question,

Sophia grinned.

“I'm not even

friends with
them. We won't meet up
without a good
reason.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 521

For the next two days, John
didn't show up at
all. He was probably busy
dealing with the
sordid affairs related to his
family. At night,
when Sophia closed the store
and was about
to part ways with Robin at the
entrance, the
latter turned around to look at
her. After
some consideration, she said,
“Sophia, when I
came in for work last time, I
saw Mr.
Constance and another woman
having
breakfast together. I thought it
over for a
while and decided to tell you.

”

Astonished, Sophia turned to
stare at Robin.

A pause later, she said,

**“It’s
normal. John is
popular among ladies. It’s not
abnormal to see
him with a woman.
”**

**Robin observed her face.
“Aren’t you sad? I
thought you haven’t let go of
him.
”**

**Faced with Robin’s words,
Sophia laughed.
“I’m not sad, for I’ve started my
new life. As
for John, well, he is history.
”**

**Robin seemed relieved after
getting the
response.
“I was hesitating to
tell you. Maybe
I was overthinking.
”**

**After they parted ways, Sophia
didn’t hail a
cab but walked down the path
leading home.
If John had breakfast with a
woman, it
must’ve been Isabelle. There**

could be no one
else. Well, that's good. It's
really good.

The next day, Sophia went to
work, and she
saw someone at the storefront
as she
approached the entrance.

Feeling surprised,
she slowly walked up, and her
face fell when
she registered the identity of
the curious
passerby.

Matilda was staring at the sign
of her store
deep in thoughts. Sophia stood
beside and
remained silent, waiting for the
lady to notice
her. After observing the sign for
some time,
Matilda finally turned around
and was
instantly shocked by Sophia's
presence, which
prompted her to snap,
"Why
are you standing
there like a ghost? Are you
trying to scare

me to death?”

Sophia rolled her eyes at Matilda and went up to open the doors.

“Why are you here? Are you getting breakfast?”

Matilda followed her into the store and looked around.

“Business looks fine.

”

She stood there for a little while and saw a few customers trickling in.

Without a word, Sophia moved into the bar counter, where Robin was already working. The latter was

completely taken aback when she noticed

Matilda. After all, Robin had rewatched the video online a few times and recognized

Matilda’s face.

Without even looking at Robin, Matilda checked every single detail in

the store and
wandered over to the front of
the counter.

“Did John come here lately? Is
he here
often?”

Sophia was knocked off her feet
by the
sudden question, whereupon
she tidied the
bar while replying with
questions,

“Are you
looking for him? Why don’t you
just call him?
Why are you asking us here?”

Matilda then pursed her lips
silently for some
time. She did make calls to John,
but he
refused to pick them up. She
made countless
calls to him over the two days,
but he
remained unreachable.

With just a glance at Matilda,
Sophia
immediately understood what
was going on,
and she flashed a smile.

“John

did not visit
our store. I haven't seen him for
days. If you
really can't get hold of him, you
could go to
the Constance Residence or the
Constance
Group.

”

Matilda instantly looked away.
She had
visited both places suggested by
Sophia, but
she had no guts to enter either
one. At the
Constance Residence, she was
fearful of
running into the members of
the family. The
wives of the second, third and
fourth
Constance Families had all been
yelled at by
her in the past. Now that she
had fallen from
grace, those women might look
at her with
judgmental eyes. The reason
she didn't want
to show up at the Constance
Group was

because of the viral video from before, which embarrassed even herself.

Those employees must have watched the video too, so she had no guts to walk in and look for John.

Therefore, she merely lingered at the entrances of the two locations.

And she indeed ran into John. However, in each encounter, John was surrounded by people, and she could not make her way closer to him.

Sophia was immersed in her work.

“If you want to wait for him over here, I guess you’ll be disappointed. He won’t come in.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 522

Leave a Comment / The

Returning Ex / By

Novel Heart

Frowning, Matilda thought it

over and
suggested,
“Call John and have
him come over
here. I need to talk to him.
”

Sophia burst out in laughter.
“I’m not the one
who wants to meet him, so why
should I call
him?”

Staring at Matilda incredulously,
she
emphasized,
“Why would you
come here and
ask me to help you on your
matters? Have you
forgotten that we have a
lukewarm
relationship?”
Matilda glared at her.
“You...
”

But she could
not finish the rest of the
sentence. Sophia
was right; their relationship was
lukewarm.
She only found her way here
out of

desperation.

Seeing that her ex-mother-in-law couldn't reply, Sophia laughed at her.

"You can ask Isabelle for help. She can get in touch with John, right? Isn't it better to ask her for help?"

Matilda's expression froze in embarrassment.

The first person she thought of was definitely Isabelle, but in the few calls, the latter kept saying that she was busy. Matilda was unsure if Isabelle was really busy, but she knew for a fact that when she had called Isabelle in the past, the girl could always make time.

After a pause, Matilda pursed her lips and uttered, "Belle is busy."
"

Realizing that even Isabelle was

avoiding her,
Sophia snapped back,
“Oh, I’m
busy too. Can’t
you see how busy I am right
now?”

Matilda’s face soured, and she
looked
displeased, which was of no
concern to
Sophia, who hummed and
prepared everything
for the day’s business.

It didn’t take long for customers
to come in.

Matilda sank into a debate, but
she didn’t
leave. Instead, she planted
herself at a table
near the window, determined
to stay put.

Sophia didn’t bother to deal
with her and only
focused on running her business.

Time flew
by, and the crowds started to
reduce. After
some thinking, Sophia told
Robin,
“Let’s make
a coffee for her. It looks quite

odd for her
to sit there with no food or
drinks.

”

Robin nodded and prepared a
cup of coffee
that was served to Matilda.
Matilda was
surprised at the service and
turned around to
look at Sophia, who was not
even paying
attention in that direction.
In the past, Sophia wanted to
witness
Matilda’s fall from grace. That
old and crusty
woman is going to land herself
into trouble
sooner or later.
However, when Matilda was
struggling in life,
Sophia didn’t feel much about
the change.
She was not extremely happy
about it
because her life resumed like
usual,
unchanged in any way by
Matilda’s
predicament. In fact, she was

too busy every
day to even care about
Matilda's life.

After sitting for a while, Matilda
left
without waiting for Sophia to
finish work.

Robin went up to clear the table
and
informed Sophia when she was
back,

"She
didn't touch the coffee. Not
even one sip.
"

Sophia smiled.
'I guessed so.
"

Matilda was a
very prideful woman and would
not easily
accept Sophia's show of
kindness. That was
good news because it meant
that Matilda
would not drop by anymore.
When Matilda left Sophia's
store, she ran out
of places to go. The Flintstones
rented a
place for her and even though

they worded it nicely, what they wanted was for her to live on her own without dragging her own family into the mud.

These few days, she spent all her time awake on her own. As the controversy was building up over these few days, she had stayed in her house to avoid trouble. Actually, she called up a lot of people in her connections, but none picked up her call as if everyone abandoned her right away when she was at the center of the storm.

She stood beside the street for a while and hailed a cab. In the cab, she shared the address of Bailey Corporation with the idea of taking a look over there. During her journey, she was thinking hard about her next steps. The

Constances made it clear that after her divorce from William, she would have no business with him anymore.

They also explained to her that William had no relationship whatsoever with the woman in the hospital, an explanation which she did not believe, but her opinions were irrelevant anymore.

The Returning Ex Chapter 523

After stopping her car at the entrance of Bailey Corporation, Matilda walked into a restaurant across the street instead of entering the company.

Sitting by the window, she stared at the entrance of Bailey Corporation.

Then, she called Isabelle, who connected the call quickly and inquired in a clear voice,

“Mrs. Constance, yes?”

Matilda replied smilingly,
“Belle,
are you free
now? I want to meet up with
you.
”

To which Isabelle said,
“Ah,
now? I’m a little
busy currently. What’s wrong?
Is there
anything urgent?”

“Well, it’s nothing important. I
just want to
talk to you.

” Matilda said with a
smile,

“We
have not met each other for a
few days, so I
miss you very much.
”

Helpless, Isabelle sighed.

“Mrs.
Constance,
I’ve been swamped recently.
There’s a
problem with the supply side,
so I have to
work overtime every day. It’s
really taking a

toll on me. Don't worry. When I become less busy, I'll look for you and have a chat with you.
”

Isabelle had always been careful with her words.

Having nothing else to say, Matilda sighed and grunted.

“Alright, please continue with your work. It's not like I'm not facing any problem currently, so I guess we'll meet up when you're free.
”

After hanging up the call, she stayed there until the employees of Bailey Corporation got off work in the afternoon. To her disappointment, she didn't see Isabelle. Until all the employees were gone, Isabelle was still nowhere to be seen.

Matilda heaved a sigh of relief.
She must still
be in the company and working
overtime. It
seems that she's really busy
recently.

Meanwhile, Sophia closed the
shop
temporarily in the afternoon
and took a rest
with Robin. Just then, the door
was opened.

Robin hurriedly said,
"Sorry,
we—"

Startled for a moment, she
grinned.

"Mr.
Constance, why are you here?"
John flashed a gentle smile at
her.

"Even
you
're asking me this question
now.
"

Seated by the window, Sophia
never looked
at him.

Robin smirked before replying,
"Well, I didn't

mean any harm.

”

John directly took a seat across Sophia.

“I’m here to have a taste of your food. Please give me a suggestion as I don’t know what to eat in the afternoon.

”

Learning the reason he dropped by, Sophia slowly turned to him.

“Your mom came here this morning and told me to contact you. I believe she wants to meet you.

”

Upon being informed of the matter, John couldn’t help but grunt.

“I knew she’d look for you.

”

Sophia snorted.

“I’m not on good terms with your mom, so it was really

weird that she
came to look for me.
”

Without uttering a word, John
smiled.

Matilda would do whatever it
took when she
had no choice. She knew that if
Sophia called
John, he would certainly come
over, so she
came to look for Sophia.

After making a cup of coffee for
John, Robin

also gave him a piece of cake.

Coming from the company,

John didn't have

any appetite, but he still

politely ate the

food. He then said,

“I heard that

you're going

to attend the dinner party at

Blackwell

Residence.

”

Healing the man's question,

Sophia replied,

“Madam Blackwell came over

to invite me

personally, so I couldn't reject

her.

”

Seemingly understanding, John nodded.

“As a big family, there’s bound to be internal strife within the Blackwell Family, so you have to be careful with your words and don’t speak too much. If you don’t know what to say, just flash a smile.

”

Sophia scoffed.

“I don’t need you to teach me this. I understand it full well.

”

She had learned to read the expressions of others at Constance Residence previously.

When John was done with his lunch, he returned to his company.

After John’s car was out of sight, Robin asked,

**“Did Mr. Constance
come all the way
here just to have a cup of coffee
and a piece
of cake?”**

The Returning Ex Chapter 524

**“Maybe he is out of his mind,
”**

**Sophia
chuckled and said. When it
came to the
afternoon, Sophia permitted
Robin to leave
work earlier, cleaning her shop,
whereupon
she proceeded to close the door.
Then, she
went home to take a shower
and get changed
shortly before the Blackwell
Family’s driver
arrived. Upon getting into the
car, she saw
someone sitting inside who
turned out to be a
young lady.
Sophia paused and nodded.
“Hi.
”**

**The lady gazed at Sophia with a
smile.**

**“Hi, my
grandma sent me to pick you up.
Let’s go.
”**

**Sophia responded with an
affirmative hum,
feeling a little nervous upon
hearing that.**

**After she sat tight, the car
began to hit the
road. At the same time, the lady
appeared to
be rather talkative as she was
able to lighten
up the atmosphere with
different topics,
chatting with Sophia about her
shop and even
her marriage life.**

**Grinning, the lady replied,
“Actually, we all
know that you just had a
divorce with John
not long ago, except my
grandma.
”**

**“I know. That’s why I was a
little awkward
when she asked me about
that,
” Sophia**

answered with a chuckle.

Hearing her reply, the lady nodded.

“I understand how sensitive and upsetting this topic can be, so we didn't bring it up to my grandma.

” In fact, the more important matter was that Old Mrs. Blackwell didn't state her preference about who should take Sophia in, which was why none of them said a word about Sophia's divorce. After all, they were raised in a prestigious family, in which they were taught to be discreet with their words. While both ladies were happily chatting with each other, they soon arrived at the Blackwell Residence. The Blackwell Residence is a huge mansion situated in the middle of the

city. They'
re
rich indeed. Just look at the
space of this
compound! Gosh! I wonder
how much they
spent to buy a place this big. As
the car
stopped in the courtyard,
someone was seen
waiting there. Sophia then
stepped out of the
vehicle to be greeted by Old
Mrs. Blackwell
with someone helping her walk
toward their
guest. At the sight of that, she
quickly
approached the old lady, who
soon seized her
hand.

“Finally, you’re here. I’ve
been waiting
long enough for you. Come,
let’s get inside.
”

Sophia smiled awkwardly to
everyone aside
while following behind Old Mrs.
Blackwell.
Then, they sat in the living

room, whereupon
the matriarch began
introducing Sophia to
the family. In fact, everyone
else had seen
Sophia on Old Mrs. Blackwell's
birthday,
although none of them had
really talked to
her. Meanwhile, Sophia forced
a smile on her
face and greeted every family
member even
though she didn't like to be on
occasions like
this.

After the introduction, Old Mrs.
Blackwell
sighed and said,
"This poor little
kid is all by
herself without a family.

" Upon
hearing that,
Sophia pursed her lips while the
old lady
seized her hand and placed it on
her own
palm.

"I like this girl a lot. After
long

**deliberation, I've decided to
make her my
granddaughter.**

**" Then, she
turned her
attention to Sophia, who was in
a trance, and
asked,**

**"What do you think, my
girl?"**

**Sophia was taken aback by Old
Mrs.**

**Blackwell's sudden
announcement, staring at
the old lady with her dilated
eyes.**

**"Madam
Blackwell, I-I...
"**

**At the same time, every other
member of
the Blackwell Family appeared
to be rather
calm and unsurprised, which
implied that they
had already known about it
ahead. Looking at
Old Mrs. Blackwell's smiling
face, Sophia
didn't know what to say in
order to turn her**

down. Well, I'm not sure if I'm going to get roughed up for turning down Madam Blackwell's 'kind' offer.

"Um, maybe...

" Sophia

hesitantly said, but Madam Blackwell soon interrupted her words with a smile and said,

"Since

you agree, I

guess it's decided then.

Meanwhile, the rest could decide which family she belongs to.

"

Upon hearing the old lady's words, the wife of the Main Constance Family said,

"We don't

have a daughter, so she could be with us.

"

Soon, the wife of the Third Constance Family chimed in,

"We don't have a daughter either,

so we could take her in.

”

What’s the Blackwell Family really up to? I’m broke, and everything I own now is given by John when we divorced, which I don’t think they’re interested in, so why does everyone start to cozy up to me all of a sudden?

The Returning Ex Chapter 525
Sophia immediately raised her hand.

“Anyway,
I just want to say that besides not having a good family background, I also have many bad habits...

”

However, Kate’s grasp on Sophia’s hand tightened.

“Little girl, I’m not trying to take advantage of you. I just like you for being yourself, so don’t overthink about it.

”

How could Sophia not overthink it when Old

Mrs. Blackwell offered to play the role of her grandmother?

Without discussing with Sophia, Kate

instructed the Third Blackwell Family,

“She’ll

be under the Third Blackwell Family, then.

Since Fabian is about Sophia’s age, they’ll

probably have similar topics to talk about.

”

Henry Blackwell of the Third Blackwell Family

immediately agreed while his wife chimed in

as well,

“Gosh, I’ve always wanted a daughter,

but I could never get one. I didn’t expect

God to finally give us a daughter today!”

Sophia couldn’t help but chuckle. Is this even

real?

**Did they just force a new set of
parents upon
me?**

**A couple from a family with a
good
background suddenly became
her godparents.**

**The thought of that was just
unrealistic.**

**Third Mrs. Blackwell looked
young and
friendly as she walked over to
pat Sophia's
head.**

**"You've probably
suffered a lot in the
past.
"**

**Sophia blinked and didn't know
how to react.**

**If she were to reject the
Blackwells, they
would feel humiliated, and it
would make her
look ignorant.**

**However, she didn't feel
comfortable being
on their receiving end.**

**How did they suddenly become
a family?**

This wasn't in Sophia's plan at all.

Then, Kate gave the servant next to her a look, and the servant immediately went to retrieve a box.

Taking the box over, Kate turned around slightly toward Sophia.

**"Sophia, this is a gift that I've prepared for you for our first meeting. We shall be a family in the future."
"**

Confused, Sophia's arms flailed around when she realized that Kate was giving her yet another gift.

"No, no, I can't accept that. The present that you've given me previously was already precious enough and I really—"

"Hey.

" Kate held Sophia's hand.

"Why are you

rejecting a gift from your
grandma? We'll be
a family from now on, so you
don't have to be
so polite and distant anymore.
”

When the servant helped
Sophia open the
box, she saw a purple bangle
made of unknown
material.

However, Sophia knew that a
gift from Kate
meant that it was definitely not
cheap.

Then, Kate took the bangle and
wore it on
Sophia's wrist, after which the
latter looked
like she was in a predicament as
she stared
at the bangle on her wrist.

It was really ironic how the
Constances had
done all that they could to kick
her out, but
the Blackwells did all they could
to get her in.

Third Mrs. Blackwell spoke up
as well,
“Just

keep it. It's your grandma's goodwill anyway.

You don't have to be so distant with us since

you

're one of the Blackwells now.

”

Sophia didn't know if she wanted to laugh or cry at that.

However, the Blackwells ignored her facial expression and dragged her to the dining room to have a meal.

The Blackwell Residence's dining room was huge. It was just like when they gathered to eat together at the Constance Residence.

Actually, this was way larger than the one at the Constance Residence.

Sophia didn't recognize many of the people present, so she could only take her seat next to Kate.

She was initially a little bit hungry, but she

had completely lost her
appetite now.

Still, everyone from the
Blackwells was happy
as they started asking Sophia
about her past
but unanimously avoided
mentioning the
Constance Family.

Sophia knew that these people
were all wise
people as they all spoke
cautiously.

On the other hand, the man sat
next to

Sophia and would occasionally
snort when she
was speaking.

However, he didn't look at
Sophia both the
times she turned to look at him.

Disdain was
evident on his face as if he
couldn't stand
looking at her.

Hence, Sophia looked away, for
she didn't

believe that the Blackwells
didn't hear him as

his snorts weren't soft at all.

The Returning Ex Chapter 526

However, everyone acted as if nothing happened, so Sophia could only go along with them and acted as if she hadn't heard anything.

Sophia felt conflicted during the entire meal.

Although she felt uncomfortable, she couldn't voice it out.

After the meal ended, Sophia accompanied

Kate upstairs to talk to her.

This time, there was no one else other than

Sophia and Kate as they went into Kate's bedroom.

After Sophia entered the room, her phone

rang, whereupon she sighed in relief before

she quickly took her phone out and accepted

the call in front of Kate.

Sophia didn't even bother to check the caller

ID.

When the call was connected,

John's voice

rang out.

"Sophia?"

Sophia was taken aback.

"John.

"

She purposely raised her

volume, and Kate

turned around to look at her.

John asked,

"Are you done yet?

I've been

waiting outside of your house

for a long while

already, but you're still not

home yet.

"

Sophia acted as if she was

surprised.

"You'

re

outside of my house now?!

Hang on, I'll get

back right now.

"

Shocked, Kate stared at Sophia.

"Is that

John?"

After hearing Old Mrs.

Blackwell's question,

Sophia nodded immediately.

**“Yeah. It is. He’s
waiting outside of my house
right now and
probably wants to talk to me
about
something.**

”

**To Sophia’s surprise, Kate
reached out for
her phone.**

**“Come on. Let me
speak with him.**

”

**Sophia was dumbfounded,
however, she still
gave Kate her phone as the
latter asked,**

**“John, why are you looking for
Sophia?”**

**Unable to hear what John
replied, Sophia
merely saw the lady before her
eyes laughing.**

**“You should come over. Come
on, I haven’t
seen you for a few days now.**

”

**Sophia blinked as she pursed
her lips and
didn’t say anything.**

A few seconds later, Kate

hummed in
agreement before she gave
Sophia her phone
back.

“You can talk to John now.
He’s going to
come over soon.
”

Sophia let out a quiet sigh
before taking her
phone back.

“John, are you
coming over?”

Faced with his ex-wife’s
question, he
chuckled before explaining,
“I’ll

go over. I
know that the situation is
awkward for you
right now, so I’ll head there so
that you can
act more naturally.
”

Sophia initially wanted to take
advantage of
this phone call to leave this
place.

John’s tone was light.

“Don’t be
anxious. I’m

coming over now.

”

Then, he hung up.

Sophia had no choice but to place her phone and smile at Kate.

After that, Kate took a photo album and

started introducing the Blackwells to Sophia.

I see, so the person who sat next to me just

now was the Young Master of the Third

Blackwell Family, Fabian Blackwell.

Recalling the Young Master of the Third

Blackwell Family’s reaction, he was probably

dissatisfied that she was placed under the

Third Blackwell Family.

To be honest, I’m dissatisfied as well. How

did I end up with a whole new family after

finally managing to be alone?

After browsing through the photo album with

Kate for a while, John arrived.

John was led upstairs by a servant, and from the looks of it, he had visited the Blackwells a lot in the past.

The servant smiled and informed them when they walked over,

“Old Mrs. Blackwell, Young Master John is here.

”

Kate immediately exclaimed, “Let him in immediately! I’ve been waiting for a long time now!”

John looked cheerful when he entered the room.

“Madam Blackwell, I hope I’m not bothering you.

”

Cheerfully, Kate nodded.

“We’ve been waiting for you. Come on, have a seat.

”

John walked over and sat next to Sophia.

Then, Sophia turned toward

him and lowered
her voice.

“Why did you call me
just now?

Why did you go to my house?”

John smirked at that as he
whispered back,

“I didn’t go to your house just
now; it was a
lie. I knew that you were in
some sort of
trouble, so I offered to come
over to help
you out.

”

Sophia was taken aback, for she
didn’t know

what sort of trick John was
trying to pull.

Kate watched as John and
Sophia spoke to
each other.

“You youngsters
really have so
much more to talk about. I
mean, Sophia
barely spoke when she was
with me but
immediately started talking
when you came.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 527

Sophia chuckled, with an awkward expression on her face.

“It’s not like that. I just had something I wanted to ask him.”

Keeping the photo album, Kate stared at John and Sophia.

“You two knew each other previously, am I right?”

Sophia opened her mouth slightly but didn’t know what to say.

Instead, John, who was sitting next to her, replied,

“Yeah. We knew each other from way back. We are quite close to each other as well.”

Sophia turned and gave John a look. Was that last sentence really necessary? Hearing the young man

's explanation, Kate
nodded.

“That’s what I thought.
I figured
that you two knew each other
for a long time
already since you guys looked
really
comfortable with each other.
”

Sophia didn’t say anything
besides smiling
awkwardly.

Suddenly, Kate thought of
something and
sighed.

“It’s too bad that John is
married. If
not, I would have set you two
up. You two
really look suitable for each
other sitting
here together.
”

Sophia was really awkward
while John burst
into laughter.

“Really? Is that
what you
think?”

In a serious manner, Kate

nodded.

“It’s true.

**Since when have I ever lied to
you? You guys
really look suitable for each
other.**

”

**In a raspy voice, John chuckled
before he
leaned closer to Sophia.**

**“Did
you hear that?”**

Sophia gave him a side look.

“Shut it.

”

**However, John looked happy
and had a slight
smile on his face the entire day.
Kate started telling them about
the
Blackwells again, mainly
wanting Sophia to
know more about them.
John still didn’t know that Kate
had Sophia
be her granddaughter, so he
only thought
that she was introducing her
family members
to get on Sophia’s good side.
Hence, he helped Kate explain**

more about
the family members and told
Sophia some
funny stories so she could
remember them.

To be honest, Sophia wasn't
interested to
know these people, and
although they all
looked excited to see her, who
knew what
they were thinking of her in the
dark.

Since Kate treated her like a
savior, the Main
and Third Blackwell Family were
probably
fighting for her only to get on
Kate's good
side.

Now that she was under the
Third Blackwell
Family, not to mention that the
Young Master
of the Third Blackwell Family
didn't like her,
the Main and Second Blackwell
Family would
probably stop being nice to her
anymore.

The thought of that made her

head hurt.

Sophia could barely remember
what Kate and

John told her that day.

Finally, John suggested when he
realized that

the sky had turned dark,

“It’s

late already.

We don’t want to get in the
way of you

resting, so I’ll send Sophia
back.

”

Kate initially wanted the Third
Blackwell

Family to send Sophia home,
but she decided

against it after seeing Fabian’s
attitude

during their meal just now.

Since Sophia and John knew
each other, it

would be better if John sent her
back.

Kate looked outside.

“Oh my, I

didn’t even

notice that it’s dark already.

Time passes by

real quick.

” She sighed.

“Alright.

**John will
send you back then. Please
come over more
often when you’re free,
Sophia.**

”

Sophia immediately agreed.

“Alright, alright.

**Don’t be worried. I’ll be sure to
visit you
when I’m free.**

”

**It was just that Sophia wasn’t
free since she
needed to guard her shop and
didn’t have any
extra time.**

**None of the Blackwells came
out when John
and Sophia left the Blackwell
Residence.**

**Sophia sighed in relief, for it
was better if
she didn’t run into them as she
really didn’t
want to interact with these
people.**

**When they entered John’s car,
John saw the**

bangle on Sophia's wrist when he lowered his gaze, after which he grinned.

"It seems like the Blackwells really prioritizes you. This bangle looks expensive.

"

Sophia immediately took the bangle off.

"I've really regretted coming over today. I shouldn't have come.

"

John raised his eyebrows as he started the car engine.

"Isn't it good, though? I noticed that Kate was being really nice to you just now.

"

The Returning Ex Chapter 528
Wasn't it nice? Yeah, I suppose she was good to me.
Sophia really didn't know who

else to talk to
about this, so she started telling
John about
what happened at the Blackwell
Residence.

Learning that his ex-wife was
now a part of
the Blackwell Family, John was
dumbfounded.

“Seriously?”

Sophia nodded.

“Why would I

lie to you? I

was really shocked as well. No
one had

informed me about it too. If I
knew what

they were doing today, I
wouldn't have gone

there.

”

It seemed like John suddenly
recalled

something as his gaze
darkened.

Sophia turned over to give John
a disdainful
look.

“Look at your facial
expressions. What
are you scheming again?”

Faced with her question, John smirked.

“Scheming a plan for you. I’m trying to help you think of a better identity.”

Sophia snorted, for she obviously didn’t take John’s words seriously. John drove and sent Sophia home.

When Sophia got out of the car, John asked,

“Are you not going to invite me into your house? I’m sure that I contributed a little by going over there today to help you ease the tension of your awkwardness.”

Since Sophia didn’t look like she had the intention to let him in, John had no choice

but to raise the question.

Sophia turned to John and pondered for a

moment before replying,

“Alright. You have to leave after you finish

**drinking a cup of
water though.
”**

**Sophia invited him in
begrudgingly.
Secretly, John couldn't help but
chuckle
before getting out of the car
and following
Sophia.**

**It wasn't very late yet, but
Sophia felt like
resting already. She was too
lazy to boil
water, so she went to the fridge
to get a
bottle of mineral water before
throwing it to
John.**

**John was sitting on the couch as
he toyed
with the mineral water bottle
for a moment
before placing it down.**

**“Try to
stay away
from the Blackwells. Although
Kate is nice,
the Blackwells are a huge family,
and most of
them have their own opinions.**

**It was obvious
that they might be against this
as none of
the Blackwell brothers came to
send us off.**

”

**Sophia went over to sit in front
of John as
she leaned back on the couch.**

**“It’s not like I
wanted to be involved with
them as well. I’m
fine on my own, and I don’t
need any family
right now.**

”

**I don’t need these people,
especially those
who came in halfway.
Most of these families had their
own
thoughts, and most of them
only gather for
specific reasons, or to be frank,
for benefits.**

**Sophia looked conflicted as she
stared at the
bangle.**

**“I really didn’t want to
accept this,
but I don’t know how to return**

it.

”

“Just keep it.

” John explained,

“Sometimes

it’s hard to reject things like this.

Kate is

genuinely nice to you and

wouldn’t harm you.

However, if you return it, you

might actually

offend her, so it’s better if you

keep it.

”

Sophia looked helpless as she

held the bangle

in her hands and observed it.

“Alright. I’ll

keep it for now and see if I have

any chances

to return it to her in the

future.

”

Then, John stared at Sophia.

“Back to the

topic, though. Do you think we

look suitable

together?”

Sophia paused at that before

the serious

look on her face immediately

vanished.

She gave John a disdainful look.

“If you’

re

not drinking the water, you can

leave now.

”

Then, Sophia stood up and

headed upstairs

without waiting to see John’s

reaction.

John, who was still sitting on

the couch,

started laughing as he watched

Sophia vanish

by the staircase upstairs.

However, John didn’t leave

immediately.

Instead, he continued sitting

there and

looked like he was deep in

thoughts as his

smile vanished.

Sophia really didn’t bother

about John

anymore as she went to sleep

right after

washing up.

She was really tired after a long

day at her

shop and was on her guard the

entire time
when she was at the Blackwell
Residence.

After her nighttime routine,
Sophia lay in her
bed and pondered for a
moment before
falling asleep.

She had a good night's sleep
that night, as
she wasn't affected by any
noises and slept
right until the next day.

When Sophia got up the
following day, she
stretched and walked over to
the windowsill.

Then, her facial expression
changed into one
of shock.

The Returning Ex Chapter 529

John's car was parked on
Sophia's lawn.

Did that guy come here early in
the morning?

Sophia rushed downstairs but
saw no signs of
John.

After standing in the living
room for a while,
Sophia turned around and ran

upstairs.

The door to the guest room that John stayed in previously was closed, but it wasn't locked from the inside, so Sophia managed to open it with one turn.

John had already gotten up. He had worn his pants and was about to wear his shirt.

Sophia was standing by the door entrance and staring at John while he was midway wearing his shirt and staring at her.

The two of them stared at each other for a moment before Sophia yelled in anger,

“John, you shameless little prick! How could you sleep over here yesterday night?!”

Sophia then dashed inside and grabbed the pillow by the bedside before throwing it

toward John.

John started laughing after dodging her attack.

“It was already very late yesterday, and I was tired, so it would be dangerous to drive back.”

Sophia refused to believe his excuse and started bringing the pillow down on John.

“You shameless man! How could you stay over when we are not in a relationship anymore? Don’t you know that this might tarnish my image?”

John initially kept dodging, but after realizing that Sophia wasn’t stopping anytime soon, he reached out to snatch the pillow that she was holding before throwing it to a side.

John grabbed Sophia by her

wrist.

“It’s not like we never stayed together in the past before. Why are you so dramatic?”

“How is that the same?” Sophia was so pissed off she stomped her feet.

“John, I really didn’t expect you to be this shameless. You’re a vile person!”

However, John increased his force and pulled Sophia into his embrace.

“Am I really that shameless?”

John asked as he grinned, causing Sophia’s eyes to widen in anger.

“Of course you are! Do you really think that you...”

Before she could finish, John suddenly grabbed her head and kissed

her.

His movement was slightly rough, leaving Sophia with no chance to defend herself.

Sophia's eyes widened so much it looked like

it was about to fall. Although she tried to push John away and step on his feet, he didn't budge at all.

John locked Sophia in his embrace, and he took a few steps to the side of the bed.

Then, he pushed her toward the bed before pinning her on it.

John was still conscious enough to support himself with both his hands so that his body was lifted and his weight wouldn't crush Sophia.

Pushing against his chest with both hands, she looked at him with alertness.

"What are

you trying to do?! Get up!”

**The corner of John’s lips lifted
as he smirked
seductively.**

**“Didn’t you say
that I’m
shameless? Let me show you
what’s the true
definition of shameless, then.
”**

**Sophia supported herself and
tried to get up.**

**“Move away.
”**

**However, John raised his hand
and brought it
down on Sophia’s shoulder
before pushing her
back onto the bed.**

**“Sophia, I
feel like it’s
inappropriate for me to stay
over right now,
so why don’t we rationalize it?”**

**Faced with the man’s obscured
reasoning,
Sophia frowned.**

**“What do you
mean?”**

**Smiling, he attempted to
rationalize the**

situation by suggesting,
“Why
don’t we
restore our marriage? Look at it
this way,
once we remarry...
”

“Leave. John, you better leave
now before I
lose control of myself and beat
you to death.
”

Sophia’s facial expression
became stern.
However, John just stared at
her before he
started leaning toward her
slowly.
Both of their noses were
pressed against
each other as their breaths
intertwined.
Sophia could feel herself
sweating bullets,
yet she didn’t dare to say
anything as she was
afraid that she might
accidentally kiss John
if she moved around too much.
After staring at Sophia for a
moment, John

suddenly leaned in to give her a peck before he loosened his grip on her and stood up.

Right then, Sophia was stunned before she came back to her senses and cursed,

“You a*shole.”

However, her voice had already lost its edge from just now and sounded slightly awkward.

It took a while before Sophia finally came back to her senses as she sat up and tidied her hair.

The Returning Ex Chapter 530

John glanced at Sophia.

Thinking of what he had proposed just now, he too suddenly felt that it wasn't a good idea.

After all, he was the one who had brought up the divorce in the first place.

But now, he had proposed for a remarriage.

No matter
how he looked at it, it was as if
he treated
marriage as child's play.

After a long while, John said,
“I
was
thoughtless.
”

Sophia took a deep breath.

“Get
dressed and
leave. I don't really want to see
you right
now.
”

John knew that Sophia was
feeling
uncomfortable, so he didn't try
to explain
anymore and simply put on his
clothes before
leaving.

Sophia sat on the bed for a long
time before
slamming a fist on the edge of
the bed.

This b*stard! He really dares to
say just
about anything, doesn't he?
After John left, he drove

directly to the
company and returned to the
office. Sitting
in the office, he was slightly
dazed by the
turn of events.

It was not a deliberate act; he
had brought
up the idea of remarriage
purely by accident.

But now that he thought about
it, it wasn't a
bad idea at all if they remarried.

In fact, he
was filled with anticipation.

John leaned back in his chair
and stared off
into space for a long time.

But Sophia wouldn't easily
agree to it, would
she? After all, I've really owed
her a lot in
the past.

After a busy morning, John
went out for
dinner with Zack at noon after
work.

As they walked into the lobby,
they saw
Isabelle, who had probably
waited for quite a

while. Seeing John coming over,
she got up
from the sofa.

Stunned, he walked toward her
and asked,

“Anything important?”

Hearing his question, Isabelle
smiled.

“Nothing very important, but
Mrs. Constance
has been calling me rather
often recently...

”

She didn’t finish her sentence
because she
thought that John would get it
right away.

Indeed, John’s face fell upon
learning about
what his mother was up to.

“You needn’t
bother about this matter. Next
time my
mother calls you, just ignore it.

”

Isabelle seemed anxious.

“But
after all, Mrs.
Constance has...

”

“No ‘buts.

' We're adults now,
so we need to be
responsible for what we've
done.

" With that,
John looked at the time and
added,
"Well, I'm
gonna go have lunch now."
"

Understanding the situation,
Isabelle nodded.
"I won't keep you around any
longer then."
"

John and Isabelle walked out of
Constance
Group together. At the entrance,
John and
Zack got into a car, while
Isabelle got into
hers, and they went their
separate ways.
Matilda was actually waiting in
the café
opposite Constance Group.
After the two cars had driven
out of sight,
she picked up the phone and
called Isabelle.
The younger woman connected

the call. Her
voice was no different from
before as she
asked,

“Mrs. Constance, is
something the
matter?”

Matilda pretended that she
didn't know
anything and just smiled.

“Nothing. I just
wanna ask what you've been up
to.
”

Trying to avoid the topic of
meeting up,

Isabelle replied,

“Oh, I'm at the
company.

I've been swamped lately
without any free
time. I just thought that we
should meet up
and have lunch together when I
have time.

But I haven't found an
opportunity yet.

”

Matilda pursed her mouth.

“I
see.

”

Isabelle laughed.

“Did you see those things on the Internet? I think the matter is dying down soon. Everything will be fine after a while.

”

It took a long time for Matilda to reply,

“Yeah, I suppose so.

” After

saying this, she thought for a while and continued,

“Have you been in contact with John recently? John is mad at me right now. He hasn’t answered my phone nor visited me. I wonder if you can help me invite him out because I have something to say to him.

”

Isabelle gave a muffled ‘Oh’ before falling silent.

Matilda added,
“You two will
definitely be in
contact during work, so you
should see him
around. Just tell him that
you’ve got
something to talk to him about.
Help me
invite him out, okay?”

Isabelle pursed her lips as she
drove without
answering right away. What she
had in her
mind was simple enough.

Matilda and William
had such a bad fallout that it
seemed
impossible for them to get back
together
now.

The Returning Ex Chapter 531

Rumors had it that there was
someone whom
William used to like at the
hospital now, so it
was even more impossible for
Matilda and
William to make up.

Considering Matilda’s
weak character, even an

average woman would do better than her. Now that there was someone else around her ex-husband, it was even more unlikely for her to be considered.

Since Isabelle wanted to persuade the Constance Family to accept herself, she naturally did not wish to offend William. Just now, she had tested John, and the man pretty much repulsed the topic regarding his mother. It's evident that Matilda couldn't even hold on to her son's heart now.

Therefore, she couldn't get too close to Matilda at this critical time since William and John would be annoyed by that. Matilda had finished talking and was waiting for Isabelle's answer. Isabelle sighed and said,

“Mrs. Constance, it’s not that I don’t wish to help you. The truth is that I don’t have many opportunities to meet up with John now. After we set him up twice previously, he’s now rather disgusted and will certainly not agree if I invite him out. Sometimes when I call or text him, he wouldn’t even respond. I don’t think I’m able to help you much.”

Matilda went so quiet on the other side of the phone that one could hear a pin drop. Isabelle then pretended to be torn and suggested, “How about this? I’ll try to text and call John whenever I can, alright? If it works, great, but if it doesn’t work, please

don't blame me.

”

Matilda asked after a pause,

“Don't you and

John see each other much

now?”

Isabelle replied,

“Yeah, our

relationship has

been a little tricky and

controversial all along.

Now that John is trying to avoid

arousing

suspicion, both of us have not

seen each

other for a long time.

”

At this, Matilda laughed aloud,

causing

Isabelle to feel baffled. After

laughing,

Matilda answered,

“Well, fine

then. So be it.

I will think of a solution

myself.

”

Matilda then hung up at once,

after which

Isabelle threw the phone onto

the passenger

seat beside her. Her face was cold and expressionless.

After Matilda hung up, she stood still and thought for a while before chuckling. Walking out of the café with her bag, she stared at the office building of the Constance Group for a long time. In the end, she reached out a hand and hailed a cab.

Matilda had nowhere to go, so she asked the cabbie to drive around Wharf Avenue for a while before finally telling him to head to Sophia's shop.

Sophia and Robin were very busy. Logan had placed a bulk order today, and the two were in the midst of preparing and packing the huge quantity of goods. Matilda entered the shop with a long face. When Sophia saw her, she

stared at the
older woman with surprise
written all over
her face before she questioned,
“Why are
you here? Have you come to
smash the shop?”

Faced with such direct
questions, Matilda
snorted.

“Even if I smashed
your lousy shop,
I could afford to compensate.
”

Lowering her head, Sophia
continued to be
busy but said,
“If you really
smash the shop,
I must thank you. But I don’t
want your
compensation. Instead, I want
you to go and
squat inside the jail for a few
days. Perhaps
you
’ll become a better woman
when you come
out.
”

Matilda glared at her.

**“Sophia,
you’re really
impudent now, aren’t you?”
Sophia laughed as she mocked,
“I was
impudent in the past too. Don’t
you know that
all too well?”**

**Gritting her teeth, Matilda
stood there for a
long time, then turned to sit by
the window.**

**Sophia was a little astonished,
for she
thought that this woman would
be infuriated
and slam the door as she left.**

**To her
surprise, Matilda didn’t leave
but sat down in
the shop instead.**

**Robin mused for a bit, then
went over and
asked Matilda if she needed
anything.**

**Although Matilda didn’t need
anything as she
had eaten in the café just now,
she knew that
the bad-tempered Sophia
would ridicule her**

if she sat there without ordering anything.

So, she ordered something to eat and drink.

However, Sophia was so busy that she had no time to bother about Matilda at all. She called Robin over to count the stock and then check the various combinations possible.

In her seat, Matilda turned her head and looked outside, feeling very uncomfortable in her heart. She didn't believe that Isabelle would brush her off like that.

The Returning Ex Chapter 532
In the past, Matilda had given Isabelle her

all. She obviously knew that John would be upset with her if she tried to matchmake him and Isabelle, but she still did it anyway. But now, when something happened to her, Isabelle had refused to help at

all.

Matilda felt a little sad, but she was still making excuses for Isabelle in her heart.

After all, John had always rejected Isabelle's advances, and Matilda knew this much. Hence, she could understand Isabelle not wanting to offend John by avoiding her. She had seen Isabelle go to the Constance Group just now and meet up with John, most likely to mention her matters.

It was probably due to her failure to get a positive response from John that she had brushed me off on the phone like that. With Zack beside John, Isabelle might have found it hard to mention some things, so it's only natural if she didn't say much. Matilda thought up a lot of excuses to

**explain away Isabelle's actions.
The more she
thought about it, the better she
felt in her
heart.**

**Sophia had been busy the
entire time. There
were some customers at noon,
but Robin was
in charge of running the shop.
Sophia kept on
packing up big boxes and
carrying things
around, looking really serious in
her work.**

**After a while, Matilda turned
around and
looked at Sophia, who was busy.
She couldn't
help but start sneering,
"It's
clear that your
life is filled with nothing but
hard work.
"**

**Since she didn't lower her voice,
Sophia
naturally heard it.
Sophia didn't look at Matilda
and continued
with her work, but she still**

opened her mouth
to say,
“You’re right, my life is
filled with
nothing but hard work.
However, I earn my
money with my own effort. I
know someone
who only knows how to rely on
her parents
when she was younger and her
husband after
marriage. Now that she’s
dumped by her
husband, I wonder whom she
will rely on
next?”

She turned her head and looked
at Robin.

“Guess whom she will rely on
next?”

Robin knew that these words
were meant for
Matilda, so her expression
turned a little
embarrassing. When she didn’t
respond,
Sophia continued saying to
herself,
“I guess
she’ll just live on her own fat or

just live off
her parents when all else fails.
After all,
there aren't many men who are
willing to
support a spoilt and narcissistic
old woman
who stays at home doing
nothing!"

Matilda stood up quickly.

"Sophia!"

Sophia still refused to look at
her

ex-mother-in-law, after which
she chuckled

and said,

"If you're done eating,
pay up and
get lost now. Actually, I didn't
even want to
do your business. I just pitied
you.

"

Matilda's eyes widened in
anger. Rushing up
toward Sophia, she snarled,
"Say that again!
Who the hell are you pitying?"
There was a large mirror near
the entrance
of the shop. Therefore, Sophia

pointed at it
and said,
“Take a look at
yourself in the
mirror. Look at your own long
face, and you’ll
know who I’m talking about.
”

Of course, Matilda wasn’t that
obedient to
actually look at herself in the
mirror. All she
did was grit her teeth and glare
at Sophia
hatefully.

Regardless of whether they
were arguing or
fighting, she could never match
up to Sophia.

Knowing that, Matilda could
only stand there
and huff in annoyance.

Sophia placed her things down
gracefully
before looking back at Matilda.

“Ah, you don’t
have any money to pay the bill?
That’s fine. I
can treat you to this meal if you
like.
”

Matilda was so enraged that she couldn't speak. She took out her purse, peeled a bill from it, and slapped it onto the counter.

"Keep the change as your reward.

"

Sophia looked at Robin.

"Keep it. The rest will be your tips. After all, soon Madam Flintstone will no longer be able to afford to be so generous. So, keep it.

"

Sophia's behavior was really annoying to Matilda, who stood rooted to the spot for a long time before finally waving a hand and leaving.

Looking at Matilda's incensed expression, Sophia felt amused. She doesn't even realize her current situation right now, yet she

came to challenge
me. If she has so much free
time, she should
think about what she can do to
turn her
shitty reputation around.

Robin kept the money and then
came to help

Sophia tidy up.

“That Mrs.

Constance looks a
little scary.

”

Sophia snorted.

“What Mrs.

Constance? It’s

Madam Flintstone now. She
doesn’t have

anything to do with the
Constance Family

now.

”

Robin smiled and looked at her.

“You’re so

petty. It’s just a form of address,
so why do

you care so much?”

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Having said this, Robin sighed.

“If she’s so

difficult to get along with, John

must be very
tired of interacting with her.
”

Sophia was taken aback as she
turned to look
at Robin.

Seeing Sophia staring at her,
Robin quickly
smiled and waved her hand,
“I

was just
blabbering. I just thought about
it and
blurted something out.
”

Sophia thought for a while, but
she quickly
dismissed her thoughts as
impossible and
withdrew her gaze.

“Do you
think John will be
tired?”

Robin lowered her head and
continued to
work.

“It was just a guess. I
don't really know
Mr. Constance and only met
him a few times
with you. But since Madam

Flintstone is so
difficult to get along with, I
suppose she
won
't have a good temper at home
anyway. So,
I think he'll feel tired of having
to face her
at home.
”

Sophia smiled and said in a low
voice,
“Is that
so?”

She didn't say much on the
topic but simply
took a minute's break before
continuing with
her busy work.

In the afternoon, Logan came
over.

Logan hadn't been here for
several days, so
he was so excited that he
jumped up and
down.

Already used to his antics,
Sophia glanced at
him and commented,
“Have
you found

yourself a wife? Why are you so happy?”

Logan snorted a little.

“Even if

I’ve found

myself a wife, she’s the one

who should be

happy, not me.

”

With that, he leaned over and

told Sophia,

“I

just met my sister Lorraine, and

we talked

about Ian’s talent show.

Lorraine said that

they had made arrangements,

and we’ll be

able to see him soon.

”

Sophia was taken aback.

“Really?

Did Lorraine

tell you whether there’s any

guarantee for

Ian to advance in the show?”

Hearing her friend’s question,

Logan replied,

“Well, there are some strong

competitors in

this batch. But now that Ian has

undergone
training, his performance isn't
half bad. I
think he can be just as good as
those people.
”

Sophia nodded.
“I hope he can
perform well.
”

Smiling, Logan said,
“Lorraine
said that Ian
has been talking about you
nonstop over
there. When I heard that, I was
a little
unhappy! Why doesn't he talk
more about me?
After all, we've known each
other for longer.
”

Sophia didn't feel like listening
to him
complaining, so she quickly
changed the
subject.
“What's going on with
the Morgan
Family? Have you observed
anything?”

When Logan heard this, he became excited.

“Ah, the Morgan Family. I was just about to tell you about them. Simon Morgan has been discharged from the hospital, but he hasn’t been to the company. He is recuperating at home. Leah has been extremely distressed about his condition and wanted him to stay home and recuperate properly.”

Naturally, Simon couldn’t hold back from going out. Although he was no different from being hemiplegic now, he could still manage to have fun outside. A few days ago, he had gone out for a drink with his friends but was brought home on Sean’s orders. Bryce was so annoyed that he hit Simon several times with

his cane. But Simon didn't feel that he had made any serious mistakes. After all, he already had all his plaster removed, and the doctor even said that everything would be fine as long as he recuperated well.

Bryce was angry because the accident had happened when Simon was out for a drink.

Now that the injury had yet to heal completely, he had gone out for a drink again without a thought. Since both their opinions clashed, it was inevitable that a dispute would break out. Because Simon wasn't working at the company now, Bryce spoke directly about how undisciplined Simon was and how he didn't reflect on his actions, so the company wouldn't dare to

use him either.

Thus, Bryce made him stay at home indefinitely and hand the company matters to someone else. This pretty much meant that he was firing Simon from the company.

Although there was room for reconsideration, it was almost impossible for someone like Simon to ever reflect and improve on himself.

Naturally, Simon didn't want to be kicked out of the company just like that, so he squabbled with Bryce and Leah, causing a huge pandemonium in the family.

After recounting this story, Logan was exhilarated and said that he would be joyful for every day that his subordinates report about how much conflict the Morgan Family

was experiencing.

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When Sophia heard all this from Logan, she

also laughed. If Ian could work hard to

achieve great results, it went without saying

that the entire Morgan Family would feel

even more uncomfortable.

Logan leaned against the counter.

“I

contacted John a few days ago and talked

about the Morgan Family. He provided me

with a lot of information, and I feel that I

can go up against them without much issue.

”

When John was mentioned,

Sophia pursed

her lips and didn't say anything.

If John is a normal guy, I

suppose it would be

okay to contact each other once in a while.

However, he's only normal at

certain times.

Sometimes, he behaves normally and doesn't drag things out. But other times, he behaves really weirdly.

For example, Sophia didn't quite understand why he had to stay overnight at her own home. John didn't drink, and it was still quite early, so it was rather inappropriate for him to stay over.

Logan didn't know what happened between John and Sophia, so he continued saying,

"To be honest, the Morgan Family back then could do some pretty nasty things, but John had never cared about them. After all, they don't have much to do with him. Like now, no matter how the Morgan Family falls, it doesn't have anything to do

with him. But when he was making suggestions to my plans, it's obvious that he wants me to torture and destroy the Morgan Family as slowly and cruelly as I can. I think that he still holds a grudge about your injury last time at the Morgan Residence.

”

Sophia couldn't help but sigh. “Who knows? Perhaps he really has some personal grudges with the Morgan Family. In the business world, complicated interests are involved. Who knows if the Morgan Family has done something that may have indirectly hurt John's interests?” Logan thought for a bit before shaking his head. “I don't think so. If the Morgan Family

truly did something that poses a threat to the Constance Group's interests, I'm sure John will make a move himself in a very obvious way. You know what he's like. If he finds the right reason to openly act against someone, he wouldn't be willing to secretly stab them in the back like this. This much I know about him.
”

Sophia looked at Logan, who looked a little serious at the moment. It was rare for Young Master Logan to look so serious. He didn't look like he was gossiping, but he was actually analyzing the matter instead. Seeing how serious her friend looks, Sophia smiled.
“If I don't know you well, I would’

ve
really suspected that you're
finding excuses
to put in a good word for John.
”

“Put in a good word for him?
No, no, I'm really
not doing that. My relationship
with John is
not as good as my relationship
with you.
”

Logan grinned.
Nodding, Sophia said nothing.
Logan turned around and
sprawled over the
counter casually.

“So, what I
don't
understand is why did the two
of you get a
divorce? Was it because you no
longer liked
John?”

Seeing how John was behaving
now, it was
clear no matter how one looked
at it that he
hadn't let go of his feelings for
Sophia.
Both of them had allegedly said

that they
couldn't get along well. Due to
too many
disagreements with each other,
they had
intended to get an amicable
divorce.

Now that they were divorced, it
seemed that
things weren't that amicable
either. At the
very least, one party hadn't let
go of his
feelings yet.

Sophia chuckled but did not
explain, for she
didn't wish to talk about the
things that
happened between her and
John. After all,
the story was long and ugly, and
she might
lose her patience before she
was done telling
it.

Logan was lost in his thoughts
for a moment
before he said,
"Well, I suppose
John isn't
good with women. Men like

him only rely on
their good looks, and good
looks only work for
so long before women get tired
of seeing the
same face every day. To make a
marriage
work, one's character is very
important. I
guess John really doesn't have
much good
character in him.
”

Sophia looked at Logan with
some disgust.
How dare this single guy who
doesn't even
have a girlfriend stand here and
analyze what
it takes to have a lasting
marriage with me?
Logan had come to take away
all the items he
had ordered. Tonight, someone
had booked
the entire clubhouse and had
ordered all
these desserts.
When Logan was about to leave,
he looked at
Sophia and said,

**“Although
John isn’t
romantic nor good with women,
he is very
reliable. If you’re together with
him, you
should feel very secure.**

”

**The Returning Ex Chapter 535
Sophia pursed her lips.**

**“Are you
sure?”**

**I didn’t feel secure in the
slightest. John
hadn’t given me anything
during the marriage
that lasted less than one year.
Robin waited for Logan to leave
before
coming over.**

**“Sophia, why do I
feel like you’**

**re
repulsed whenever someone
brings up Mr.
Constance?”**

**Sophia didn’t turn her head but
continued
looking outside.**

**“Do you think
John is good?”**

Taken aback, Robin laughed sheepishly.

“I don’t have much contact with him, so I can’t say whether he is good or not. But I think that he should be a very reliable person.”

Sophia sighed.

“That’s because you aren’t married to him, so you’ve only seen his other side.”

When you’ve really married him and considered him your husband, you’ll feel differently.

The shop was less busy for the rest of the day. In the evening, when the shop closed, Sophia allowed Robin to leave first as she sat inside the shop.

To her, there was no difference between

being here and being home.
Both places
belonged to her after all.
Sophia sat by the window, and
her mind
somewhat empty as she looked
off into the
distance. She felt fulfilled after
such a busy
day, but she had only sat for a
moment when
someone came into the shop.
Sophia opened her mouth,
wanting to say that
the shop was closed for the day,
but when
she saw the person who came
in, she
swallowed her words back.
It was none other than Isabelle.
Sophia felt that she wasn't here
to have a
bite.
After all, the Bailey Corporation
was quite
far from here. Right now should
be the time
when employees get off work,
so logically,
Isabelle should still be at the
company. It

was a little unreasonable for her to come all the way here just to eat something in Sophia's shop.

Sophia simply sat there and didn't move.

After entering, Isabelle stood at the door and first looked at the layout of the shop, and then turned her head to look at Sophia.

Smiling, Isabelle asked, "Are you closed?"

Sophia nodded.

"Yeah, the sign has been put up."
"

Naturally, Isabelle saw the sign as well. Still, she smiled and came to sit down across from Sophia.

"I see that you're living quite the life."
"

Sophia leaned back in her chair,

turned her
head, and looked outside.

“My
life has always
been pretty good.

”

“I suppose so.

” Isabelle nodded.

“During your
divorce, John gave you so much
money.

Naturally, you’ll have a good
life.

”

Chuckling, Sophia answered,
“Apart from
during the divorce, John also
gave me a lot of
money even after the divorce.

”

Isabelle’s lips quirked up as she
always did
and commented,
“I heard that
John was the
one who got people to renovate
this shop.

”

Sophia tutted.

“Don’t always
say that you’

**ve
heard something. Just say that
you found out
about it. One should always be
more honest.**

”

**Bursting into laughter, Isabelle
said,**

**“Miss
Gwendolyn, you’re always so
straightforward.**

**I can’t even be a little more
discreet.**

”

Sophia shrugged.

**“I do have this
bad habit.**

Sorry, I can’t fix it.

”

Sighing, Isabelle said,

**“Then I’ll
tell you the
truth. I’ve actually wanted to
come over and
have a look myself for a long
time now, but I
have been very busy recently.**

**Now that I
finally have time today, I
wanted to see what
Miss Gwendolyn can do.**

Looking at this place,
I think it's pretty good. In fact,
it's better
than I expected.

”

Sophia raised her eyebrows.

“Oh? Please
elaborate on what you had
expected.

”

Isabelle spoke without holding
back,

“Well,
Miss Gwendolyn, I heard that
you didn't
receive much education, so I
thought that
you wouldn't understand much
about business.

But when I think about it, I
guess that one
doesn't need much professional
knowledge to
open a shop and sell things. As
long as you
know how to serve people,
you're good to go.

So, it's normal that you're doing
well here.

”

Laughing, Sophia slowly tapped

on the table
with a hand.
“I’ll be honest with
you. I’m not
very good at doing business,
but my shop is
doing very well. Do you know
why? It’s not
because I have a high table
turnover rate.
It’s because I have two major
customers.

”

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sure?”

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Isabelle spoke without holding
back,
“Well,
Miss Gwendolyn, I heard that
you didn't
receive much education, so I
thought that
you wouldn't understand much
about business.
But when I think about it, I
guess that one
doesn't need much professional
knowledge to
open a shop and sell things. As
long as you
know how to serve people,
you're good to go.

So, it's normal that you're doing well here.

”

Laughing, Sophia slowly tapped on the table with a hand.

“I'll be honest with you. I'm not very good at doing business, but my shop is doing very well. Do you know why? It's not because I have a high table turnover rate. It's because I have two major customers.

”

Sophia pursed her lips.

“Are you sure?”

I didn't feel secure in the slightest. John hadn't given me anything during the marriage that lasted less than one year. Robin waited for Logan to leave before coming over.

“Sophia, why do I feel like you're

repulsed whenever someone
brings up Mr.
Constance?”
Sophia didn't turn her head but
continued
looking outside.

“Do you think
John is good?”

Taken aback, Robin laughed
sheepishly.

“I
don't have much contact with
him, so I can't
say whether he is good or not.
But I think
that he should be a very reliable
person.

”

Sophia sighed.

“That's because
you aren't
married to him, so you've only
seen his other
side.

”

When you've really married him
and
considered him your husband,
you'll feel
differently.

The shop was less busy for the

rest of the
day. In the evening, when the
shop closed,
Sophia allowed Robin to leave
first as she sat
inside the shop.
To her, there was no difference
between
being here and being home.
Both places
belonged to her after all.
Sophia sat by the window, and
her mind
somewhat empty as she looked
off into the
distance. She felt fulfilled after
such a busy
day, but she had only sat for a
moment when
someone came into the shop.
Sophia opened her mouth,
wanting to say that
the shop was closed for the day,
but when
she saw the person who came
in, she
swallowed her words back.
It was none other than Isabelle.
Sophia felt that she wasn't here
to have a
bite.

After all, the Bailey Corporation was quite far from here. Right now should be the time when employees get off work, so logically, Isabelle should still be at the company. It was a little unreasonable for her to come all the way here just to eat something in Sophia's shop. Sophia simply sat there and didn't move.

After entering, Isabelle stood at the door and first looked at the layout of the shop, and then turned her head to look at Sophia.

Smiling, Isabelle asked, "Are you closed?"

Sophia nodded.

"Yeah, the sign has been put up.

"

Naturally, Isabelle saw the sign as well. Still,

she smiled and came to sit
down across from
Sophia.

“I see that you’re living
quite the
life.”

Sophia leaned back in her chair,
turned her
head, and looked outside.

“My
life has always
been pretty good.”

“I suppose so.

” Isabelle nodded.

“During your
divorce, John gave you so much
money.

Naturally, you’ll have a good
life.”

Chuckling, Sophia answered,
“Apart from
during the divorce, John also
gave me a lot of
money even after the divorce.”

Isabelle’s lips quirked up as she
always did
and commented,

**“I heard that
John was the
one who got people to renovate
this shop.**

”

Sophia tutted.

**“Don’t always
say that you’**

ve

**heard something. Just say that
you found out
about it. One should always be
more honest.**

”

**Bursting into laughter, Isabelle
said,**

“Miss

**Gwendolyn, you’re always so
straightforward.**

**I can’t even be a little more
discreet.**

”

Sophia shrugged.

**“I do have this
bad habit.**

Sorry, I can’t fix it.

”

Sighing, Isabelle said,

“Then I’ll

tell you the

truth. I’ve actually wanted to

come over and
have a look myself for a long
time now, but I
have been very busy recently.
Now that I
finally have time today, I
wanted to see what
Miss Gwendolyn can do.
Looking at this place,
I think it's pretty good. In fact,
it's better
than I expected.
”

Sophia raised her eyebrows.
“Oh? Please
elaborate on what you had
expected.
”

Isabelle spoke without holding
back,
“Well,
Miss Gwendolyn, I heard that
you didn't
receive much education, so I
thought that
you wouldn't understand much
about business.
But when I think about it, I
guess that one
doesn't need much professional
knowledge to

open a shop and sell things. As long as you know how to serve people, you're good to go. So, it's normal that you're doing well here.
”

Laughing, Sophia slowly tapped on the table with a hand.
“I'll be honest with you. I'm not very good at doing business, but my shop is doing very well. Do you know why? It's not because I have a high table turnover rate. It's because I have two major customers.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 536
Turning her head, Sophia looked outside and continued,
“Most of the desserts at Logan's clubhouse are supplied by me. He will only look elsewhere if I really can't prepare that

many. Also, the afternoon tea that the Constance Group's employees enjoy are all sourced from my shop. In fact, if I simply supply these two places without actually opening for business, this shop's profit is already quite substantial.

”

The corner of Sophia's mouth curved up as a relaxed expression crossed her face.

“I'm opening the business to other customers simply because I'm bored. Actually, I don't think we're that much different since we both rely on others for support. The only difference is that you live off your parents, while I rely on men and friends.

”

She deliberately made John's

identity a little
ambiguous, then she smiled at
Isabelle after
she finished speaking. The
hidden meaning
behind her words was palpable.
Isabelle's expression changed a
little before
returning to normal again.
Puckering her lips,
she said,
"Miss Gwendolyn, I've
experienced
how slick you are with your
words before."
"

On the surface, Sophia
appeared flattered as
her eyes moved to gaze outside
again.

"Miss
Bailey, your attitude surprises
me too. I
think that you and Madam
Flintstone are
often similar in many ways. You
two should go
and do a paternity test. Perhaps
the
Constance Family had gotten
the wrong child

in the past.

”

**Isabelle didn't understand what
Sophia**

**meant. After Sophia finished
speaking, she
continued to explain,**

“Time

after time, I'

ve

made mincemeat of you and

Matilda, yet you

**two seem to have no memory
of those times**

and still choose to come here

and

self-destruct.

” Sophia shook her

head and

added,

“Both of you are really

alike. Besides,

Madam Flintstone really likes

you, so you

shouldn't exclude the possibility

that you'

re

both actually biologically

related.

”

In the past, if someone had said

that
Isabelle and Matilda were very
similar to
each other, Isabelle might not
think too much
about it, but things were
different now.

Matilda's matter was still a hot
topic on the
Internet, and her reputation
was in tatters
online.

So, when Sophia said that they
were very
similar to each other, Isabelle
felt that the
other woman was being
sarcastic and mocking
her, making her expression
darken at once.

As Sophia stared out of the
window, the
smile at the corner of her
mouth became
more and more obvious.

When John's car stopped
outside of the
shop, the first thing he noticed
was Sophia
smiling. He was a little
surprised. After the

divorce, she had never shown such a happy expression whenever she saw him again.

He got down from the car and strode toward

Sophia's shop. After taking a few steps, he finally saw the person sitting opposite

Sophia. It was none other than Isabelle.

Startled, John's expression changed imperceptibly.

When Isabelle saw him coming their way, a trace of panic flashed across her face

before she returned to her usual composure.

John opened the door and entered. Looking at Isabelle, he commented,

"Why are you here, Miss Bailey?"

Isabelle smiled.

"I was passing by, so I came to check it out.

"

John then turned to look at Sophia.

“Why didn’t you leave after work? I went to your house and waited for a while at the door.

”

If John had said this before, Sophia would definitely question why he went to her house, but Sophia was delighted at having chanced upon such a perfect situation.

So, her tone was amiable as she replied,

“I’m just sitting here taking a break. Logan ordered a lot of things for his clubhouse event today, so I’

ve been so busy for the whole day and I’m dog-tired.

”

After saying that, Sophia rotated her neck slightly.

**John went over and stood
behind Sophia,
then he gently massaged her
shoulders.**

**“In
the future, don’t allow Logan to
order so
many things in one go. There’s
only Robin to
help you out in the shop. You’ll
overwork
yourself to death.**

**” Then, he
added with a
little annoyance,
“That guy
Logan should have
taken your situation into
account as well.**

”

**Sophia simply smiled and didn’t
refute him.**

**Meanwhile, Isabelle’s
expression did not
change as she watched John
and Sophia.**

**With an unusually calm tone,
she commented,**

**“Oh, you two. If I didn’t know
any better, I
would never have thought that**

both of you
are divorced with each other.
”

Sophia stared at her. I’ve really
got to give it
to her. No matter how furious
she feels
inside, she isn’t showing any
signs of it on her
face at all.

The Returning Ex Chapter 537
If it were me, I wouldn’t have
been able to
hold it in.

John sighed.

“Yeah. I was
initially thinking of
remarrying her before people
found out
about it to prevent so many
things from
happening, but Miss
Gwendolyn disagreed and
insisted on kicking me away.
”

He said it jokingly, so Isabelle
really laughed
and considered it a joke.
Sophia thought that Isabelle
herself was
much funnier than this joke, so

she only
laughed after Isabelle finished
laughing. It
was very sudden and the timing
of the laugh
was weird.

However, Isabelle only looked
at Sophia and
was not affected at all. Even
now, she could
still hold her ground as she
commented,

“Miss
Gwendolyn looks very pretty,
so I’m sure she
is really likable.
”

Sophia raised her eyebrow.

“Naturally, I also
think that I’m quite likable.
”

Isabelle nodded.

“I think Young
Master
Jefferson and Miss Gwendolyn
have a pretty
good relationship. And there’s
Young Master
Ian as well. These two aren’t
very easygoing
with outsiders, yet they behave

**differently
when they interact with Miss
Gwendolyn.**

”

**John stared at Isabelle, then
looked down at
Sophia.**

Chuckling, Sophia replied,

“I

**suppose so. But
after interacting with them for
some time,
it’s clear that they have very
good judgement
of people and they are young
men with good
morals.**

**” Since Isabelle has
implied that I
have a controversial
relationship with Logan,
I can also mock her in turn.
After all, Logan
and Ian both didn’t like Isabelle
to the
extent that they couldn’t be
bothered to be
polite to her, which showed
how bad
Isabelle’s character was.
Curving her lips, Isabelle did not**

respond.

This wasn't the first time Sophia had won in a war of words anyway.

Thinking for a while, John massaged Sophia's shoulders and said,

"Come on.

Let's go home now. There isn't anything to do here anyway.

"

Sophia agreed with John's words, so she said,

"All right, let's go home.

"

A trace of happiness flashed past John's eyes.

Since Sophia and John were going to leave, Isabelle naturally couldn't stay here. So, she also stood up and said goodbye to them.

After she left, Sophia snorted, which John heard loud and clear. He turned his head to look at Sophia, the corners of his mouth

slowly lifting into a grin.
As the two returned home from
the shop,
John didn't ask Sophia what
Isabelle had said
to her just now. It was as if he
had forgotten
about that woman as he drove
Sophia home.

When they reached their
destination, Sophia
opened the door and got off,
then said her
goodbye.

John stopped her.

"What do
you mean by
this? Aren't you gonna invite
me in?"

Turning around, Sophia faced
him.

"It's
getting late, so you should go
home for
dinner. I won't ask you to stay.
"

John opened the door and got
out of the car.

"You weren't like this back in
the shop just
now.

”

Just now? That was a show I put on for Isabelle. Now that she’s not there, who am I putting on an act for? Ignoring Sophia’s reaction, John walked past her and into the house.

“It’s been a long time since I’ve eaten the food you cook.

” This meant that he wanted to have dinner here before leaving.

Sophia stood there for a long time with her lips pursed, then she turned and entered the living room.

Familiar with the place, John sat down on the sofa and switched on the TV, while Sophia put on her apron and went into the kitchen to cook. Although John stared at the TV, he wasn’t actually watching the

movie on it. His attention was mostly fixated on the kitchen, where the sounds of vegetables being chopped and the water running rang and reverberated in his ears.

After a while, John couldn't help but get up and walk toward the kitchen. Sophia's hair was tied up into a bun. Also, she wore a pastel-colored apron and her head was lowered as she prepared the ingredients very seriously.

Upon seeing her like this, John's heart constricted for a moment before he entered and wrapped his arms around her.

"I think the two of us are great together like this.

Won't you consider getting back together with me again?"

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The movements of Sophia's hands paused at John's words. After staring at the ingredients on the cutting board for a long while, she finally said, "Let go of me."
"

However, John was a little bolder on this day and refused to let go. "Sophia, I find that I'm really not used to you not being with me."
"

Sophia pressed her lips together. "You're just unaccustomed to not having someone around to serve you. If you really want someone to accompany you, I think Isabelle is a good choice. You may try to date her. Perhaps you'll find that she suits you better

than I
do.
”

John let out a dull laugh before
asking,

“Really?”

Sophia twisted her body,
flinging John ‘s
hand around her waist away.

“Of course. If
you don’t believe it, you can try
it and see.

”

John stood beside Sophia,
watching her cut
the vegetables.

“I guess your
proposal is
worth considering.

”

Sophia didn’t speak any more
and started
busying in the kitchen. Then,
John left and
went out to sit on the sofa.

Facing the
kitchen, his mouth twitched
slightly.

Isabelle? I guess I can consider
her.

Soon, Sophia was done with

cooking. She had made the meal into a very formal three-course dinner, making John smack his lips at the dinner table.

“It looks great.

Better than what the chef makes back at the Constance Residence.

”

Sophia served him the food and said,

“Just

leave after dinner.

”

John didn't mind Sophia's attitude toward him and leaned back in his chair casually.

None of them spoke throughout the dinner.

When Sophia finished her food, John was

still eating. She leaned back in her chair and looked at him.

It was quite normal for such a good-looking man to attract a lot of women.

Thus, it was understandable for Isabelle to be interested in him. However, Sophia felt that the other woman was a little obsessive with John. It wasn't as if there were no other fishes in the sea. Why is she still so interested in this man who had been married and divorced? Sophia was a little confused by that. Actually, she had wanted to ask Isabelle back in the shop whether she really loved John, or if she was obsessed about him simply because she couldn't win him over. But then, Isabelle was also a stubborn one who would probably say some nonsense like 'true love conquers all' . Sophia sometimes felt disdainful of Isabelle's loftiness that she carried with her

all the time.

We're all mortals, so no one is better than another. No matter how amazing one was, one would still need to eat, drink and defecate every day, and when one died, only a handful of ashes would be left.

John had finished his dinner.

Taking a paper towel to wipe his mouth, he nodded and said,
"I still prefer the food you make."
"

Sophia crossed her arms.

"Even if you prefer it, I can't make it for you all the time. I'm just in a good mood today. If you've finished, leave now. I need my rest."
"

John laughed.

"You weren't like this to me in the past."
"

That made Sophia chuckle.

**“Well, you weren’t
like this to me back then
either.**

”

**Staring at Sophia, John looked
like he wanted
to say something, but in the
end, he didn’t
say it. Instead, he stood up and
announced,
“Okay, since I’ve finished eating,
I’ll leave
now.**

”

**Sophia didn’t believe him, so
she personally
escorted him to the door, then
watched him
go out and get into the car. As
John opened
the car door, he looked back at
Sophia.**

**“I’ll
definitely consider your
suggestion.**

”

**Before Sophia could react, John
got into the
car and closed the door.
Watching the car**

leave, Sophia stood still in confusion. What suggestion?

She turned around and entered the house.

Closing the door and windows, she then returned to her room. It was only when she was brushing her teeth did she suddenly realize what John meant. Earlier, she had suggested to him that he could try to get together with Isabelle. This jerk! When he said he would consider my suggestion, did he mean this?

The Returning Ex Chapter

539 Sophia looked into the mirror and sneered.

Sure, go ahead and try. Do you think I care?

In the next few days, John really didn't show up, while Sophia's shop was still very busy.

The matriarch of the Blackwell Family, Kate

Blackwell, came several times.
At first, she
complained that Sophia hadn't
visited her,
but when she saw that Sophia
was really
busy, she stopped badgering
her.

Kate said that Fabian
Blackwell's family kept
talking about her. Instead of
asking Sophia
to call them her parents, she
just told her,
"Your godfather and godmother
think about
you all the time. Even Fabian
brought you up
twice, saying that his sister
never goes back
after the last time you had a
meal together."
"

Sophia didn't know if what Kate
said was
true, so she could only smile.
"You've seen how
busy I am myself. There's no
way I can
leave the shop considering how
busy it is.

”

Thus, Kate could only nod.

“Yes,

I can see how

busy you are now that I’m here
to visit you.

”

Then, she slowly let out a sigh
and continued
her topic.

“Fabian also
mentioned that your
relationship with John is very
different, and
that you two have a special
connection. Girl,
why haven’t I heard you
mention this
before?”

Sophia was taken aback for a
moment,
wondering if Fabian Blackwell
was trying to
give the old woman a hint
about something.

Hence, she hesitated and
replied,

“Well, my
relationship with John isn’t that
special. I
didn’t feel the need to tell you.

”

Sitting in her chair, Kate looked outside the window.

“John, well, I watched him grow up too. But my health hasn’t been well for the past two years, so I’ve not really kept in contact with the Constance Family. John is a good kid though, despite his rather aloof temperament. He is truly a good man.

”

Sophia had no comment about that, so she could only nod her head.

“Yes, I guess he’s a very good man.

”

Robin glanced at Kate and nodded as well.

“Mr. Constance looked like a nice guy. He came here a few times before and was very polite.

”

Kate agreed.

“That boy has always been really obedient since he was a kid. He followed the path his family laid out for him without any protest, so it is in his nature to be reserved.

Oh, by the way, John is married. Haven’t you seen his wife before?”

At that, the old woman added, “During that banquet, John didn’t bring his wife along. I really wished to see the eldest Young Mistress of the Constance Family.

”

Sophia looked away; she wasn’t sure how to react to that. After all, John had no wife now. He only had an ex-wife, who was standing in front of the old woman right now. Robin too felt a little

embarrassed. Turning her head to glance at Sophia, she felt like laughing.

However, Kate did not notice their expressions and continued saying,

“John should be a really good man. Don’t be tricked by his aloofness; I’m sure he’s someone who really pampers his wife.”

Sophia almost burst out laughing. This old lady really doesn’t hear anything through the grapevine; she only relies on her own subjective judgment in everything. I’m sure I’m the most qualified person to judge whether John is a good husband or not. That jerk was really inhuman back then!
The old woman sat there for a while before

leaving.

She was no longer sprightly, so it was easy for her to feel tired after spending too much time outdoors. Besides, the Blackwell Family would worry about her if she was out too long.

After the matriarch of the Blackwell Family left, Robin was a little emotional as she said, "This grandmother of yours looks like a nice woman. She is pretty good to you."
"

Sophia thought about the Constance Family and how Old Mr. Constance treated her so well that she made a mistake in her judgment and thought that everyone in the family would accept her. But now, look at what happened to me after his passing.

The Blackwell Family was similar to the Constance Family; the only one who was truly willing to accept her was probably the matriarch of the Blackwell Family.

**The Returning Ex Chapter 540
As for the others, who knew what thoughts they had? Sophia wasn't stupid; she wouldn't easily believe those who didn't show their true feelings this time.**

**After standing there for a while, she then returned to the counter. Now that there were no customers, Robin felt a little bored, so she said,
"Mr. Constance hasn't visited for several days."
"**

Sophia smiled.

"Why? Do you miss him?"

Taken aback, Robin stared at

her.

“Don’t talk
nonsense! Why would I miss
him? I’m just
stating an observation. You’d
better not think
otherwise.

”

Sophia grinned and replied,
“I’m just joking.

Why are you so serious?”

Robin flipped her hair without a
word.

Speaking of the devil, John
drove to the shop
in the evening. He didn’t get out
of the car
but simply tooted the horn
twice. Recognizing
that it was John’s car at a glance,
Robin
hurried out.

“Mr. Constance,
what’s the
matter?”

John lowered the car window
and glanced into
the shop.

“Is Sophia inside?”

Robin was startled for a
moment. Then, she

looked back before saying,

“Are
you here to
see Sophia?”

“No.

” John smiled.

Sophia was still standing at the
counter.

Although she didn’t stare at
John, she
couldn’t help but notice him
from the corner
of her eyes.

After talking with John for a
while, Robin
turned around and came back
in. She then

said to Sophia,

“Mr. Constance
wants to take
away a piece of cake. He said
that he’s going
to meet a client and he’ll eat it
on the way
there.

”

Sophia frowned.

“What
important client is
that for him to be in such a
hurry without

even having time for a meal?”
Robin shrugged her shoulders.
“I don’t know.
I felt that Mr. Constance was a
little excited
when he mentioned the client,
so I suppose it
should be some bigshot.
”

Sophia didn’t speak further, so
Robin helped
to pack the cake up and take it
out to John,
who didn’t even greet Sophia
and drove off
just like that.
Standing at the counter, Sophia
didn’t know
what she was thinking about.
All she knew
was that she suddenly felt a
little down in
the dumps and that everything
was
meaningless. Even when
evening came around
and the shop closed for the day,
Sophia still
felt irritable for no reason in
particular.
Robin had left first, leaving

Sophia to
calculate the day's turnover.
After dragging
it out for a while, she didn't hail
a cab but
chose to slowly walk back
home.

On the way back, her phone
rang. She took it
out to have a look and saw that
it was from
John. However, it had only rang
for a few
seconds before the other party
hung up. It
was as if he had accidentally
called her.

So, Sophia decided to just
ignore it. When
she got home, it was already
dark and she
was not in the mood to cook, so
she simply
ate some leftover pasta from
the fridge.

Then, she sat on the sofa to
watch TV, but it
wasn't long before her mind
wandered, and
her heart felt like there was a
thorn in it.

After a while, the phone lying
on the coffee
table rang again. It was from
John once
more, but this time, he didn't
hang up
immediately. Sophia took the
phone over and
glanced at it, then picked up the
call. Her
tone was a little cold without
her realizing it
as she asked,
"What do you
want?"

Amidst a noisy background,
John's words
were slurred when he spoke.
"Sophia, come
here."
"

Sophia was taken aback.

"Did
you drink?"
John repeated,
"Come here."
"

Sophia thought for a while
before asking,
"Is
Zack with you?"

Silence fell. After some time,
John finally
answered,
“No.
”

Sophia remembered that John
had said he
was going to meet a client just
before
evening. Considering the
circumstances now,
he had probably drunk too
much while
socializing with the client.
However, why did
John go over to such a social
event by
himself?

Just as Sophia was trying to
decide how to
reply to John, the man
continued saying,
“I
ve
tried out what you suggested,
but I don’t
think it works.
”

After a moment of confusion,
Sophia reacted
a little faster this time and

asked,
“What I
suggested? Do you mean the
matter about
Isabelle?”

The Returning Ex Chapter 541

John mumbled vaguely,

“She’s
not as good as
you.
”

Sophia thought for a while and
seemed to
understand what was going on.

“Are you with
Isabelle now?”

After a long pause, John’s voice
slowly came
over.

“She went to the restroom.
”

Sophia suddenly stood up from
the sofa.

“Where are you?”

It was a long time before John
gave her an
address. From the address,
Sophia guessed
that it was a small shop. She
stood where she
was, one hand on her hips,

hesitating whether
she should or shouldn't go. It
felt a bit
inappropriate for her to go
since she was no
longer his wife, but if she didn't,
and
considering John's drunken
state right now, it
would be easy for him to make
a mistake with
Isabelle since the latter had
been obsessed
about him all this while.
So, Sophia said into the phone,
"Stay there
and don't move. I'll be right
there.
Remember, do not leave that
place."
After
speaking, Sophia hung up,
changed her shoes
and went out. Forget it, I'm not
gonna worry
so much about things. John is
now drunk, so
I'll get him away from that
place first. No
matter what, if he really wishes
to choose

Isabelle, he has to be in a sober state to do that.

Sophia got in a cab and went directly to the address given by John. It was a small tavern located deep inside an alley. Sophia entered the place and immediately saw Isabelle and John. He did indeed look drunk as he leaned back in his chair. At the same time, Isabelle had gone over to him and appeared to be helping him up. Sophia simply stood there without moving as she watched them.

As if he was asleep, John had his eyes closed. Failing to move him, Isabelle gave up after a few unsuccessful attempts. She stood beside John and looked down at him. It was this man who had tortured her so much that she

couldn't eat or sleep. It was him
who had
made her feel restless and
flustered time
after time. Isabelle whispered,
"John, wake
up.
"

However, there was no reaction
from the man
at all. She pursed her lips and
then raised a
hand to touch his face.
Sophia chuckled before walking
up to them.

"Miss Bailey, what are you
doing?"

As if struck by lightning, Isabelle
retracted
her hand back at once, but
when she saw that
it was Sophia, she immediately
put on a
righteous expression.

Sophia glanced at John, but the
man didn't
react at all. How much has this
jerk drunk?

Shouldn't you be vigilant when
you come out
to drink with a member of the

opposite sex?

Isabelle looked at Sophia.

“Why

are you here,

Miss Gwendolyn?”

**Sophia and John had already
divorced, so**

**Isabelle had no need to feel
guilty upon**

seeing the woman before her.

Then, Sophia

**came over, squeezed Isabelle
aside, and**

pushed John with her hands.

“Wake up! You

**called me and told me to come
over, yet**

you

**’re passed out in a drunken
stupor.**

”

After shaking John several

times, the man

slowly came to his senses. He

squinted at

Sophia, and then smiled.

“You

came.

”

**Impatience was written all over
Sophia’s face**

as she said,
“Do you want to go
home? If yes,
come with me. If not, I’m going
to leave
first.”

John hurriedly pulled at
Sophia’s hand.

“Of
course I do. Since you’re here,
I’ll go back
with you for sure.

” After saying
that, he
staggered to his feet, holding
onto the table
for support. Only then did he
notice Isabelle.

“Miss Bailey, you’re still around?
I’m leaving
now.”

Isabelle stood still without any
expression on
her face.

Meanwhile, Sophia had no
choice but to hold
out her arm and support John.
Without
sparing another glance at

Isabelle, she took John away. The two of them got into the car and went back to Sophia's house.

Sophia had actually called Zack on the way there and asked him to come over to get John. However, Zack told her that he was out on a date and it wouldn't be convenient for him to go. Thus, he asked her to look after John, and if it wasn't possible for her to do so, then she should call the Constance Residence and have someone go over to get him.

The Returning Ex Chapter 542

After Sophia thought about it, she decided to just let John stay over.

Along the way, John seemed to be asleep, but when the cab stopped outside Sophia's house, he suddenly woke up, opened

the door and got off quickly. After Sophia paid the fare and got off, John was already standing at the door. She stared at the man in a somewhat helpless manner.

In her life, she was most helpless against drunkards because she knew that she herself behaved terribly when she was drunk, so she had no right to be repulsed by others' drunken behaviors.

After she went over to open the door, John went in at once. He did not stay downstairs but walked up the stairs by himself without a word.

Sophia almost laughed out loud. Does John think that this is his home? After that, she called out to him twice, but he didn't respond to her as if he hadn't heard

her at all. In just a moment, he disappeared at the top of the stairs on the second floor.

Sighing, Sophia went to the kitchen. Since John would definitely have a hangover the next day, she had to prepare some chicken soup in advance as a hangover cure. Thus, she busied herself in the kitchen downstairs for a while. When she went upstairs, she found that John was already asleep in her bedroom.

This guy is acting the same as the last time.

He didn't take off his clothes and just lay on the bed like that.

Sophia put the chicken soup aside and went up to turn John over.

"John, wake up. Drink the chicken soup before going to sleep, otherwise you'll have a

headache tomorrow.

”

John slowly turned around and lay flat on the bed. Squinting up at her, he called,

“Sophia.

”

Sophia turned around to get the bowl of chicken soup. However, John pulled her hand with a sudden force without any warning, causing her to fall directly on his body.

Sophia was so shocked that she hurriedly pushed against John’s chest.

“John, are you crazy?”

John’s eyes were a little red as he looked at Sophia without saying a word.

His expression looked a little passionate.

Seeing that, Sophia took a deep breath and said,

“Don’t move. I’ll get you the chicken soup.

”

She struggled to stand up and brought the chicken soup over. By then, John had already sat up. He was very obliging as he drank all the chicken soup without needing Sophia to coax him at all. When he finished, Sophia took the bowl and turned to leave with it.

However, John grabbed Sophia's hand, stared at her, and called out again, "Sophia."
"

Sophia nodded at him.

"You had dinner with Isabelle today, right? Are you happy?"

John let out a muffled laugh.

Then, he suddenly flipped over and pinned Sophia on the bed.

Grabbing the bowl tightly in her hand, Sophia exclaimed,

"What are you doing?"

Get away!

The bowl is going to fall!”

**John took the bowl over from
her hand and**

**threw it to the floor. As the
floor was**

**carpeted, the bowl didn't
shatter but only
clanged dully as it hit the floor.**

**Sophia glared
at him angrily. Although John
still smelled
like alcohol, he looked sober
enough.**

**John's mouth twitched as he
asked,**

**“Sophia,
are you jealous?”**

Sophia rolled her eyes.

**“Are you
really this
narcissistic? Why should I be
jealous? Are
you crazy, or am I?”**

**Her words were venomous, but
John had**

**expected her to say such things,
so he**

**blocked her mouth directly with
his lips and**

prevented her from speaking at

all.

Sophia's eyes bulged. Again!
He's doing this
again! She pushed John hard,
but this time,
he was different from before
and acted
rather unrestrainedly. Hence,
Sophia couldn't
protect herself with just her
hands. As their
limbs tangled with each other,
the two of
them rolled onto the floor.
The situation was more than a
little chaotic.
Sophia's brain couldn't process
what was
happening, so she looked up at
the ceiling and
said hoarsely,
"You smell of alcohol all over."
"

Hearing this, John laughed
aloud and without
any delay, he carried her in his
arms and
strode into the bathroom.
In her daze, some scenes
flashed through
Sophia's mind without any

warning.

The Returning Ex Chapter 543

The scenes weren't from that time back in

Tri Asel; they were from the previous time

they were here. In a trance-like state, she

asked John,

"The previous time

we were

here...

"

John quickly blocked her mouth again. The

previous time was a bit too

wanton and he

couldn't have her remember it.

After all, he

wouldn't have been able to

hold her down if

she blew up in a rage.

However, Sophia was mindful of her situation.

She was a single woman

anyway, so this kind

of situation was

understandable. They were

simply fulfilling each other's

physical needs.

It was just that if Isabelle knew

that John was staying over at Sophia's place and was doing all these things with her, the former would probably be hopping mad. Sophia admitted that she was a narrow-minded and selfish woman. Just the thought of Isabelle touching John's face made her upset.

John was a little surprised that Sophia would be so cooperative with the way things were going. Ever since the divorce, this woman had always been hesitant.

Sophia put her arms around John's neck and said,

"Are you happy about the dinner today?"

Lowering his head, John kissed her.

"Looks like you really are jealous."
"

Sophia chuckled without any

emotion.

“I’m
jealous? Dream on.
”

John didn’t want to pester her
too much on
this issue. The night was too
short, so it was
better to focus on more
meaningful things.

Then, Sophia reached out and
turned the
lights off. The moonlight
streaming in from
the window was bright enough
for John and
Sophia to see each other
clearly.

Sophia commented,
“You drank
so much
today. Did you plan to have sex
with Isabelle
after taking courage from the
alcohol?”

John replied,
“I obviously
planned to be with
you right from the beginning.
”

“Are you playing me for a fool?”

John leaned close to her ear
and whispered
softly,
“Look at us; we’re a
match made in
heaven. Are you sure you won’t
reconsider my
proposal?”

Sophia didn’t answer, so John
added,

“Let’s
remarry, okay?”

Still, Sophia chose to ignore him.
Remarry?

What is he even thinking?

In the end, she didn’t even
remember when

she fell asleep. Her fatigue
caused her to

sleep until noon the next day.

When she woke up, John was
no longer in bed.

She looked at the time and was
shocked.

Sitting up quickly, she fumbled
for her phone

and called Robin. Since the shop
was always

busy, Robin must have been
completely

rattled by the amount of work

she had to
handle alone.

It took Robin a long time to
answer the call.

“Sophia.

” She sounded a little
glum.

Sophia felt a little embarrassed
as she
apologized.

“Sorry, I overslept
today. You
must be frazzled having to do
everything by
yourself in the shop this
morning.

”

“No,

” Robin replied.

“John

called me in the
morning and said that you’re
too tired and

won

’t be coming today. He got Zack
to come
over to help, so I’m doing
okay.

”

Sophia was taken aback.

“John

called you?"

It took a long time for Robin to say yes.

Sophia gritted her teeth in annoyance, but she still maintained her composure and asked Robin,

"What nonsense did John say to you?"

Robin was at a loss for words.

Earlier in the morning, John had called her using Sophia's phone. He said that Sophia was exhausted and might not go to the shop on this day, so he would arrange for someone to go over and help out at the shop.

Then, he had added that it was all his fault for tormenting Sophia last night and forgetting that she had work the next day.

In fact, there was no real need for him to tell Robin that. When the latter heard it, she

had turned crimson red from
utter
awkwardness.

But of course, Robin could not
tell Sophia any
of this. She simply laughed and
said,

“He
didn’t say much. Don’t worry
about it.
”

Sophia ruffled her hair, then
lifted the duvet
and looked at her own body.

I knew it. This jerk likes to bite!

The Returning Ex Chapter 544

There were so many marks on
Sophia’s body.

She closed her eyes and said,

“Okay, I see.

Continue with your work. I’ll
see if I can go
over this afternoon.

”

Robin then hung up the phone.

Sophia held some clothes close
to herself to

cover her body before going to

the bathroom

and taking a good look in the
mirror. Sure

enough, her neck and collarbone were full of love bites.

John is like a dog that likes to chew on things!

Sophia stood in front of the mirror for a long time. After counting the dates, she felt that she should be safe since her menstrual cycles had always been quite regular. She didn't wish to take any contraceptives or morning-after pills because she felt that they would do damage to her body, so she decided that it was a safe period and stopped thinking about it.

After soaking in the bathtub for a while, Sophia dressed herself to go out. When she came downstairs, she found John in the living room. Startled, she thought for a bit and

only realized that it was a Saturday. Ever since she opened her own business, she no longer knew the days of the week.

John stood at the entrance of the living room, making a call. From his expression, it looked like it was about some company matters.

Sophia slowly walked down the stairs. To be honest, she didn't know how to face John.

Previously, she had always been reserved and distant around the man, but she had been quite enthusiastic last night.

This made her a little bit embarrassed.

Hearing the noise, John turned around and saw Sophia. Smiling, he said, "You're awake."

Sophia tried her best to make herself appear

normal.

“Yeah, I’m awake. Have you eaten yet?”

John shook his head.

“I was waiting for you to get up. Let’s go out to eat.”

Since she was still feeling rather lethargic, she too didn’t feel like cooking. Her body still felt a little weak, so she nodded and said,

“I’m ready. Let’s go!”

The two of them did not go too far since

John did not drive his car over.

So, they

walked to the restaurant near Sophia’s house.

Sophia lazily stretched her body as she

walked. As if dissatisfied with her slow

speed, John reached out to drag her along.

Sophia reluctantly quickened her pace to match his.

Meanwhile, sitting inside another car, Isabelle stared at the scene going on outside. She had been here since last night and was outside Sophia's house. So, she knew that John never left for the entire night. Early this morning, she came back again and just saw them after waiting for a long time. John stayed over last night. It was evident what had happened between these two people last night. Sophia was also wearing the lace dress from before. Isabelle closed her eyes and leaned against the back of the chair. Actually, she had guessed that this would happen, but for some reason, she had to personally come and take a look. In the end, she was simply

setting
herself up for disappointment.
Unfortunately, Sophia had no
idea that
Isabelle was here, or she would
have put on a
good show.

She and John soon arrived at
the restaurant.

There, he ordered the food,
while she
ordered the drinks.

I'm really hungry and thirsty
now! she
thought.

John stared at Sophia and
noticed the marks
on her neck. It was a deliberate
act when he
tormented her like that last
night.

With a yawn, Sophia said,
"After the meal,
I'll go to the shop. You should
leave too."
"

John smiled.

"Are you sure you
can go to the
shop looking like this?"

Stunned, Sophia realized that

John was
staring at her neck, so she
hurriedly clutched
at it.

“You’re the one who did
this. How dare
you bring it up?”

With a gentle expression, John
replied,

“So,
I suggest that you go home and
rest for a
while. I’ll go and check out the
shop. Zack’s
there, so you have nothing to
worry about.
”

Sophia said coldly,
“This kind
act of yours is
proof of your guilty
conscience.
”

Laughing, John answered
cheerfully,
“Yeah, I
feel guilty. I was too rough with
you last
night, so it’s all my fault.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter

545 Sophia didn't want to listen to what happened last night, so she quickly stopped him. "What happened isn't reflective of my true feelings. The atmosphere was pretty good at that time, so I just went along with it. There's no further meaning to it. After eating, you should just go do what you have to do. Don't you have some company matters to handle? Go ahead and deal with it. I don't need you to take care of my shop."
"

It was clear that Sophia was subtly rejecting him again. John wanted to say something, but after thinking about it, he decided not to. Considering how Sophia had finally relented last night, he couldn't be too

pushy about
things either. Thus, he nodded.
“Alright.
”

After the meal, they left the
restaurant
together. Sophia strolled back
home first,
while John did not follow her
but attempted
to hail a cab by the roadside.
Seeing this, Isabelle drove past
him at once.
She parked the car next to John
and lowered
the window.
“John, what a
coincidence.
”

John was stunned to see her,
but he just
nodded.
“Yeah, fancy meeting
you here.
”

Isabelle pretended to know
nothing.
“What’s
up? Are you hailing a cab? I can
give you a
ride.

”

However, John didn't get into the car right away. Instead, he merely looked at her.

“Are you going to meet a client?”

“No.

” Isabelle laughed and explained,

“My brother has a class, so I sent him there.

”

John nodded. Looking around him, he realized that there weren't many cabs on the road at this hour. So, he got into the backseat of the car.

“I'll sit at the back. It wouldn't be good if we're photographed sitting together in front.

”

Isabelle looked like she had only just thought of this and commented,

“You're

the
thoughtful one.
”

Then, she started driving away.

As the car
traveled along the road, she
asked,

“Are you
going to the company or the
Constance
Residence?”

John turned around and looked
out the
window.

“Go to Sophia’s shop.
She’s not going
over today, so I’ll check out the
situation and
maybe help out.

”

Isabelle pursed her lips when
she heard this.

After a brief pause, she said,

“Oh. Is Miss
Gwendolyn not feeling well?
Why is she not
going to her shop?”

Hearing her words, John
struggled to come
up with a proper reply. He
didn’t want to go

into much detail with Isabelle,
since what
happened last night was a
private matter
between him and Sophia.
Isabelle wasn't close
enough for him to sneakily
divulge his
intimate affairs either.
As Isabelle's status and identity
were rather
controversial, plus she was also
his
collaborative partner at work,
John naturally
had to be a bit more serious
toward her. So,
he replied,
"No, she's just a
little tired today
and has decided not to go to
work.
Therefore, I'll go and take a
look.
"

Pressing her lips into a thin line,
Isabelle did
not answer. She stopped the car
at a traffic
light, then said after a brief
thought,

“I think you and Miss Gwendolyn are getting along well. Mrs. Constance told me that the relationship between the two of you isn’t this good. It seems that she has misunderstood things.”

When Matilda was brought up, John frowned.

“My mom misunderstands a lot of things. You don’t need to bother about what she says.”

His words were a veiled reference to the previous incident in the hospital when Matilda had kicked up a huge fuss. Since John had stopped talking about Sophia, Isabelle stopped asking as well. She drove to Sophia’s shop, and John got off when they arrived. Isabelle too got off and followed

after him.

Only Robin and Zack were in the shop. Zack was only responsible for receiving payments, while Robin served the customers and packed up their orders.

John went in and remarked, "Looks like you're quite used to this job."

He was speaking to Zack. Surprised, Zack lifted his head and looked over, and then gave a helpless smile.

"I've trained the entire morning. At first, I was really thrown off balance by the amount of work needed to be done."

Robin glanced at Isabelle standing behind John and commented in a somewhat surprised tone,

**“This must be Miss
Bailey.
”**

**Isabelle came over and stood
beside John.**

**“Yeah, I was just passing by and
decided to
take a look in here.
”**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 546
Zack was also a bit surprised to
see Isabelle.**

**“Miss Bailey, did you come over
with Mr.
Constance?”**

**Without waiting for Isabelle to
speak, John
spoke up first.**

**“I couldn’t get a
cab and ran
into Miss Bailey by coincidence.
So, she gave
me a ride.
”**

**Zack nodded. Suddenly, he
remembered that
Sophia had called him the
previous night,
saying that John drank too
much, so she
asked him to go and take the**

drunkard away,
but he was really tied up with
something,
which was why he didn't go
over.

Seeing that John didn't have a
car with him,
Zack thought that he had
probably stayed
overnight at Sophia's house.

Thus, he glanced
at John a little slyly.

Furrowing his brows, the latter
gave Zack a
warning glare before walking
over to the
counter. Sophia had arranged
everything
there in an orderly manner,
which looked very
pleasing to the eye.

Robin looked up at him and
asked,

“Why didn't
Sophia come here together with
you? Didn't
she get enough rest?”

John nodded.

“She should
probably be here a
little later in the day. It's okay.

Let Zack help
out here today. If you have
anything you
need help with, just order him
around as you
wish.

”

Zack bared his teeth.

“What an
evil
capitalist!”

Isabelle stood there for a while,
feeling

somewhat awkward because
nobody seemed

to care about her presence at
all. So, when

everyone fell silent for a
moment, she took

the chance to say,

“Guys, I have

something to

do, so I’ll take my leave first.

Please carry

on.

”

Turning to her, John just said,

“Okay.

” He

escorted her to the door and
thanked her.

Then, Isabelle turned back to stare at John without a word for quite some time. John didn't ask why either and simply returned her gaze calmly.

In the end, Isabelle laughed out loud.

"I just realized that you're not the same as what the rumors say."
"

John raised a brow.

"Oh?
Really?"

Isabelle nodded.

"Aren't you curious about what people think of you?"

John smiled and replied,

"No,
I'm not curious.

No matter what they think of me, I'm sure it's definitely not the real me.

So, I'm not very interested.

"

Isabelle was startled, but she

then remarked
with some emotion,
“You’re
quite the
optimist.
”

John didn’t respond, so Isabelle
waved her
hand and said,
“Go back inside.
I’m leaving
now.
”

She got into the car and drove
off without
another glance at him, but she
kept the man
in the rearview mirror in her
sight the whole
time. How could John, a man
who saw through
everything so well, get stuck
when it came to
Sophia?
Logically speaking, those who
were optimistic
would forge ahead instead of
turning back
and getting hung up on a past
lover. However,
whenever he mentioned Sophia,

his eyes were full of gentleness. Even if others couldn't tell, Isabelle had noticed it clearly.

When she reached home, everyone was present there. Her grandfather was sitting on the sofa drinking tea, while his father was sitting next to him and talking about the company matters.

Isabelle went over and sat on one corner of the sofa.

Her grandfather looked at her and

commented,
"What's wrong?
You don't look happy."
"

Isabelle sighed.

"I'm not happy.

My heart is feeling terrible."
"

There was nothing that could make her heart

feel terrible except for that little issue.

Her grandfather put the teacup down and looked at Isabelle.

“What’s going on with John? But there’s nothing serious happening recently, is there?”

Meanwhile, her father spoke up as well.

“You came back so late last night, yet you went out so early this morning. What happened?”

Isabelle leaned back against the sofa.

“Nothing happened. It’s just that John and Sophia have a very good relationship, so I’m feeling uncomfortable.

”

When Sophia was mentioned, her father’s expression changed.

“It’s not worth it for you to be upset about that kind of

woman.

”

Isabelle answered with some anxiety,

“John

spent the night at her house yesterday.

While I don't want to be upset, my heart

feels very uncomfortable when I think about

it.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 547

Her father let out a sigh.

“Belle,

about John

and you...

”

Before he finished speaking, her grandfather

coughed dryly beside him,

causing the man to

stop talking all of a sudden.

Then, the elder

man said,

“As long as John and

Sophia don't

remarry each other, you still

have a shot. You

mustn't mess things up

yourself.

” He thought
for a moment before adding,
“But you’ve got
to be clear whether you really
love John or
not. Does your love for him not
waver even
when you know that he is still
emotionally
tangled up with his ex-wife?”
Isabelle pursed her lips together
and only
nodded after a long pause.

“I
really love
John.
”

She had loved John even before
they were
arranged to be married to each
other. From
his marriage to Sophia until his
divorce,
Isabelle felt that her love hadn’t
diminished
even a little bit.
When her grandfather heard
that, he
nodded.
“Things should be fine

as long as you understand yourself well. Since you're clear about what you want, you shouldn't become flustered just because of some unimportant things.

”

Her father sighed silently next to him but did not say a word.

While Isabelle was upset over here, Sophia was actually feeling a bit unsettled over there as well. She had been careless last night. After what happened, John seemed to have misunderstood her intentions. Earlier, Robin had just called to tell her that John had gone to the shop and started to help out over there.

Now that John was behaving this way, Sophia felt that some things were becoming more

and more unclear. She had just acted a little impulsive last night and given in to her physical needs as a single woman, nothing more. But how could she explain this to John and make him understand? Sophia felt a little unsure about how to broach this topic with him. After hesitating for a long time, she still dressed up and went to the shop to check things out. There were no bulk orders for this day, so the shop was not very busy. In fact, there was no need for John to help out at all. Sophia took a cab to the shop. When she arrived, there were very few guests. John, Zack and Robin were all there and were laughing about something that was said. Then, Sophia pushed open the door

and walked in.

“You guys look happy.

”

Seeing that she had arrived,

John remarked,

“I’m here, so you can rest at home.

”

Sophia replied coldly,

“It’s

precisely because

you

’re here that I worry. What if

you empty

my shop and move everything away?”

John leaned back in his chair.

“You don’t even

need this shop. Why are you so worried about

it?”

Sophia gave him a sweeping

glance from the

corner of her eye.

“Even if I

don’t need it,

it’s still mine. I’ve got to

monitor it to

prevent outsiders from taking it

away from

me.

”

Outsiders? John thought.
When Sophia and the others
were about to
close up the shop for the day,
Matilda
arrived. She was just passing by,
but then
she noticed John sitting inside,
so she
hurriedly entered the shop,
calling out to
him,
“John!”

Everyone was startled for a
moment. When
Sophia saw who it was, she
laughed. Matilda
is out of ideas and is really
desperate now,
isn't she?

When John saw his mother, he
was a little
surprised, but his expression
remained calm
as he greeted,
“Mom.

”

For some reason, Matilda felt a
little
uncomfortable.

“I called you so many times, but you didn’t answer any of my calls.

”

John didn’t beat around the bush but said directly,

“I didn’t feel like picking up.

”

Hearing this, Matilda felt rather embarrassed; even Sophia, Robin and Zack too looked awkward on her behalf.

Sophia licked her lips and said, “Um, I’m gonna go out for some fresh air. Do you guys wanna come along?”

Knowing what Sophia meant, Zack and Robin quickly agreed and followed her out of the shop. Then, the three of them walked a little further and stood on the side of the road.

**The Returning Ex Chapter 548
Zack smacked his lips.**

**“Poor
Madam
Flintstone.
”**

**Sophia sneered,
“She deserves
it. The next
time you have this kind of
thought, you
should browse the Internet to
see how
aggressive Madam Flintstone
was when she
was kicking up a fuss at the
hospital before.
She didn’t look pitiful at all
then.
”**

**Zack laughed and said,
“Now
that she has
ended up like this, do you feel
especially
relieved? Like you’ve gotten
your revenge?”
Sophia gave it a careful thought.
“At first, I
did. But when she came over
here and
ordered me to help her contact
John for a**

meetup, I thought that I've really dwelled too much on her. Why should I bother about someone like that? Isn't it better to live my life well?"

Zack stared at Sophia and remarked,
"You seem to get wiser by the day."
"

Robin glanced into the shop next to her.
"I think Madam Flintstone's pretty polite toward others, but she doesn't like Sophia and is very malicious toward her."
"

"Yes."
" Sophia sighed.
"I mean, I was the one who ruined her son anyway."
"

All three laughed at that. Inside the shop, Matilda was sitting across

John.

“John, do you also blame me for kicking up a fuss at the hospital?”

Looking at Matilda being so despondent, John felt his heart soften. He answered,

“No, I don’t blame you. No matter what you do, it’s your own business. To put it bluntly, you need to be responsible for your own affairs. I can’t interfere with anything.”

Matilda lowered her gaze.

“This just means that you do blame me.”

Then, she changed the topic and said, “But I won’t believe that your dad doesn’t have anything to do with that woman at all. I’ll never believe it! They

have been entangled with each other for so many years and have always been in contact.

It's natural for me to lose control back then.

You know me. I've always had a hot temper.

”

Matilda spoke so much, yet John just grunted mildly in response. It was clear that he really didn't want to talk to Matilda about this matter since he couldn't make her understand anything.

Throughout all these years, no matter what happened, Matilda had never reflected on her own actions and always laid the blame on others instead.

Matilda sighed.

“Well, I didn't expect your dad and I to be together for so long anyway.

I guess he'll get together with

that woman in
the coming days.
”

John’s voice was very light as he
said,

“At the
moment, I don’t think he’ll do
that. But if you
continue to make a fuss, I
believe they’ll
probably get together soon.
”

Matilda was stunned. She
realized that by
saying this, John was putting
some
responsibility on her as well, so
she couldn’t
help but rebuke,

“They must
have something
going on between them since a
long time ago.

Otherwise, no matter how
much fuss I kick
up, it wouldn’t be possible for
them to get
together.
”

John gave her a slight smile.

“Okay. If you

want to think so, then so be it.
After all, it's
pointless for you to think about
it either
way.

”

Matilda immediately shut up at
that. It was
hard for her to meet up with
John, so she
didn't want to argue with him
and cause a
scene. Falling silent, she
pressed her lips
together hard, which did make
her look a
little pitiful.

John turned his gaze away from
her and
looked out the window at
Sophia, who was
standing on the side of the road
nearby.

Sophia and Zack were chatting
away.

Suddenly, Sophia laughed a
little
exaggeratedly and even raised
her hand to
hit Zack lightly.

At this moment, John saw

someone coming
out of the opposite shop which
sold
floorboards. It was a young man
and he was
walking toward Sophia.

Because of Sophia's
pleasant personality and good
looks, she had a
good reputation around here.

On the day her
shop opened for business, she
gave free
desserts away to the shops
around her as a
token of goodwill, so the
neighboring shops
were also happy to do business
with her.

The Returning Ex Chapter 549
John wrinkled his brows as he
watched the
man walk to Sophia and said
something to
her. When she heard his words,
Sophia
looked obviously startled. The
man even
ruffled his own hair and was
looking a little
bit embarrassed.

Alarm bells suddenly rang in John's head. He stood up and said to Matilda, "Wait here for me."
"

With that, he left the shop and headed toward Sophia, who didn't even notice him as her attention was on the man in front of her.

In fact, it wasn't accurate to describe the guy as a 'man'. He was more like a 'boy'

. According to what she knew, this boy had just graduated from university. Since she was already married before, such a fresh graduate was really just a boy to her. He couldn't be considered a man. When John came up, Zack was talking to the boy.

"You two have such a big

age gap. I don't think she is suitable for you, so there's no point in asking for her number.
”

The boy's face flushed red as he said,
“I'm just asking. I-I have no other intentions.
”

Sophia pursed her mouth. Seeing how nervous the boy looked, he must have mustered up all his courage before coming over. Therefore, she hesitated for a moment, while Zack went on to ask,
“So why are you asking for her number?”

His tone was teasing as he smiled, making the boy's face turning even redder. John went over and said,
“I'll give you the number. Note it down.
”

Dazed, the boy stared at John and then hurriedly fished out his own phone. John then rattled off a string of numbers.

Both Zack and Sophia were taken aback by what he had done.

Sophia sighed silently in her heart. This jerk gave his own number! How cruel is he?

The boy didn't know that, so he quickly noted down the phone number and even repeated it once.

"Is that correct?"

John replied,

"Yes.

"

Excited, the boy thanked John and Sophia profusely, and then turned to go back into his shop.

Sophia turned her head to look at John.

"What a dishonorable guy you are.

”

John stuffed his hands into his pockets as he stood by the road.

“So, what do you think I should do then? Should I really give him your number?”

Sophia scoffed, not wanting to talk about this topic anymore.

“Have you finished talking with your mother?” But Matilda is still inside the shop.

John sighed a little.

“No. Actually, we have nothing to talk about.

”

Sophia thought about it and said,

“If you have anything to say, then tell her everything clearly in one go. Otherwise, I think she will come here to look for you next time. I don’t

care about what's going on
between you two,
but her coming here will really
affect me.

”

John didn't speak but returned
to the shop
after a while.

Then, Sophia watched him sit
down and say a
few words to Matilda, who
nodded. Matilda
treats John really well. No, wait,
I can't say
that. Matilda has a good
attitude toward
everyone, except me. How sad
it sounds when
I put it this way.

After standing outside for a
while, Sophia
saw that they weren't finished
yet, so she
said to Zack and Robin,
“Come,
let's go back.

They're so slow. How much do
they have to
say to each other? It's been so
long, yet they
haven't wrapped things up.

”

When Sophia returned to the shop, Matilda understood her intentions at once. Thus, she stood up and told John, “Right, John. I’ll leave first. If I have time, I’ll call you. You must pick up.

”

John stood up with a nod.

“Okay.

”

Then, he sent Matilda out of the shop. When the latter was leaving, she glanced at Sophia with a slightly displeased expression.

Sophia almost spat in response.

This old

woman really deserves a good beating. How

dare she be so rude on my territory? Is she

out of her mind?

John came back after a while,

but he only

returned to get his jacket. After

saying that
he had something to do so he
would have to
leave first, he then left and
brought Zack
with him. The shop became
quiet once again.

The Returning Ex Chapter 550

Sophia sat in her chair and
commented,

“I
wish these people wouldn’t
come here
anymore. They’re so noisy.
”

Robin was in a daze, so she
didn’t hear
Sophia’s words at all.

Turning her head, Sophia
looked at Robin and
called out,

“What are you
thinking about?
Why do you look so strange?”

Robin came back to her senses
all at once.

“Nothing. I’m not thinking
about anything.
”

As Sophia felt a little sore all
over, she

decided to close the shop a little earlier.

Seeing that there were no customers, she allowed Robin to go home first. On the way back in a cab, Logan called her to inform that Ian was included in the talent show that would be broadcasted on this day.

Ian was done recording and the show would air later in the day. Sophia immediately became excited.

“Really? Ian would be included in the show today?”

Logan said that he had specifically asked Lorraine about it, so this information was definitely reliable. Since Sophia had been following up with the talent show for the past few days, she was aware of how many talented singers there were in the show. She

was not a professional in singing, so she couldn't really analyze much, but she had a feeling that Ian's opponents were very strong.

Initially, she was anxious for him, but now that Ian was about to confront these people head-on, her heart felt somewhat relieved. It was finally time to witness Ian's true strength! Sophia returned home, checked the time, and decided to go and prepare dinner first. After she finished her meal, it was almost time for the show to start. She rushed up to her computer and waited.

Ian was slated to appear during the second half of the show. Before him, there were three contestants who weren't very good.

Sophia wondered if Lorraine had deliberately arranged for them to appear first. Thus, against such poor contestants, Ian would appear to be much more talented.

When Sophia heard Ian sing, she could finally release the ropes that had been constricting her heart. Ian was still the same. He sat on a highchair and held a guitar close to him as he sang his heart out in a voice that was clear and gentle.

The results were as expected. All the talent show judges clapped hard for him and invited him to join their respective teams for the rest of the show. Ian took the microphone over and thanked them. After that, he chose one of the judges as his mentor and joined

that judge's team.

The host standing to the side asked him the reason for his choice. To that, Ian smiled and replied,
"My girlfriend really likes this mentor."
"

Sophia was stunned as she stared at the screen. All of a sudden, she remembered that when she heard about the mentor lineup, she did mention that she liked one of them. To be honest, she didn't really know much about singing. All she knew was that the mentor had sung two songs that she enjoyed.

The mentor then smiled and said,
"I would be interested to meet your girlfriend, Ian."
"

Ian grinned and shook hands

with his mentor,
saying that he would introduce
the two of
them when he had the
opportunity to do so.

Sitting in front of the computer,
Sophia felt
that Ian was talking about her.

She licked
her lips, not knowing what to
make of it.

What's going on? Her mind was
confused and
messed up.

John was also watching the
talent show at
home. When Ian came out to
sing, he had
smiled slightly and felt that his
recent

intensive training seemed to be
pretty

effective. Only Ian out of all
those

contestants was worth any salt.

Ian had sung
a love song with a melodic voice
as if he was

telling a sweet love story; even
John thought
that he performed quite well.

However, what happened next shocked him and his face fell instantly.

John didn't even know that Sophia liked that mentor, so he seriously suspected that Ian was just making things up. After Ian and the mentor smiled at each other, the camera switched to the next contestant.

Annoyed, John immediately turned off the computer.

The Returning Ex Chapter 551
What the heck! I shouldn't have watched it and made myself upset!
After resting on the chair for a while, John fished out his phone and called Sophia. He did not need to ask her to know that she must have seen what Ian had said on the show.

It took Sophia some time to

connect the call,
and she spoke in her usual
impatient tone.

After John asked what she was
doing, she
didn't reply to him directly but
instead

questioned,
"Why are you
looking for me?"

After giving it a thought, John
said,

"Ian has
joined the contest.
"

Sophia grinned.

"I know. I just
watched the
show.
"

As expected, she knew about it.

After
waiting for a bit, John went on,

"So, the
girlfriend he's talking about is
you?"

Although this wasn't an
interrogation, John
didn't sound polite. Before she
could reply, he
continued,

**“Ian doesn’t know
what happened
last night, right?”**

**John didn’t mean to mock when
he asked that
question; he simply wanted to
mention the
incident last night. However,
the question
sounded rude, no matter in
what tone it was
asked. After a pause, Sophia
replied,**

**“Of
course I’m the girlfriend he’s
talking about.
Could you be his girlfriend
instead? Also,
what happened last night isn’t
something I
need to hide from Ian. If he
minds it, I’ll tell
him about it.**

”

**John closed his eyes, for he
could feel that
their conversation was turning
sour, but this
wasn’t what he intended when
he called.**

Seeing as he wasn’t speaking,

Sophia went on,
“If you’ve called to ask me
about it, we can
end the call now. I’m busy.”

“Wait,
” John said. After
thinking for a bit,
he asked,
“What do you make
of the incident
last night?”

Sophia was startled for a
moment before
replying nonchalantly,
“Last
night? We did it
many times before, but you
never seemed to
mind it. Why do you care so
much about that
one time last night?”

She then burst into laughter, as
though what
happened last night wasn’t
even worth
mentioning.

“You had fun last
night, didn’t
you? We’re both adults, and we
did it on our

own free will. Why are you taking it so seriously?"

John fell silent. After waiting for a while,

Sophia hung up the call. Then, her expression turned into a furious one. What the heck!

How could he call to question me? Who does he think he is?

Because of the call, her already lousy mood

turned worse. While she was washing up, she still cursed the man who just called her.

When she slumped into her bed and was

ready to turn off the lamp, her phone

started ringing. She took a deep breath and

picked up the call.

"Why are you calling me at this hour? I need my beauty sleep!"

Logan was surprised by her irritated tone.

**“Why do you sound so grumpy?
It’s not very
late.
”**

**Knowing what he wanted to ask
her, Sophia
said,
“I’m going to sleep. Bye.
”**

**She proceeded
to hang up the call. Sure enough,
Logan
wanted to ask me what Ian
meant when he
said those things on the show,
but I’m not in
the mood to give an
explanation.
She covered herself with a quilt
and thought,
How could Ian have the guts to
talk about it
on a show that would be
broadcast to a large
audience? This kind of joke
should only be
told among friends!
She tossed and turned until she
couldn’t take
it anymore and got out of the
bed. Upon**

picking up her phone, she
texted Ian.

'Text
me back when you're free.
,

Normally at this hour, Ian
would still be
training for the show, so Sophia
didn't expect
him to see the message
immediately.

The Returning Ex Chapter 552
To Sophia's surprise, Ian called
her not long
after the message was sent, so
she hurriedly
picked it up.

With a smile, Ian called out,
"Sophia.
"

After a pause, Sophia replied,
"I
thought you
were taking a rest.
"

"Not yet. I was just talking to
Lorraine about
the next round of the show.
"

The conversation should have
gone really well,

as Ian's voice sounded
delightful, which
disrupted Sophia's readiness to
ask her
question. Now, she didn't think
she could ask
him about it in a serious
manner.

After a grunt, she said,
"I
watched the show.
Your performance was
excellent."
"

Having watched the television
show as well,
Ian replied,
"I performed
normally. But
honestly, I was terrified that I
would be out
of tune."
"

Sophia licked her lips.
"But on
the show,
you..."
"

Knowing what she wanted to
say, Ian giggled
and said,

**“You want to ask
about what I said
on the show, right?”**

**Sophia gave a guttural grunt.
Ian let out a sigh.**

**“During the
training, the
program director told us that
each
contestant would find a partner
and sing
together. To make it interesting
for the
audience, we were asked to be
really close to
the partner to spice up the
show. When
Lorraine told me about it, I
didn’t like the
idea. So, I decided to tell the
audience that I
have a girlfriend so that I won’t
be bogged
down by gossip in the future. I
hope that my
singing skills will speak for
myself.
”**

**Sophia didn’t really understand
all this, but
she knew that it was the norm**

these days to
create some gossip for the
contestants.

Slightly relieved, she mumbled,
“I see.
”

Ian chuckled.
“Don’t feel
pressured. It’s no
big deal.
”

Upon pondering on it for a
moment, Sophia
concluded that she was just an
ordinary
citizen, so it shouldn’t affect her
much. She
then changed the topic by
asking about what
was ahead of him.

After giving it a thought, Ian
replied,
“Well,
I’ll stay here for the training for
the time
being. When it’s my turn to
perform, I’ll go
over. It goes on like this until
the winner is
announced.
”

**That is going to take a long time.
Without
anything else to say, Sophia
told him that he
had her support.
Ian mumbled,
“I miss you. I
really hope that
this show will end soon so that I
can meet
you.
”**

**Since Ian had other matters to
attend to, he
told Sophia to take care and
hung up the call.
After the conversation, Sophia’s
mind was
set at ease. Putting down the
phone, she
covered herself with the quilt,
let out a sigh,
and closed her eyes.
For the following days, Sophia
and John fell
into a cold war and never
contacted each
other.
Sophia didn’t know what
situation John was
in, but she had been swamped**

every day, so it was a blessing for her that he never came to bother her. With her life full of challenges and meaning, she stopped caring whether John was angry with her. Come to think of it, it has nothing to do with me whether he's angry or not. A few days later, even Robin could sense that something was off, so she asked Sophia, "Mr. Constance hasn't come here for a few days. Did you fall out with him or something?" Sophia giggled. "No? It's normal that he doesn't come here again. Since we're divorced, he shouldn't come here in the first place."

Upon staring at Sophia for a

while, Robin pursed her lips and gulped down her question. Meanwhile, John had been hard-pressed for the past few days. Other than work, he was also investigating Robin's kidnap case. Although there was no indication that the target of the kidnap was Sophia, something was amiss that Robin was taken away and then abandoned. He had a feeling that the criminals were going after Sophia.

The Returning Ex Chapter 55

John walked over and asked, "Have you ordered anything?"

Seeing him, Matilda hurriedly replied, "We have only ordered a few dishes. If there's anything you like, we can order more."

”

John waved his hand.

“That’s
alright. We can
order more later if it’s really not
enough.

” He
then took a seat beside William
and turned to
Matilda.

“How are you doing
recently? I
heard that you went to the
hospital.

”

With an embarrassed
expression, Matilda
replied,

“Yes. I had to apologize,
since it was
my own fault.

” Upon finishing
her words, she
took a look at William, who
appeared serious
but didn’t seem to have
anything to say.

John said to his father,

“You
must be
exhausted, since it’s been a

long day.

”

William pinched his glabella.

“Yes, I’m a little
tired.

”

John was just trying to ease up
the
atmosphere. Since his parents
were seated
on either side of the table
without talking to
each other, the awkwardness in
the air was
so thick that it could be cut
through with a
knife. It was indeed a sorrowful
fact that a
lovey-dovey couple had turned
into familiar
strangers.

On the other side, after Sophia
saw the shy
man off, she closed the shop.

Standing in the
doorway, Robin said with a
smile,

“You are
really attractive to young men.

”

Sophia hissed.

**“Stop saying that.
I felt like I
was committing a crime when
he said he loved
me.
”**

**Robin guffawed.
“I think he’s
alright. He’s
handsome, and he comes from
a middle-class
family.
”**

**Giggling, Sophia uttered,
“If I’m
looking for a
new boyfriend, I expect that
man to be more
powerful than John.
”**

**Her words startled Robin.
“Why?
Comparison
isn’t necessary when it comes
to love.
”**

**Sophia carried her backpack.
“You
're right. I
shouldn’t compare a potential
boyfriend to**

John, but I'm a vain woman, so I must find a more powerful man.

" After that, she waved her hand at Robin.

"Bye. Be careful on the road."
"

Standing outside the entrance, Robin watched her get into a taxi and leave. Pursing her lips, she turned to take a look at the shop signboard and let out a sigh. When Sophia reached her home, she saw Logan sitting in her yard. He must have been there for some time. He seems bored from the way he's sitting. Walking over, Sophia asked, "Why have you come to my house without calling me first?" Logan looked at her with her. "When have

**you and Ian gotten together?
Weren't you
with John?"**

**The question gave Sophia a
headache.**

**"Let's
get in before we talk.
"**

**Sophia opened the door. Logan
rose slowly
and followed her into the house
as he
mumbled,**

**"Didn't you and John
still have
feelings for each other? Why
did Ian say
you
're his girlfriend? Have you guys
gotten
together behind my back?"**

**Sophia took out a bottle of
water from the
fridge and passed it to him.**

**"It's
not what
you think. Ian and I are not
together. He just
needs me to be his girlfriend in
name to fend
off unnecessary trouble.**

”

Logan didn't seem to trust her.

“I had been thinking about it for a long time last night.

Sophia, there must be something going on between you and Ian.

”

What could be going on between Ian and me?

Sophia was rendered speechless.

She then

took a seat beside him and said,

“My

relationship with Ian isn't as complicated as

you think. Don't worry. We're still friends.

This fact won't change.

”

However, Logan was still displeased.

“I feel

that there are many things you guys are up to

behind my back. You have your own secrets

that are kept from me, and I really don't like

this.

”

Logan looked like a kid whose toy had been taken away, or a young girl whose bestie found a new friend. He looks so upset.

Sophia burst into laughter.

“You

look so

adorable like this, unlike the

Young Master

Master Jefferson in the past.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 556

Logan snorted.

“I even called

John before

and asked about it. John

seemed very angry

when he talked about this

matter.

”

Sophia remembered John’s

antagonistic tone

during that phone conversation

that had

made her uncomfortable.

Caught in the

thought, she didn’t respond to

Logan, who

continued to say,
“I don’t know
what
happened between the two of
you, so I asked
John about it. I thought the two
of you had
gotten back together after the
divorce, but
he blew up at me when I
asked.
”

Sophia waved a hand.
“Let’s not
talk about
John anymore. No matter how
his life has
become, it has nothing to do
with me. Have
you eaten dinner yet? If you
haven’t, stay for
dinner here.
”

Logan had a one-track mind, so
when Sophia
changed the topic, he too forgot
about John.
Then, he leaned against the
sofa and replied,
“I haven’t eaten yet, but I’m
craving for fish.

Do you have any fish here?"

Sophia nodded.

**"I have some
croaker fish. I'll
make you dinner then.**

"

**With how considerate Sophia
was being, the
unhappiness in Logan's heart
dissipated. He
breathed a sigh of relief when
he saw Sophia
enter the kitchen and put on
her apron.**

**Logan had a rather childish
attitude when it
came to these things. Earlier, he
had felt
upset when he thought of Ian
and Sophia
secretly getting together, but
now, seeing
that Sophia was no different
from before, he
felt much better.**

**After waiting for a while, he got
up and went
into the kitchen. Sophia
allowed him to help
out, and the two chatted about
Ian. Logan**

said that he had called Ian and asked about what Ian meant when the latter said those words on the stage, but Ian hadn't explained much and merely said that he had gotten together with Sophia.

Sophia smiled.

"Ian is deliberately teasing you. Rest assured, if we get together, I'll certainly tell you in advance.

Why would I hide it from you?"

Logan turned his head and looked at Sophia.

"Sophia, since you've already said so, I won't stop you if you two really get together.

"

Sophia burst out laughing.

"As if you can stop us!"

As the two of them prepared the meal, they talked and laughed with each

other. Then,
they went to the dining room to
dig into their
dinner.

Logan's phone was placed on
the table.

Halfway through the meal, the
phone
vibrated twice. Logan took a
look before
smacking his mouth.

"Ah, it's
John.
"

John had sent a message to ask
Logan where
he was and if he wanted to go
out for a drink
together. After staring at the
message for a
while, Logan turned the phone
around and
showed it to Sophia.

"Look,
John is asking me
to go out for a drink. He must
be feeling
upset.
"

Sophia only gave the phone a
quick glance.

“Will you go over after dinner?”

**Logan checked the time and
replied,**

“Yeah,

**I’ll go over after dinner. Let me
ask him if
he’s being jealous of you and
Ian.**

**” Then, he
burst into merciless laughter.**

**“I
really think
it’s possible. To be honest, John
is a really
strange guy. If he can’t let go of
you, why did
he divorce you? I still don’t
understand that.**

”

Sophia chuckled.

**“You’re wrong
about him not
being able to let go of me. He
just has a big
ego and doesn’t want to lose to
Ian.**

”

**Taken aback for a moment,
Logan frowned
and thought about it. Well, that
makes sense**

too. If it were me, I would be upset too if my ex-wife got together with another man so soon after our divorce. In fact, if it were me, I would totally mess up their relationship first regardless of whether anyone likes it or not.

Logan nodded.

“Yeah, I suppose that makes sense.

” Thus, he sent a message to John asking the address of the bar, and John gave him the address after a while. Logan read out the address to Sophia, then he commented, “Oh, that’s a pretty lively place.”

Sophia knew the bar in question. It was quite a big one and there were all kinds of people who frequented it.

The Returning Ex Chapter 557

**There had to be an ulterior
motive as to why
John would choose that
particular bar.**

Sophia snorted coldly.

**“Just be
careful. As
for him, whatever happens to
him is his own
business.**

”

**Logan completely bypassed
Sophia’s disdain
for John, hearing only the
concern Sophia
had for himself. Thus, he
answered happily,**

**“Of course. I’ll take care of
myself and not
do anything improper. Don’t
worry.**

”

**After finishing dinner, it was
almost time for
Logan to meet up with John.
Therefore, he
left Sophia and drove directly to
the bar.**

**Sophia washed the dishes, then
watched TV**

for a while before going upstairs to take a shower. Nowadays, her life was simple but fulfilling, which was something she had always wanted before.

After taking a good long bath in the bathtub,

Sophia came out to see her phone vibrating continuously from an incoming call. Glancing at it, she realized it was from John. I

suppose there's nothing important for him to tell me at this hour. I'm not gonna pick up.

While she was taking her bath, John had

given her a dozen calls, but he still hadn't

given up and was still energetically calling her again after the line automatically disconnected.

Sophia muted her phone and threw it aside.

Now that she thought about

that other time
when John and Isabelle were
together, John
had drunk too much and called
herself too.

He must've put on an act then.

Most probably,
he deliberately led me over
there so that he
could stay the night here. He
said that he
was targeting me all along.

Perhaps he was
being honest, and everything
had gone
according to his plan.

This man was a scheming fox,
so she didn't
really believe that he could
really lower his
guard and get drunk around
Isabelle.

After Sophia was done tidying
up, she went
to her bed and lay down.

She left her phone on the
bedside cabinet
before quickly falling asleep,
not caring
whether John was still calling
her. Her sleep

was great these days. After a busy day, she could fall asleep easily at night when her head hit the pillow.

On the other side, inside the bar, Logan's mind was no longer clear. He leaned against the sofa, all the while staring at John, whose figure was multiplying by the minute, and murmured, "I think it's a good thing if Sophia and Ian get together. Considering Ian's temperament, he won't be bullied anymore with Sophia by his side. Those people from the Morgan Family won't dare to bully Ian in the future. That's not bad."
"

His speech was rather slurred right now, but John still heard each word clearly. The latter's face was reddish, but

his eyes were
still clear. He took the phone
and called
Sophia over and over again, but
the woman
didn't answer any of his calls.
John's gaze shifted from the
phone to Logan,
who was sitting on the opposite
side.

"Are
they a good fit for each other? I
don't think
so,
" he sneered.

Logan tutted a little.

"You're
just not
observant. It's true that they're
a good
match for each other. They look
good and
complement each other's
character. Besides,
they know each other very well.
They'
re a
perfect match.
"

John's face sank as he withdrew
his gaze, not

intending to entertain Logan anymore.

At this point, Logan was already very dizzy.

He raised his hand and gestured at the man opposite him.

“John, tell me, why did you get divorced in the first place? I don’t understand it. Sophia is such a good girl, yet you didn’t cherish her at all.”

Why did I get divorced in the first place?

John had wondered about this too.

However, when he recalled his less-than-two-years-long marriage, he felt

that under such circumstances, divorce was

inevitable. After all, Sophia did not give him a

good impression in that marriage. Although

he knew that it was all because of the

Constance Family that she had

become so dutiful and restrained, he really didn't like her like that.

All his interest and feelings for Sophia had only manifested after the divorce, when he was finally exposed to her real character and temperament.

The Returning Ex Chapter 558

So, if he had the chance to do it all over

again, they would still get divorced. It was

only after the divorce that Sophia had

changed and that he had slowly opened up as

well, but John had no way of telling anybody

about all these feelings.

After a long while, he finally told Logan,

"I

suppose I wanted to get to know her all over

again.

"

Logan didn't really hear what

he said because
he was quite drunk by now.
Originally, he had
meant to come over and make
John drunk so
that he could get the man to
reveal his
innermost thoughts, but who
knew that John
was so good at drinking?
John watched Logan collapse on
the sofa with
an indifferent expression. Then,
he closed his
eyes and continued to call
Sophia.
Sophia didn't block his number,
so all his calls
connected, but no one
answered.
After some time, John finally
realized what
was going on. Sighing, he gave
up at last and
put the phone back in his
pocket. That girl
Sophia is really cruel.
When Sophia woke up in the
morning, she
went to carry out her morning
routine before

taking a look at her phone. Holy
crap! The
dozens of missed calls are all
from John.

Staring coldly at the phone,
Sophia deleted
the entire call log. This man is
not right in
the head, she thought.

She went downstairs and
decided that she
was too lazy to prepare
breakfast, so she
went to a café outside instead.

As she ate,
she took out the phone to have
a look.

Oh hey, local gossip! There
really is some
gossip. The title of the gossip
news had
John's name in it. Thus, Sophia
quickly clicked
into it to check it out.

There was a photo of John at
the bar. He
was sitting on the lounge sofa
with a woman
hanging on his arm and leaning
on his
shoulder. In the photo, John

had his head
turned toward the woman,
appearing to be
talking to her. The overall
picture didn't seem
romantic, but nobody would
believe it if he
said that there was nothing
going on between
them.

Sophia stared at the photo for a
moment
before reading the content of
the news.

This time, the news was not
exaggerated but
was simply a frank report that
someone saw
John flirting with a beautiful
woman in the
bar and looking like he was
having a good
time. The news also reported
that John and
the woman left together in the
middle of the
night. What happened later was
left untold
and remained open to
interpretation by the
public. It was an easy guess as

to what could
happen between a man and a
woman in the
middle of the night.

After reading the news, Sophia
kept her
phone and continued eating her
meal slowly.

Then, she took a cab to the
shop. Robin was
already there, looking unhappy,
so Sophia
went in and swept her a glance.

“What’s
wrong? Who offended you so
early in the
morning?”

Robin pursed her mouth.

“Well,
I just met
someone talking trash. It made
me so
annoyed.
”

She rarely acted like this, so
Sophia laughed
and said,

“Why do you care
about what people
say? Just let them talk. All we
need to do is

to live our lives well.

”

Robin sighed.

“But it’s really
annoying.

”

When she heard that, Sophia
was a little
confused.

“What did they say
about you that
made you so angry?”

Robin paused at this. Her eyes
darted around

furtively before she said,

“It’s

not about me.

They were talking about my
family, so it was
really upsetting.

”

Sophia didn’t notice Robin’s
expression at all

as she nodded and replied,

“Well, I suppose
this kind of talk is unavoidable.

Just get over

it.

”

Busy work then filled both of
their time for

the entire day. When most of the customers had left and they could finally relax, Sophia went to stand by the door and stretched her arms and legs. At this moment, a car drove over slowly, stopping right next to her.

Sophia was raising her arms and bending her waist at that moment. When she saw the car, she stopped and turned to look. The person did not come down from the car but simply rolled down the window nearest to Sophia. Bending forward slightly to look, Sophia realized it was Fabian Blackwell. She almost couldn't recognize him. After all, there were so many people that day at the Blackwell Residence. For a brief moment, she could not recall who he was at all.

The Returning Ex Chapter 559

Fabian smiled at her, but it was a very superficial smile.

“Grandma told me to come and visit you. I’ve done as told.”

Sophia looked at him indifferently and said, “You don’t really have to come over. Just simply tell her that you’ve visited me next time. If Old Mrs. Blackwell asks me, I’ll cover for you.”

Fabian was a little surprised as he looked at Sophia and commented, “That address sounds pretty good. I like it better.” He was talking about how Sophia addressed the matriarch of the Blackwell Family; she had addressed her as ‘Old Mrs. Blackwell’

instead of
brazenly calling her 'Grandma'

.

Sophia had nothing to say to
Fabian, so she
replied,
"Now that you've seen
me, you can
go."
"

This time, Fabian gave her a
genuine smile
and said,
"Sophia Gwendolyn,
right? Okay, I'll
remember you."
"

Sophia stood up straight and
continued her
own stretching exercise without
speaking to
him any further. Raising the
window, Fabian
waited for a short while before
driving away.
Sophia waited for his car to
disappear out of
sight before sighing. Why did I
provoke the
Blackwell Family? If I had
known this would

happen, I wouldn't have followed Logan that day. Logan is to blame for all this!

When Sophia entered the shop after a while, Robin was sitting in a chair and looking at her phone with an angry expression on her face.

Taken aback, Sophia asked, "What are you doing? Why are you looking like that?"

Robin hurriedly kept away her phone.

"I saw some news and almost choked with anger."
"

There was not much in the news these days.

Besides, all the media did was follow trending topics instead of reporting important affairs.

Most of the headlines nowadays were about celebrity drama and gossip.

Boring, Sophia thought.

Sophia made two cups of hot cocoa, then sat across from Robin.

“Don’t look at that kind of news. It’s so boring.”

Robin took over a cup of cocoa, sipped on it and said,

“Yeah, it’s boring. It’s just a load of nonsense.”

Sophia didn’t ask what Robin had been reading. The two of them just sat and looked outside the window.

Over at John’s side, he had naturally seen the news too, but there was no reaction from him.

Matilda also called and asked him if the news was true.

John grunted.

“The photo is so clear.

Obviously, it’s the truth.

”

Matilda snorted in disapproval and said,

“If

you want to have fun, you shouldn't go to that

kind of place. Do you even know who

frequents that place? Besides, how could you

get yourself photographed by the media?

You're not being careful enough.

”

John didn't want to talk about this.

“It's fine.

There isn't much chaos on the Internet

anyway, so there's no need to bother about

it.

”

Now that he wasn't in a relationship, even if

there was some pandemonium over the photo,

it wouldn't really affect his life.

Most people

would think that it was just a

photo of a man
and a woman and there was no
big deal about
it.

Matilda knew that John
wouldn't like to hear
anything more about it from
her, so she just
gave up after thinking about it.

For the rest of the day, John
busied himself
at the company. It was only
when he got off
work at night did he have time
to check his
phone. He first checked
Sophia's social media
account, but she hadn't posted
anything.

She's probably been very busy
recently, so
she hasn't posted for many
days.

John sighed, not knowing what
he himself was
expecting.

Everyone in the company had
left at this
time. John slowly packed his
briefcase and
went downstairs. As he got into

the car, he pulled off his tie and threw it on the seat next to him. He suddenly felt an inexplicable irritation. After sitting in the car for a while, he started the car and headed toward Sophia's shop.

From the opened door, John could clearly see Logan inside the shop, laughing and joking with Sophia. Sophia is really not affected at all, he thought. Then, he stepped on the accelerator and the car sped away.

Logan was in Sophia's shop talking about what was going on at the clubhouse, including the fact that those from the Morgan Family were extremely infuriated when they saw Ian's contest video. Moreover, he also said that he had seen Sally on the previous

day at the bar.

Sally had told her friends how
Ian had

brought shame to their family.

The Returning Ex Chapter 560

Logan had wanted to go up and
tell the woman

that it was a bigger shame for
the family to

have people like her and Simon
around, but

John stopped him with reason
and said that it

was useless to preach to such
an individual.

No matter if it was Simon, Sally
or Leah,

they had to be taught a proper
lesson before

it could be seared in their
memories.

When Logan heard John say this,
he knew

that John was already forming
an idea.

Upon hearing this, Robin
interjected,

“Since

you went to the bar with Mr.
Constance

yesterday, why didn't the

**gossip news talk
about you?"**

**Logan was not inside the photo
either. It was
just a photo of John and the
woman.**

**Stunned by the question, Logan
tutted and**

replied,

"The media wanted

attention, so of

**course they took the photo as if
there was**

something going on between

them. I was

really there at that time, but I

was already

quite drunk, and I fell asleep

across from

John.

"

Sophia smiled.

"So, you have no

idea what

John and that woman did.

"

Logan scratched his head.

"Uh, I

really don't

know what happened later.

When I went

there, John was the only one sitting there. I have no idea when that woman came over.

”

Looking at Sophia, he really didn't know how to explain the matter to her. “But I don't think John is that kind of guy. Considering his status, how could he like that kind of woman?”

Sophia laughed. What kind of status does John have? As long as he's a mortal, he'll have emotions, and he'll commit sins.

Robin thought for a while before asking, “Then, how did you leave the bar later? Did Mr. Constance really leave with the woman?”

Logan tugged at his hair.

“Later?”

I think I was carried back home. I drank too much, so

I really don't remember.

”

Sophia raised a hand.

“It's okay.

Don't say

**anything anymore. It's better
that you don't**

**try to explain it. The more you
explain, the
worse you're making John out
to be.**

” Even if

**John is already as bad as a man
could be.**

**Logan pursed his mouth and
stopped talking**

**because he really couldn't say
much.**

**When he went over, John was
indeed alone,**

**but Logan then became drunk
very quickly,**

**and he was indeed unsure what
happened**

**afterward. He couldn't make up
a story if he**

wasn't sure about things.

Sophia leaned back in her chair.

Actually, she

felt a little prick in her heart.

She wasn't

upset, but she was certainly uncomfortable.

Logan looked at Sophia, and then at Robin.

Realizing that this topic wasn't a good one, he quickly changed it and talked about the

Morgan Group instead.

It seemed that Simon didn't go to the

company much anymore. Half of the workload

was given to Sean, and half to Sally.

The rights that Simon had given to Sally

might be given back to him when he returned

to the company in the future.

However, the

same could not be said for the rights that

were given to Sean. After all, Sean had his

group of confidants within the company. He

had immediately let go of his rights and held

Simon's tightly instead. It appeared that he

wouldn't be returning them to Simon any time soon in the future.

Although both Simon and Sally couldn't see through Sean, Leah was clear about his intentions. Thus, she had kept pestering Bryce about it.

As for Sally, she was better at things than Simon, but not by much. When Simon's work was handed over to her, she still met with some trouble and made frequent mistakes in her work, but even so, Sally didn't become firm with herself. Instead, she still went out often to eat, drink and be merry. Just last night, she had gone out with a man again.

Early this morning, Leah had brought people to catch them in the act at the hotel they were staying in.

Sophia laughed.

“Sally really is something.

The first time, she was caught by the man’s girlfriend, and the second time by her own mother. I think she needs to find a cave for her future clandestine meetings.

”

**The Returning Ex Chapter 561
Upon mentioning the Morgan Family, Logan was comparatively more psyched than the rest.**

“Well, Simon is basically the parasite of the family, whereas Sally is the daughter.

Anyway, Bryce never looked kindly upon both of them in the first place, and now, they’ve probably made matters worse for themselves. Leah must be stressed out

because of them.

”

Not forgetting, Leah had schemed against Logan previously. As of now, Logan felt he had finally gotten back at her. Leaning against the chair, Sophia stretched.

“If Ian manages to achieve some results, I bet the Morgan Family will be chaotic.

”

Rubbing his hands together, Logan assured, “Don’t you worry! Your boyfriend won’t lose out. He’ll definitely make it with flying colors.

”

Dumbfounded, Robin gasped.

“Boyfriend?”

Completely ignoring Sophia’s signaling, Logan spilled,

“Sophia and Ian have been together ever since. They’ve just been keeping a low

profile.

”

With her eyebrows knitted together, Robin glanced at Sophia.

“You? And Ian? When did this happen? How come I wasn’t aware? I thought the both of you were just friends.

”

Clearly, she was very surprised. Initially, Sophia intended to explain that they were only friends, but after thinking about it, she dropped the idea. Since Ian had said it that way, it wouldn’t be nice to pull the rug out from under his feet, so Sophia just smiled.

Shocked beyond words, Robin slapped a hand over her own mouth.

“No wonder you showed no interest in Mr. Constance. It’s because

**you
're in love with someone else.
”**

**Frowning slightly, Sophia didn't
reply.**

**After dawdling about, Logan
left, while
Sophia and Robin were packing
up before
leaving. Since both of them
were not heading
toward the same direction,
Sophia had
offered Robin to take the taxi
first.**

**However, Robin shook her head
and declined,
“You go ahead first! I need to
run an errand
before getting home.
”**

**Without giving much thought,
Sophia called
for a taxi and left. Standing
there, Robin
gazed at Sophia's cab until it
was no longer in
sight. As Robin turned around,
she was
startled to see John, who stood
not far away**

from her.
Instead of looking toward her,
John had his
eyes on the shop board that
was hung on the
wall. From the looks on his face,
Robin
reckoned he wasn't in such a
bad mood. With
that, she walked toward him
and greeted,
"Mr. Constance."
"

Looking away from the board,
John gazed at
Robin.
"You've clocked out?"
Nodding her head, Robin
reported,
"Sophia
just left."
"

Obviously, John knew. In fact,
he walked over
the moment he saw her left.
Tugging on her
shirt, Robin didn't know what
else to say.
"Mr.
Jefferson was here a while ago,
and we were

chitter-chattering, so it took some time.

”

Giving a simple acknowledgement, John didn't say anything more. With her lips pursed, Robin said,

“Mr. Jefferson had mentioned you, too. The media nowadays are downright terrible. They'll make up any stories in order to seek the readers' attention.

”

Smiling, John didn't bother to explain. Taking a quick glance at John, Robin went on,

“Mr. Jefferson said those news were fake. Back then, he was sitting right beside you, but the media deliberately made up stories.

”

“Was Sophia bothered by the news?” John asked.

Startling, Robin hesitated for a moment

before she stuttered,

“S-Sophia?

Well...

Sophia and Mr. Morgan... Of course, she

cared about you. She hoped that you won’t be

misunderstood and hoped that everything is

well with you in terms of your job and life

overall.

”

“Sophia and Ian?” Obviously,

John was quick

to get the point.

Blinking her eyes, Robin spilled,

“Sophia and

Mr. Morgan is now an item. I

just found out

today. I think you’ve heard of it already?”

With a sneer on his face, John acknowledged,

“Yep, I knew about it.

”

Letting out a sigh of relief,

Robin said,

“Thank heavens! I thought I

slipped my
tongue. Good thing you've
known about it
already, but I must say, Sophia
and Ian
looked good together. They've
shared a close
relationship all this while, so I
thought they
were only closely acquainted
with one
another, but I didn't expect
them to be an
official item.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 562

Chuckling, Robin asked,

“Did I
say too much?”

“It's fine,
” assured John.

Putting on a smile, Robin asked
again,

“What
brings you here?”

Glancing at the time, John said,
“ Nothing.

You'd better get home now. I
won't hold you
up.
”

**“Alright,
” replied Robin with a
smile.**

**Waving goodbye at John, Robin
headed
toward the opposite direction.**

**With a hardened expression,
John stood
before Sophia’s shop.**

**I should’ve known. Sophia, this
woman has got
the better of me.**

**Humming a little tune, Robin
walked off and
managed to hail for a taxi.**

**Before she went in
the taxi, she turned around to
take a gander
at the shop.**

**Holding a cigarette in his mouth,
John was
still standing there and was
seen lighting up
the cigarette.**

**With the corner of her mouth
curved up,
Robin got into the taxi.**

**Lighting up the cigarette, John
took a puff.**

**With that, he took out his
phone, and instead**

of calling up someone, John snapped a picture of the shop's board.

Obviously, he couldn't help but get ticked off whenever he saw the board.

After staring at the photo for a while, John took another puff and walked toward his car.

Not knowing what had happened, Sophia got home and went on with the mundane household chores, like preparing meals, as well as cleaning up the house. Since she had been living on her own, the cleanliness of the house could be easily maintained.

When it was near sundown, Sophia headed upstairs to her room.

As soon as she got into her room, she went straight to close the windows.

While she was about to pull the curtains, she stopped

abruptly.

Looking out of her window,
there was a car
parked right below the
streetlight, so she
could clearly see who was in the
car.

Staring at the car below, Sophia
smirked and
pulled the curtains.

Damn! Humans are such
complicated beings!
In the past, he had been
ignoring me most of
the time, and even gave me the
cold
shoulders. Why is he acting like
this all of a
sudden?

Lying on her bed, Sophia surfed
the gossip
news over the internet.

Fortunately, gossip
was something the
entertainment world never
lacked. Once she had read
through the news,
she figured it was about time,
so she placed
her phone down.

Upon thinking about it, she

walked toward
the window and slowly peeped
through the
curtains.

Surprisingly, John's car was still
parked in
the same place, and the car's
engine was
turned off. As it was really dark
inside, she
couldn't tell whether John was
in the car.

Pursing her lips, she rolled her
eyes and
headed to the wardrobe to get
herself a set
of clean clothes before entering
the
bathroom.

Perhaps triggered by her own
selfish motive,
she took her own sweet time in
the bathroom.

Filling up the bathtub with
water, Sophia
soaked herself into the tub, and
even took a
really short nap.

As soon as she was out, she
blow-dried her
hair and changed into a set of

clean clothing.

Walking toward the window,
she saw John's
car still stationed at the same
spot.

Clicking her tongue, Sophia
deduced if he was
already asleep in the car, since
there was no
sign of any movement.

Letting the curtains down, she
went back to
her bed.

Honestly, she did have the urge
to go out and
check on him, but after thinking
it through,
she dropped the idea.

What is there to check on
anyway? John is a
vigilant man. What can happen
to him?

Considering he had parked his
car at such an
obvious spot, he probably
wanted her to
notice him here.

Letting out a sigh, Sophia
sneered and turned
off the lights.

Who cares how long he wishes

to stay there?

It's none of my business!

Seeing the lights off in Sophia's room, John

had a grin on his face while sitting in his car.

This woman is so heartless.

Clearly, she saw me here, but she didn't even bother to ask.

Reclining the seat, John leaned against the seat to rest himself.

By now, the car was filled with cigarette

smoke, so he wound down the car window and

stared at the car roof, trying to relax himself.

The Returning Ex Chapter 563

After Sophia had tossed and turned for a

short while, she could finally fall asleep.

This time, she didn't have a good sleep, as

she had dreamed about the past.

Back then, her grandpa went to the hospital

for a checkup, and
coincidentally, he was
reunited with Old Mr.
Constance. With that,
Old Mr. Constance had invited
them over to
the Constance Residence.
Although Sophia knew the
Constance Family
was really wealthy, she was still
startled
when she stepped into the
residence.
Even the clothes which the
maids were
wearing seemed to be a notch
better than
hers.
That day was the first time she
had met
John in person.
However, he was only back to
retrieve a
document and quickly went off,
without even
noticing her.
In a rather reserved manner,
Sophia sat on
the couch in the living room,
and was nervous
to the extent that she didn't

even know
where to place her hands.
When John walked in, he knew
there were
guests, so he politely nodded
his head to her
and her grandpa before heading
straight
upstairs.

In less than a minute, he came
down and left
again.

That was the first time she met
someone who
was that good looking, and she
even felt her
heart fluttered.

In her dreams, Sophia felt
unsettled because
she didn't want to reminisce
about the past,
so she intended to wake up
from her dream,
but failed to do so.

As her dream continued to
change, she saw
Old Mr. Constance.

Actually, Sophia had almost
forgotten how
Old Mr. Constance looked like
in reality. All

she could recall was that he became scrawny down to the bone, looking kind of scary.

However, in her dreams, everything was quite clear.

Lying on the bed, Old Mr. Constance reached out his hands toward her.

With that, Sophia saw herself walking toward him, holding his hands in hers.

Though it was difficult for him to speak, he still delivered every word slowly but clearly—asking whether Sophia would be willing to marry John.

With her eyes shut, Sophia could hear her own reply.

“I do. I’m willing.”

All because of this reply, she had walked through the darkest valley for a year, and couldn’t get herself out of the pit.

Once the dream had led to the funeral of Old Mr. Constance, Sophia managed to wake up in a cold sweat.

Even so, Sophia could still hear Matilda swearing at her. Everyone knew that she was married into the family in hopes that an auspicious occasion would somehow bring in new blessings to the family, and so Old Mr.

Constance would get better from his illness.

Unfortunately, there was no miracle.

Without bringing in any luck or blessing to the family, they said she had taken advantage of the Constance Family.

Sitting on her bed, Sophia was still panting as she reached out to touch her forehead, which was filled with cold sweats.

With the curtains drawn, the
sunlight
couldn't enter the room.
Glancing at the time, it wasn't
early anymore,
so she walked toward the
curtains and looked
down at the same spot wherein
John had
parked his car yesterday.
Not surprised, the car was no
longer there,
but still and all, Sophia stared at
the same
spot for a short while.
Feeling a little restless, Sophia
figured it was
because she didn't have a good
sleep
yesterday.
Turning around to check on the
calendar, it
wasn't any special day, but she
had a sudden
thought to pay respect to Old
Mr. Constance.
Yesterday's dream was surreal,
and she could
still picture Old Mr. Constance
lying on the
bed while holding her hands.

Hence, Sophia sent a text message to Robin, informing her that she had some matters to settle before heading to the shop today.

Being the usual understanding person, Robin immediately replied to her message, asking her to take her time in running her own errands, as she could manage the shop on her own.

After preparing a simple breakfast, Sophia ate up and went out. Before heading to the cemetery, she dropped by somewhere to buy a bouquet of fresh flowers. Carrying the bouquet with her, Sophia walked toward the grave, but from afar, she noticed a person standing there. As she walked closer, there was indeed a person in black standing there, unmoving.

Placing the bouquet before the
grave, Sophia
said,
“I didn’t expect to see you
here.
”

Casting a glance at Sophia,
Matilda scoffed,
“Well, I, too, didn’t expect to
see you here.
”

Both of them didn’t wish to
squabble about
before Old Mr. Constance’s
grave, so they
showed some restraints.

The Returning Ex Chapter 564
Gazing at the picture on the
grave, Sophia
said,
“I had a dream last night.
Grandpa was
in my dream, and so were you.
”

With a sneer, Matilda jeered,
“I
guess it was
a bad dream after all.
”

“Indeed.
” Sophia sighed.

**“I
dreamed of you
scolding me, blaming me for not
being able to
bring any blessings into the
family. Not only
did John have to be involved in
this, but
Grandpa didn’t even get
better.
”**

**These words were the exact
phrases which
Matilda had repeatedly used
against Sophia.
Thinking about it, Matilda asked,
“Does John
know you’re here?”**

**“Nope.
” Glancing at the
mountains at afar,
Sophia reckoned it was a scenic
view here,
and it somehow calmed one’s
soul.**

**Pressing her lips together,
Matilda hesitated
to speak her mind. But in the
end, she
blurted,
“Before Old Mr.**

Constance left, he held my hand, asking me to be nice to you and to take good care of you.
”

Clearly, Matilda had failed to do as she was told. In fact, she had agreed to be nice, but she was often absent-minded, so she had forgotten all about it the next day.

A moment later, Matilda turned around and casted a glance at Sophia.

“Honestly, I didn’t like you at all. To be exact, I hate you. If it wasn’t for you, John and Belle are probably married by now.
”

Nodding her head, Sophia agreed,

“Yep. If it wasn’t for me, John’s life would probably be perfect.

” At that, she turned to face

Matilda.

“However, I’m curious.

**Do you really
think John likes Isabelle?”**

**Hearing that, Matilda was
dumbstruck and
snapped as if by conditioned
reflex,**

**“Of
course he likes her! What’s not
to like about
her?”**

**Putting on a smile, Sophia said,
“Really? I’m
confused, then. You see, since
John and I are
now divorced, nothing is
holding him back. If
he really liked Isabelle, why
didn’t they just
get together officially? Why is
he putting
Isabelle in such an awkward
position?”**

**Pursing her lips, Matilda stared
at Sophia.**

**Without getting a reply, Sophia
went on,**

“You’ve read the news, right?

**Instead of
approaching Isabelle, John had**

hooked up
with some random woman in
the bar. Is that
how he shows his affection
toward Isabelle?”

Clicking her tongue, Sophia
ridiculed,

“If
that’s love, it’s just
heartbreaking.
”

Hearing that, Matilda’s face fell.
She did
read about that news, and she
even called up
John immediately to seek
confirmation when
she did.

Surprisingly, John didn’t try to
hide it at all.

He admitted that the news was
true and the
person in the picture was him.

Undoubtedly,
he had brought a woman out of
the bar.

Upon hearing his confession
then, Matilda got
hopping mad, but after
considering John’s
recent attitude toward her, she

didn't dare
to complain.

As John said, they were
grownups, thus
capable of bearing their own
responsibilities
without having anyone to
interfere.

In particular when Matilda had
messed up her
own matters herself.

Seeing Matilda's sullen face,
Sophia found it
hilarious and sighed.

"Oh well,
why did I
bother to yak so much? I wasn't
here to talk
to you anyway.
"

Actually, there wasn't anything
wrong with
what Sophia said, but saying
that in a place
like this sounded wrong. Hence,
Matilda was
so pissed when she heard that.
Darting a death glare at Sophia,
Matilda
seethed.

"Of course you

weren't here to see
me! I'm more than fine. I can
live up to 100
years old.
”

Unable to hold in her laughter
any longer,
Sophia bursted out laughing.
Knowing that she failed to keep
her cool,
Sophia went to stroke Matilda's
back.

“You'
re
right! My bad. You'll definitely
live to a ripe
old age.
”

After giving a few rubs on
Matilda's back,
both of them felt rather
awkward, so Sophia
stopped abruptly and stood
aside.

Letting out a few coughs,
Matilda said,
“Since
you
're here, I'd better get going.
I've chatted
with Old Mr. Constance for

quite a while
already.
”

Without getting a reply from
Sophia, Matilda
tucked her hair back and turned
around to
leave.

Giggling under her breath,
Sophia wondered
who Matilda took after in the
Flintstone
Family.

Kneeling down before Old Mr.
Constance’s
grave, Sophia cleaned up the
dried leaves and
weeds around it. With a sigh,
she confessed,
“Grandpa, did you see that?
John’s mom and I
have always been like this.
Honestly, I feel
relieved to have gotten a
divorce with John.
Otherwise, it’ll be a constant
turmoil within
the family.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 565
Pressing her lips together,

Sophia thought
aloud,
“I’m doing fine now, and
life has been
fulfilling for me. In fact, I’m
really grateful
toward John. If it weren’t
because of his
generosity, with my capabilities,
academic
qualification, or even my
networks, I wouldn’t
have accomplished what I’ve
today.

Everything I have today, I owe it
all to John,
so I won’t blame him for what
he had done in
the past.

”

Though she was smiling, her
eyes began to
turn red.

Taking in a deep breath, she
said,

“Old Mr.
Constance, you and my grandpa
often catch
up with one another, right? If
you see him,
please tell him that I miss him

very much and
I'm doing well, so he doesn't
need to worry.
As for the two who don't have a
conscience,
well... I still have no news about
them. Then
again, it's for the better
because I don't
really want to see them, and I
don't need
them anyway.
”

With that, Sophia continued to
ramble about
the incident that took place in
the Blackwell
Family.
Beaming, she went on and
chatted,
“Ever
since my divorce with John, I
feel like I'
ve
become quite popular among
my friends
because a couple of them
actually approached
me. To be honest, I'm not really
used to the
attention, and I'd rather live my

**life without
disturbance.**

”

**Without anyone listening,
Sophia continued to
yack her head off, pouring out
her heart**

**toward the pile of bones that
were buried
under the grave.**

**Not knowing how long time had
passed,**

**Sophia bid Old Mr. Constance
farewell. After**

**arranging Matilda’s and her
flowers nicely on
the grave, she left.**

**Walking down the hill, Sophia
headed toward**

**the taxi that was waiting
downhill. Leaning
against the passenger seat, she**

**turned
around to gaze at the cemetery.**

**All humans strive throughout
life, but**

**ultimately, end up in a small
spot such as this.**

“Let’s go,

” Sophia requested.

As soon as the taxi had arrived

at the shop,
Sophia saw Robin boxing up
some pastries for
a customer. Noticing the bright
smile on her
face, Sophia asked,
“Are you in
love? You’
re
smiling like a Cheshire cat.
”

Chuckling, Robin chirped,
“Nonsense! I’m just
in a really good mood today.
”

Nodding her head, Sophia stood
aside.

Once the customer had left,
Robin cleaned up
the bar counter and gazed at
Sophia.

“Where
did you go this morning? And
with that
outfit.
”

“Well, I went to pay an elder
my respect. I’ll
go home and get changed
later.
”

Leaning over the bar counter,
Robin was
examining Sophia carefully.

Surprised, Sophia asked,

“What
are you
doing?”

Grinning, Robin was bubbling
with enthusiasm.

“Me? In love? Geez! I think
you’re the woman
in love. Let me have a good look
at you
woman.

”

Waving her hands, Sophia
snapped,

“Cut the
crap.

”

“Are you shy?” Robin hissed as
she prepared
a cup of tea for Sophia.

Feeling thirsty, Sophia grabbed
the cup and
sat on one of the chairs.

“Was it
busy
today?”

“So-so, but Mr. Constance came
by this

morning,

” Robin replied.

Startled for a moment, Sophia asked,

“What brought him here?”

Heaving a sigh, Robin explained,

“He came over to buy breakfast, but he didn’t stay for long, and left after takeout.

”

Nodding her head, Sophia didn’t question further.

Casting a few glances at Sophia, Robin tried to probe further.

“So, since when did you and Ian end up together?”

Gazing at Robin, Sophia was tongue-tied and didn’t know how to address the question.

Indeed, Robin was a close acquaintance, and it wasn’t really necessary to hide from her.

However, considering Ian had revealed it

through the program, it
wouldn't be
appropriate for her to pull the
rug from
under his feet.

Staring at Sophia, Robin was
acting as if she
was determined to get to the
bottom of this.

"Well... Ian and I... It's not like
what you'

re
thinking,

" stuttered Sophia as
she gave an
ambiguous reply.

Giggling, Robin teased,

"Previously, you
mentioned that you'll find a
man who's way
better than John, and I thought
you were

only joking. So, it was a
cover-up after all!

You were taken already.

Seriously, I still

can

't believe you've kept it from
me.

"

The Returning Ex Chapter 566

Sophia could only chuckle as she really had no idea what to say.

Leaning against the chair, Robin heaved a heavy sigh.

“So, you really have no feelings for John?”

With her brows knitted together, Sophia hesitated for a moment.

Do I love John? Well, this is a serious question.

From last night’s dream until her earlier visit to Old Mr. Constance’s grave, Sophia had pondered on this question.

Then again, she dared not dig deeper into the matter.

Perhaps she was in denial, or maybe she was just not prepared to face it.

After all, he was her first man and the first person who made her heart flutter. Frankly, it would be impossible to

remove this man
entirely from her heart.
In this period of time, she had
attempted to
do so, and it seemed to have
worked.

On the other hand, in regards to
whether she
still loved him or not, if she
really had to
answer that question—it would
be a yes.

Somehow, a part of her still had
feelings for
him.

Seeing that Sophia wasn't
answering, Robin's
eyes widened.

"Allow me to
remind you that
you have a new boyfriend now,
so don't tell
me you still have lingering
feelings for John."
"

Gazing up toward Robin, Sophia
grumbled,

"Why are you so curious?"
Taken aback for a moment,
Robin smiled
awkwardly.

“Well, I’m just a curious cat. Rumors about the both of you have spread all over the Internet, and it was difficult to tell the truth from the fake rumors. Besides, you refuse to share it with me. But still, I’m dying to know the truth.”

“All I can say is—ignore the gossip over the Internet. Most of them are just groundless rumors,

” said Sophia with a pout.

Nodding, Robin didn’t question further.

Upon finishing her tea, Sophia got up and prepared to leave, as she planned to get changed at home.

Following Sophia to the door, Robin said,

“Seriously, seeing the ups and downs in your love life makes me want to be

**in a
relationship so badly.
”**

**Dumbstruck, Sophia turned to
look at Robin.**

**“Don’t be influenced by others.
If you wish to
be in a relationship, it has to be
because you
have met someone you’re in
love with. Don’t
jump into a relationship just
because you
desire to be in a relationship.
Otherwise,
you
’ll regret it and be left feeling
more
alone.**

”

**Laughing heartily, Robin
commented,**

**“What
you
’re saying now sounds kind of
philosophical.**

”

Chortling, Sophia said,

**“I was
only saying. In
fact, I haven’t fully grasped the**

thing about
love, but one thing I'm sure of is
that the
reason for you to start a
relationship has to
be because the special person
that made your
heart flutter appeared, not
because of any
other reason.

" After thinking
about it, she
added,

"Then again, what kind
of person are
you interested in?"

Hearing that, Robin's eyes
darted around.

Licking her dry lips, she
confessed,

"For me,
I like someone who's strong and
capable of
standing up to protect me
during troubled
times; someone who's able to
fulfill my small
requests in life.

"

Nodding her head, Sophia
thought those

were understandable requests.
Basically,
when it came to love, most girls
required
security.

“I’m sure you’ll find someone
suitable. If the
man gives you his heart, I
believe he’ll be
willing to fulfill your requests,
”

Sophia said to
reassure her.

Giggling, Robin chirped,
“I just
hope he
appears real soon!”

Chuckling along, Sophia hailed
for the taxi

that was about to pass by.

Before getting into the taxi,
Sophia turned

toward Robin and advised,

“Remember to
order lunch for yourself. Forget
about diet;

you

’re not even plump to begin
with.

”

“Roger that!” Robin nodded.

With that, Sophia got into the car.

As soon as the car took off, Sophia turned around to gaze at Robin. She had a gut feeling that Robin must be in love recently.

These days, Robin started taking care of her own image. She was not considered plump at all, but she insisted on going on a diet.

Besides that, there was an obvious change in her style of dressing.

A few days ago, Robin had even dyed her hair and got herself a new hairdo. Initially, Sophia didn't notice it, but based on their earlier conversation, her intuition was telling her that Robin was indeed in love with someone.

**The Returning Ex Chapter 567
Thinking about it, Sophia couldn't help but grin, as it was a good thing to**

be in love.

Falling in love is a good thing,
though I

wonder what kind of person

Robin is

attracted to.

By the time Sophia reached

home, it was

already noon, so she got

changed and

prepared a meal for herself.

Just then, her phone rang when

she was

about to serve her meal onto

the dining table.

Glancing at her phone, the

number was a local

but unknown number. After

thinking about it,

Sophia picked up the call.

It was rather noisy on the other

side of the

call.

“Sophia?”

“Um... Who’s there?”

Chuckling, the person answered,

“It’s

me—your brother.

”

Startled, Sophia jeered,

“What

do you mean
'my brother'? I say, are you
drunk?"

There seemed to be several
people there, as
there was a roar of laughter,
followed by the
person explaining,
"Indeed,
we're a little
tipsy. Can you come over? I
can't go home
now. Hurry up a bit.
"

Suspecting that it was only a
prank from a
drunkard, Sophia hung up.
Not long later, her phone rang
again.

Feeling her anger spiking,
Sophia picked up
once more and scolded,
"If you
have a
problem, you should call the
cops! Stop calling
me! Otherwise, I'll call the cops
on you.
"

With a titter, the person said,
"Sophia, I'm

Fabian.

”

**Dumbfounded for a moment,
Sophia asked,
“Who? Fabian Blackwell? How
did you get my
number?”**

**Leaning against the car with its
engine
smoking, Fabian urged,
“Can
you come over
for a bit? Something happened
here.**

”

**Once he hung up the phone, he
sent his
location to Sophia. He
narrowed his eyes as
he stared at the screen.
On Sophia’s end, she hesitated
as she held
her phone, but after a long
while, she still
went to clean up and went out.
According to the address that
was sent by
Fabian, that place was situated
on the
National Highway.
Fabian was involved in a car**

accident, and the bumper of his car was badly damaged.

When Sophia got there, Fabian was seen sitting by the road side, and he looked as if he was taking a nap.

Some traffic police were there taking pictures and performing their duties.

Meanwhile, the person whose car was hit looked kind of frustrated. Also, beside the traffic police stood a man who appeared rather anxious.

Dashing toward Fabian, Sophia asked, "What were you thinking? Driving under the influence of alcohol? Are you out of your mind?"

Opening his eyes slowly, Fabian said groggily, "I wasn't driving."
"

Seeing that, the traffic police
walked over
and inquired about Sophia's
identity.

Chuckling, Fabian replied,
"This
is my sister.

If there's anything important,
you can speak
to her. And about that...
"

Pointing toward the
man who looked anxious,
Fabian continued,
"That man there, he can leave
now. It's fine.
I can handle the compensation
here.
"

Hearing that, the man rushed
over to thank
Fabian.

Waving his hands, Fabian
advised,
"Be careful
when you drive next time.
"

After bowing toward Fabian,
the man left.
Not knowing what had
happened, Sophia

asked,

“Who’s that person?”

Knowing that Fabian was under the influence of alcohol, the traffic police was kind enough to explain the whole incident in his stead.

The man who just left was a temporary driver whom Fabian had just hired to drive him home, as he was under the influence of alcohol. However, the driver made a quick turn and bumped into another car by accident.

Glancing at Fabian, Sophia heaved a sigh of relief.

“Alright, we’ll bear the responsibility and admit our mistakes.”

Nonetheless, they still had to drop by the police station to sign some papers, but with Fabian in this state, he couldn’t

possibly make
his way there.

On the other hand, Sophia
needed to take
care of Fabian, so she couldn't
go too.

Agreeing with the traffic
police's
arrangement, Sophia would
send Fabian home,
whereas the car would be
towed away by a
tow truck.

Drawing himself closer toward
Sophia, Fabian
said,
"Please keep this from my
family."
"

Considering the fact that he was
still
conscious enough to ask Sophia
to keep this
from his family, she guessed he
wasn't that
drunk after all.

Having no other way, Sophia
brought Fabian
to her own home.
From the looks of it, Fabian
seemed quite

sober, but as soon as they reached Sophia's house, Fabian saw the couch and fell asleep on it in no time.

The Returning Ex Chapter 568

Feeling resigned, Sophia was wondering how to settle this.

Honestly, she didn't want to have anything to do with the Blackwells, but somehow, things just happened, and it seemed impossible to draw the line.

With that, Sophia called up Robin to inform her that she has some matters to settle, so she wouldn't be able to head to the shop later this afternoon.

Surprisingly, Robin was in a good mood.

"Oh sure! No worries. I can handle it. There usually aren't many people in the afternoon anyway.

”

Once Sophia had hung up the call, she took a seat at the swing chair.

Seeing that Fabian was sound asleep, Sophia wondered why he had drank so much even though it was still daytime.

Around noon, Sophia went upstairs to take a short nap.

Lying on the bed, she habitually picked up her phone to scroll through her social media.

Halfway through her browsing, she realized that that particular person on Facebook had posted a new update—it was a picture of her shop’s board.

Hissing, Sophia couldn’t help but commented on the photo below, asking who the person was.

Her first guess was Matilda, but after thinking it through, she didn’t

seem like the kind of person who would do such a thing.

Besides, Matilda often looked at her with disdain, so it wasn't like her to post a picture of her shop.

Seeing that there was still no reply under her comment, Sophia proceeded to send a Facebook message directly to the person, asking the same question.

With the phone in her hands, Sophia waited for some time, but there was still no reply.

Maybe the person hasn't seen it yet and will probably reply to my message later?

Placing her phone down, Sophia turned around and fell asleep a while later, as she was feeling kind of tired.

Meanwhile, John did see Sophia's personal message.

**She just still wasn't aware that
the person
was actually him all along.
Holding tightly onto his phone,
John was
staring at Sophia's message, but
he didn't
intend to reply.**

**Considering their current
situation, if Sophia
knew that the person was him,
she would
definitely block him.**

**For now, that woman certainly
showed him no
mercy.**

**Letting out a heavy sigh, John
got up and
went into his personal lounge.
For these few days, he hadn't
been sleeping
well, as he was always
dreaming throughout
the night.**

**Seeing him being this exhausted,
Old Mrs.
Constance thought he was
stressed out
because of work, so she had
advised him to
rest well.**

John felt amused, because he too was hoping that all of this exhaustion was due to work.

That way, at least he wouldn't feel this agitated.

While he was fast asleep in his personal lounge, William came knocking on the door, which woke him up.

The moment William saw John stepping out of the lounge, he passed the file in his hands to the latter.

"This is the collaborative project we're working on, so have a look at it.

If possible, I hope you and I can go on this business trip together."
"

Surprised, John asked, "Together?"

It was rather unusual for them to go on business trips together, because usually,

either one of them would be sufficient to get the job done.

Nodding, William confirmed his statement.

“Yeap, together. We have quite a rough week lately, so let’s just ease up a little by going on this trip.”

Taking the file from William, John sat down at his office desk. As he browsed through the file, he asked, “Have you been to the hospital lately?”

After thinking about it, William replied, “Not these two days. Yolanda is about to recover and will be discharged soon, so I didn’t have to visit.”

Nodding, John asked, “What’s her plan after

she is discharged from the hospital? Since it was a car accident, it will take quite a while to recuperate.

”

“Indeed. She’ll be renting a house and hiring a housekeeper to help out.

”

William nodded as he spoke.

After reading through the documents briefly, John closed the file.

“Very well. The sooner she recovers the better. Mom won’t be too worried by then.

”

As soon as John mentioned Matilda, William understood the underlying meaning—John was sending him a warning. About him and Yolanda, John had never given his direct opinion, but from the looks of it, he was clearly against it.

The Returning Ex Chapter 569

**With an affirmative grunt,
William assured,
“Don’t you worry. I know what I
should do.
”**

**After sitting around for a little
while longer,
William had left to get busy.
John read through the
documents once more.
This time, he reckoned that the
client wasn’t
that great, so it really wasn’t
necessary for
them to go on this business trip
together.
Then again, after thinking it
through, John
didn’t oppose the idea of hitting
the road,
because it was true that both
William and
him had quite a rough week.
Too much
overwhelming matters!
While he was busy with his own
work, his
office door was opened again
by someone.
Lifting his head to take a quick
glance, John**

said,

“Is there...

” When he saw

who it was, he

swallowed his words and rose

from his seat.

“Aunt Jennifer, what brings you here?”

Gazing at John, Lady Jennifer grinned.

“I

just happened to pass by your

building, so I

thought of coming up here to

see Dylan.

Unfortunately, he isn't around,

so I came

here.

”

Walking out from behind his office desk,

John had led Lady Jennifer to

take a seat at

the couch.

“Aunt Jennifer,

please take a

seat.

”

From the looks of it, John could

tell that his

Aunt Jennifer wasn't here by

coincidence,
and there was something she
intended to
discuss.

Once they were seated, Lady
Jennifer
heaved a heavy sigh.

“Actually, I
was just
around the corner to meet a
friend. She has
a daughter whose age is about
the same as
Dylan. I’ve met her daughter
before, and I
like her very much, so I was
thinking of
introducing her to Dylan.
My friend had gladly agreed to
the
suggestion, so I’m here to ask
for Dylan’s
opinion, but he isn’t around. I
tried calling
him, but he didn’t pick up.
Seriously, this boy
of mine has no thoughts of
settling down at
all. It really gets on my nerves!”
Putting on a smile, John
comforted her by

saying,
“Dylan is a grown-up
now, and he
knows very well what he’s
doing. I reckon it’s
better not to rush things.
”

With a worried expression on
her face, Lady
Jennifer complained,
“I
understand, and I did
promise him that I won’t
interfere in his
personal matters, but see what
that’s gotten
him into? Since we’re not
rushing him, he is
taking his own sweet time. This
is how I came
to realize that if we leave it as it
is, he’ll
never settle down for good.
”

Chuckling, John said,
“That
might not
necessarily be the case. When
the right
person comes, he will settle
down.

”

After pressing her lips together for a few seconds, Lady Jennifer blurted abruptly, “Previously, Dylan mentioned that he had a chat with you about this. He said both of you share similar opinions, but he didn’t mention the details. I’m just curious, and I wish to know what Dylan is thinking. When it comes to dealing with this boy, I’m at my wits’ end! If I asked him, he would say it’s his own personal matter, and he knows what he’s doing. Then again, simply acknowledging the matter isn’t enough; he needs to execute his plans.

”

Nodding, John replied, “I did discuss this with Dylan, but he didn’t share

much . From what he said, I think he didn't really like the idea of getting a girlfriend through blind dates. The reason being that when it comes to blind dates, it gets rather superficial. He would much prefer to find a woman who he really likes.

”

Frustrated, Lady Jeniffer said, “A woman who he really likes? Indeed, it's important, but in reality, it's not feasible at all, because we still have to put other matters into consideration. The women I've selected are all pretty, and all of them are brought up from well-known families. Won't that suffice? What does he mean by looking for a woman he really likes anyway?” Uh... That's rather difficult to

put into words,
John thought.
Before he could answer, Lady
Jennifer gazed
at him and continued,
“How
have you been
lately? I’ve read the news over
the Internet;
it was totally absurd. I guess it
must have
affected you somehow.
Knowing you’re single
now, the paparazzi certainly
won’t let it rest.
Anyway, I’ll just be honest with
you since
we
’re family. Though you’re
divorced, you
really should give yourself a
second chance,
and you should weigh your
options more
carefully next time.
When it comes to finding a
lifetime partner,
I strongly believe that affections
can be
cultivated. This is why I think
that it’s not

necessary to place too much emphasis on conditions before marriage. In any case, feelings can be cultivated after marriage.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 570

John chuckled.

“I’m not in a hurry, so there’s no rush for me.

”

Lady Jennifer nodded.

“If you’re interested in finding a life partner, I can help you out, too. I’m just afraid that your mother won’t fancy my choice and mistake me as being a busybody.

”

At this, John guffawed.

“My mother has a sharp tongue and isn’t quite good at expressing herself. Please don’t take offense

to her rash words in the past.

”

Lady Jennifer

**then answered that she held no
grudge since**

**they were a family, but John
could tell that**

she was truly upset.

**After chatting with her for a
while, Dylan**

**came back from meeting a
client. When he**

**saw that Lady Jennifer was
there upon his**

**return, mild surprise showed on
his face. He**

**greeted his mother before
glancing at John.**

Thus, John explained,

“Aunt

Jennifer has

been here for some time now.

She came

specifically to see you.

”

Upon hearing this, Dylan

realized the purpose

of her visit. She merely

mentioned it in

**passing last night, yet she really
moves fast.**

She's here in less than a day's time!

Exasperation inundated him.

**"Don't go to so much trouble, Mom. I know what to do about my own affairs. There's already someone whom I like."
"**

Taken aback, Lady Jennifer stared at him.

Beside her, John pinned his gaze on Dylan as well.

"There's someone whom you like? Who is it? Is it one of those girls whom I introduced to you in the past?" Lady Jennifer promptly questioned.

Dylan shook his head.

"No, no, it's not anyone whom you introduced to me. However, you are acquainted with her.

" John's heart jolted when he heard this remark, and

his
expression inadvertently
darkened. Dylan, on
the other hand, seemed to have
noticed
nothing, grinning still. His eyes
fixed on Lady
Jennifer, he added,
“Anyhow,
I’m keeping her
identity secret for now. I’ll tell
you who it is
when I think the time is right.
”

Lady Jennifer’s brows creased
deeply.

“Just
who is it that you can’t tell me
now? Are you
so mysterious because her
background is
substandard?”

Walking over, Dylan wrapped
an arm around
her shoulder.

“Stop asking, for
I’m not going
to say a single word now. Come,
come, let’s go
and talk in my office so that we
don’t

distract John from his work.

”

John went over and walked
Lady Jennifer to
the door. Then, he turned his
gaze on Dylan.

“Introduce the girl you like to
me when you’

re

free. I’ll help to appraise her.

”

Dylan chortled, looking not the
slightest bit
guilty.

“Sure.

”

John watched as the two of
them entered
Dylan’s office before he closed
the door and
returned to his desk. He was
initially feeling
unsettled, but it was now worse,
for he wasn’t
in the mood to work at all.
Taking a cigarette, he lit it and
stuck it at
the corner of his mouth. Then,
he leaned
back against his chair. As the
cigarette

smoke swirled around him, his mind wandered, bringing up tons of memories from the past—his thoughts back when he agreed to marry Sophia and later, when he was determined to have a divorce. What was Sophia thinking when she signed the divorce agreement? I don't believe she hadn't noticed my obvious attentiveness toward her thereafter. What, then, was she thinking at that time? These questions churned in his mind, yet no answer came to him.

A moment later, Zack came in with a report for him. However, he was momentarily stunned when he entered and glimpsed the expression on John's face. He walked over to him.

**“Boss, is something playing
havoc on your
mind?”**

**Taking the cigarette out of his
mouth, John
stubbed it out.**

**“No.
”**

At this, Zack burst out laughing.

**“Look at
your expression. You have a
long face.
”**

**Handing the report to John, he
asked,**

**“Does
it have to do with Sophia?**

**Actually, I’
ve**

watched the talent show

Second Young

Master Morgan joined. That

was akin to a

public confession of love.

Truthfully speaking,

a girl will definitely be moved

since it’s quite

romantic.

”

**John’s expression was originally
a tad**

apathetic, but after hearing this proclamation, he instantly turned forbidding.

The Returning Ex Chapter 571

John's expression became severe.

"Shift your focus on work instead of browsing gossip. You wouldn't be making so many mistakes if you'd just be a bit more serious.

" All

at once, Zack realized that he'd misspoken, thus pursed his lips and said nothing.

Opening the file, John scanned through the report. Then, he slammed it close and threw it aside with a plop.

"Alright, leave this here first. It's nothing urgent, so I'll take a look at it when I'm free.

"

Zack was tickled pink. He's wholly different now, looking so unsettled. In

fact, I know why
without him having to point it
out. Thus, he
didn't immediately leave.

"Actually, Boss, I
don't think you need to be so
conflicted. You
just need to figure out some
things and put
them into action. Well, your
anxiousness
every day hasn't done you any
good, has it?"

John frowned, impatience
etched on his face
as he stared at Zack. However,
before he
could say anything, Zack blurted,
"You must
figure out whether you still
have feelings for
Sophia and wish to be with her.
If the answer is no, then your
anxiousness is
just a result of resentment since
you find it
incredulous that some other
men are pursuing
her after she'd left you. That's
about it. In
that case, you'll be fine when

enough time has
gone by.
”

John closed his mouth, all the
words he'd
wanted to say to refute Zack
earlier
vanishing into thin air. Zack, on
the other
hand, continued,
“However, if
you think you
have feelings for her and wish
to be with her,
then it's even easier. Pursue her
if you do like
her, and put in more effort if
you want to be
with her.

I don't believe that your
marriage for almost
a year will lose to Second Young
Master
Morgan's appearance for a
mere handful of
months. In my opinion, your
chances of
winning are considerable.
”

John stared at him for a long
while before

harrumphing.

“You talk as though you’re an expert, yet you’re also a dummy in love.

”

At this, Zack tsked.

“Don’t underestimate me.

I’ve been going on dates recently, so I’ve

ve

gained an understanding of the female mind.

Frankly speaking, Boss, regardless of a girl’s personality, all females like aggressive men.

Opportunity only comes when one is

aggressive.

” After saying this,

he arched an eyebrow at John.

“Do you understand me?”

John froze for a few seconds before he

immediately put on an impatient expression

again.

“Alright, alright, that’s
enough
nonsense. You’re dismissed. It’ll
be best if
you focus more on work.
”

Knowing that he’d actually
taken his words to
heart, Zack nodded.

“Okay,
then. You think on
it. I’m going back to work.
”

When he’d left, John slowly fell
into a trance.

Females like aggressive men,
huh? But haven’t
I been aggressive? I’ve been
very aggressive.

I’ve never been this forward
with a woman,
still coming on to her despite
having been
contradicted to my face time
and again.

Sometimes, I even find myself
despicable.

However, he also knew that the
relationship
between the two of them

would likely be
severed if he wasn't aggressive
considering
Sophia's temperament. Now
that the
situation is at an impasse, I'm
just not sure
what I should do to break the
deadlock.

Meanwhile, Sophia hurried
downstairs for a
look after a moment's
contemplation when
she awakened. Fabian was still
on the sofa,
sprawled out on his back.
Heaving a sigh,
Sophia then boiled water to
cook chicken
soup. He'll probably be up soon.
Just when she was done, Fabian
woke up
groggily. A tad dazed, he sat up
and looked
around before fixing his gaze on
Sophia.

"You
got me here?"
Sophia took a bowl of chicken
soup over to
him.

“Have you forgotten about your call to me?”

Fabian indeed remembered nothing of the sort, his mind a chaotic mess right now.

Taking the chicken soup from her, he tested the temperature before finishing it at one go.

**The Returning Ex Chapter 572
Sophia stood at the side.**

“Why did you imbibe during the day?”

Fabian snorted.

“What do you know?”

Not in the mood to argue with him, Sophia relented.

“Whatever. Just leave since you’re awake. I’ve got things to do, too.”

Fabian shook his head in an attempt to clear

his mind.

“I owe you one for
this incident
today.

” Getting to his feet, he
fished out his
cell phone and glanced at the
time.

Subsequently, he sighed, his
expression
inexplicably tinged with a hint
of bitterness
though his thoughts remained
indiscernible.

When he’d left, Sophia
straightened up the
living room for a bit before
going to her shop.

There weren’t any customers at
this time, so

Robin was cleaning the place.

She was in high
spirits, humming while she
worked, looking
extremely cheery. Sophia stood
at the door
when she arrived, yet Robin
didn’t notice her
at all, absently mopping the
floor while
occasionally singing before

bursting into
giggles when something
occurred to her. At
this, Sophia timely asked,
“What’s the joyous
occasion that you’re giggling
aloud?”

Her sudden voice startled Robin,
and she
hastily patted herself on the
chest.

“When
did you reach? I didn’t hear
you.
”

Walking over, Sophia went
behind the
counter.

“Well, you were deep
in thought, so
much so that you blocked out
everything. I’m
truly curious. I’ve been standing
there for a
long while, but you didn’t
notice me at all.
”

After she’d said this, she asked
again,
“What
were you thinking just now that

**you were
giggling so sweetly?”
Robin raked a hand through her
hair.**

**“Nothing. I’m just feeling rather
relaxed
since there aren’t any
customers now, so I
can take things easy.
”**

**Turning, Sophia looked at her,
upon which she
hurriedly lowered her head and
continued
mopping the floor. Sophia
narrowed her eyes,
her intuition screaming that
Robin was lying
to her.**

**Since it was rather late when
she arrived at
the shop, it was almost time to
get off work
just after she’d busied herself in
the shop
for a while. Thus, she had Robin
leaving first,
while she herself stayed for
some time. I
don’t even know what I’ve done
today, yet the**

day is over in a fleeting
moment.

Flipping the closed sign, she sat
by the

window and gazed out. The

shop in the

flooring business right across

was still open,

and while sitting there, she

then glimpsed the

boy showing a customer their

products in the

shop. For some inexplicable

reason, a hint of

envy welled within her. The

owner of the

shop was an amicable man, his

son guileless

and his wife virtuous; their

family of three

lived harmoniously.

Sitting cross-legged on the chair,

Sophia let

out a sigh. How I wish to have

such a family

as well! Alas, I've never had one.

My birth

family was bad, and I'd hoped

to have a good

family after marriage, but I was

disdained all

the more. My life is truly a
disaster. She sat
there in contemplation, only
making her way
home when the sky had grown
dark.

The house was dark, but the
moment Sophia
opened the door and stepped
foot into the
living room, she jumped in
fright. The lights
in the living room weren't
switched on, but it
wasn't pitch-black, so she could
clearly see
someone sitting on the sofa.
The light switch
was by the door, so she
instantly slammed
her hand on the switch.
Then, she stared at the person
who was
sitting on the sofa with a hand
raised to
shield his eyes from the sudden
light. All at
once, she went ballistic and
roared in a near
shout,
"John Constance, are you

**f*cking
insane? Why were you sitting in
my house in
the dark? How did you get in?
I'm warning
you, I'll lodge a police report if
you persist in
doing this. Do you know that
you'
re
trespassing?"**

**After a while, John lowered his
hand.**

**"Why
are you yelling so loudly? I
didn't do anything
to you.
"**

**Upon hearing this, Sophia saw
red. Her eyes
darted around, but she failed to
find any
weapon. Having no other choice,
she stomped
over and grabbed his shoulder,
pushing him
away.**

**"Get out of my house! Get out!
Don't
stay in my house. I don't want
to see you!"**

The Returning Ex Chapter 573

Surprisingly, John didn't struggle but stood up with the momentum of Sophia's push.

However, he then raised his hand and

grabbed her wrist. His tone seemingly

teasing, he asked,

"Who do you

want to see if

not me? Ian? Or Dylan?"

Sophia was taken aback.

"John

Constance, go

and check yourself into the

psychiatric

hospital if you've gone insane!

Why did you

come here?"

Chuckling, John lifted a hand

and grasped her

chin. Sophia, however, twisted

her head and

shook off his hand right away.

"I'm warning

you, Sophia Gwendolyn, that no

other man is

allowed. Behave yourself. I'll be

gone on a

business trip for the next few days, but I've already arranged for someone to tail you. If you dare betray me in any way, I'll kill you when I return," John threatened.

Sophia shot daggers at him.

"You should hurry home and take your medicine. You're severely ill, so it might be incurable if you tarry."

John yanked her into his embrace.

"Sophia Gwendolyn, you tormenting little temptress, let me tell you that I'm perfectly serious. If you dare get together with another man, I'll really kill you.

" He'd mulled this over for a

long time today, ruminating on
Dylan's
remarks earlier. She's
temperamental, so all
the aggressiveness in the world
won't work if
I don't get ruthless with her.
"Scram!" Putting all her might
into it, Sophia
shoved him out.
John chortled.
"Remember
what I said,
Sophia.
" After saying that, he
straightened
his clothes and brushed past
her.
He truly left just like that.
Standing there,
Sophia gritted her teeth in fury.
After a
while, she swiftly locked the
door and
windows. I just can't figure out
how he got in
this time. She even went over
and checked
the door lock, but John's
fingerprint wasn't in
the system. She clenched her

jaw, having no target to vent her anger. Meanwhile, John only reached his car after walking for a while upon leaving. He was now shrewd enough to park a distance away so that Sophia wouldn't notice his presence. After getting into the car, he looked over at her house, his lips curving into a smile. He honked twice although he didn't know whether she'd hear it. Then, he turned the steering wheel and drove away. While driving, a call came from Matilda who said that she was outside and wanted to see him. Thinking that he was going on a business trip with William soon, he went over after asking her for the location. Instead of waiting in the shop, she stood by the

roadside. At the sight of John,
she opened
the car door and slipped in.
John glanced at
her.

“Have you eaten?”

“Yeah. I just met up with Belle
just now.

”

Matilda pulled the seatbelt over
and
fastened it. Upon hearing
Isabelle’s name,
John instantly went mum. At
this, Matilda
sighed.

“Your scandal is an
awful mess now,
but I can tell that Belle is
saddened as well.

”

When Isabelle met her earlier,
she
mentioned the rumors on the
Internet and
even cried. They hadn’t seen
each other for a
while now, so Matilda was
actually in a good
mood when they met this time,
but at the

mention of the scandal, her mood took a nosedive.

Since John wasn't saying anything, Matilda continued,

"Belle is a nice girl.

She even wondered whether you'll be affected by the news. She's quite worried about you.

"

John grunted.

"I'm not affected at all. It's the truth, after all.

"

In Matilda's eyes, John was writing himself off, so she heaved a sigh.

"Say, why must you live so abysmally?" I'm sure it's a piece of cake for him to find a decent girl considering his achievements now.

John didn't respond, merely driving straight to her place. The two of them

exchanged a few words throughout the entire drive, every other word out of Matilda's mouth revolving around Isabelle. In the beginning, John said nothing, but later, he seemed to have lost his patience and demanded, "Was it Isabelle who asked you to say all this?"

The Returning Ex Chapter 574
Matilda froze for a moment, but she then hurriedly denied it.

"No, no, Belle would never do that. I just want you to know that she's very much concerned about you."
"

At this, John barked out a tepid laugh.

"Have you ever asked Isabelle how she feels about me before playing matchmaker? Perhaps you

read her wrongly.

”

Taken aback, Matilda didn't quite know what to say. Isabelle had indeed implored her not to disclose the fact that she had feelings for John, and she understood that if it came to his knowledge that Isabelle had feelings for him, he might assume that she instigated her considering all this matchmaking she was doing.

After pondering for a while, she replied,

“While Belle hasn't said anything to that effect, I think she has feelings for you judging from her concern toward you.

”

Seemingly having thought of something, she added,

“Belle was ecstatic back when the two

of you got engaged, so it's proof that she likes you and is willing to marry you. Even after you married Sophia, she didn't get together with anyone else. Thus, I think she's probably waiting for you. John, some opportunities may only come once, so you must seize it. If you miss it, you might never have the opportunity again in the future.
”

John said nothing. Truly, some opportunities may only come once. If I miss it, I'll never have the opportunity again. That's why I'm so anxious now, so much so that I don't know what to do. It's really disheartening to be confronted by a predicament in which I'm stuck, neither advancement nor retreat

possible.

He drove her home, but before Matilda had gotten out of the car, her cell phone rang.

Picking it up, she glanced at it, whereupon a smile bloomed on her face and she said to

John,

“Look how considerate Belle is. She’s calling now, probably asking whether I’ve arrived home.”

John leaned over and opened the car door on her side right away.

“Talk to her after you’ve

alighted from the car.

” Startled,

Matilda

exclaimed in surprise, but John had grown impatient.

“Hurry up. It’s late, and I haven’t

had dinner.

”

He nudged her slightly, so
Matilda climbed
out of the car. Still a touch
dazed, she
turned and looked at him.

“Hey,
wait a minute!
I’ll talk to Belle for a while, then
you can
also—”

John pulled the car door closed,
aware of the
trick up her sleeve. He had
nothing to say to
Isabelle, so he wasn’t about to
tarry, driving
away without a moment’s
hesitation. From the
rear-view mirror, he could see
her answering
the call even as she waved a fist
in his
direction. Letting out a sigh of
relief, his
expression gradually relaxed.
When he returned to Constance
Residence,
Old Mrs. Constance was seated
on the sofa

with Lady Jennifer who'd come
over, and the
two of them were talking. Mild
surprise
suffused John at the sight of
Lady Jennifer,
but still, he greeted her politely.
Flashing him
a smile, Lady Jennifer remarked,
"You're only
back at this hour?"
John murmured an
acquiescence.
"I went to
see my mother, so I'm a bit late
today.
"

The moment Old Mrs.
Constance heard that
he'd gone to see his mother,
she sighed.
"How's she doing?"
John deliberated for a moment
before
answering,
"I think she's doing
rather well. I
noticed that she looked quite
good.
" Other
than appearing a smidge

despondent at the mention of Isabelle, she looked fine otherwise. It seems that she has started accepting her current life. He hadn't had dinner, so he subsequently turned and ordered the kitchen staff to cook him a bowl of noodles. The kitchen staff then promptly began preparing his meal. Meanwhile, he then walked over to the sofa before sitting down to chat with Old Mrs. Constance and Lady Jennifer. Old Mrs. Constance asked him whether he was going on the business trip since William had already packed, commenting that she'd never once seen him this enthusiastic to the point of anticipation to go on a business trip in the past. John and Lady Jennifer

laughed at this,
but only John knew that it
wasn't an
exaggeration at all.

The Returning Ex Chapter 575
Dad is indeed anticipating going
on the
business trip this time, for he
can't wait to
escape this place. As far as John
knew,

Matilda seemed to be calling
and texting
William frequently these days,
bugging him
with invitations to have a meal
together and
requests to meet up.

And Mom isn't the kind of
person who beats
around the bush, so she's very
straightforward, declaring that
she wants to
make up with him.

I'm not all that certain what
Dad thinks of it
all, but he definitely has no
plans to start
over with Mom right now.
However, he can
never be assertive and resolute

with her, so
he can't bring himself to refuse
her, yet he's
reluctant to agree. Hence, he
can't wait to
leave this place so that he can
take a
breather.

The corners of his mouth
curving upward, he
noted,
"Dad probably thinks
that the
collaborative partner this time
is promising,
so he wants to go over and
assess the
situation."
"

On second thought, I'm quite
impressed with
Mom. Zack said that one must
be aggressive,
and she's putting this term into
practice
extremely well.

After a while, Lady Jennifer
changed the
subject and shifted the focus
back on Dylan
once again. She said that she'd

pondered it
for a long time, yet she just
couldn't figure
out who Dylan meant when he
said he had
someone whom he liked.
After all, his social circle was
limited, and he
was very much like John, having
no pastime
save going to the office. Thus,
she truly had
no inkling of any lady he'd ever
associated
with and developed feelings for
at that.

Old Mrs. Constance was
likewise at a loss, so
she asked her whether he often
mentioned
any one of the ladies she
introduced to him
recently, thinking that it might
be one of
those ladies.

However, Lady Jennifer shook
her head.

"No.

He seems very averse toward
the ladies I
introduced to him, asserting

that he has no
interest in her every time he
comes back
from a blind date. Furthermore,
if he truly
likes one of them, there's no
reason for him
to keep it a secret.
But for this girl he claims to like
now, he's
keeping it under wraps,
allowing no one to
know her identity. I think her
background
must be substandard, so he's
afraid that we'll
oppose.
”

After mulling it over for a while,
Old Mrs.
Constance felt that it made
sense, and she
sighed.
“Actually, the younger
generation
should be allowed to live their
own lives. We
shouldn't interfere too much
lest they blame
us at the end of the day.
”

At this, Lady Jennifer cast John a glance, assuming that she was alluding to John's predicament. John's marriage to Sophia was the result of familial interference, and now, it had ended in divorce. While he hasn't openly blamed anyone, I'm sure he's feeling slightly resentful at least. Hence, she nodded symbolically. "You're right, Mom."

John, on the other hand, didn't associate it to his circumstances. Instead, Sophia came to mind. She's obviously livid when I was at her house earlier. I wonder whether she took my words to heart. He initially thought of many strategies, even ones gentler than the one he used today.

Before she came home, I even contemplated how I was going to persuade her into having a peaceful discussion with me, but when I saw her hopping mad, every thought I had scattered.

As soon as I opened my mouth, those warnings and threats just rushed out. He inwardly smacked his lips, wondering whether his strategy this time would work.

Lady Jennifer was still very much curious about the girl Dylan referred to. Since Old Mrs. Constance couldn't figure out anything as well, she turned to John.

"John, as you spend more time with Dylan since you even see him in the office, have you ever heard him inadvertently mentioning any woman

whom you think he possibly likes?"

John froze. Dylan and I actually don't spend that much time together.

Despite us both being in the office, our interactions were all related to work. Besides work, when it comes to everyday life...

The Returning Ex Chapter

576 John inwardly

hissed. Dylan had indeed mentioned a girl to

me, but the person we both talked about was

Sophia. He seems very much interested in

annoying me with his vague shows of curiosity

or concern about her before me every single time.

If he were to consider Dylan's attitude

objectively without adding his subjective

thoughts on the topic, Sophia indeed fit the

description of being the girl

**Dylan mentioned
he liked.**

**However, he subjectively
rejected this idea,
so he shook his head right away.**

**“No, he
never said anything or
mentioned anyone to
me. Dylan is taciturn in nature,
so he won’t
tell us such a thing.
”**

Lady Jennifer nodded.

**“You’re
right. He’s
rather reserved, so he’ll never
tell us such a
thing of his volition without us
asking him
about it.
”**

**The kitchen staff was done
cooking the
noodles, so John had it brought
upstairs.**

**Subsequently, he went upstairs
as well. When
he returned to his room, he
changed, while
the servant placed the bowl of
noodles on the**

bedside table. Thereafter, he walked over and took a gander. There's no improvement at all. Judging from the looks of it, it's no match for Sophia's cooking. He then sat down and took out his cell phone. Sophia had again sent him a message on Facebook, asking him who exactly he was. He stared at his cell phone, but still, he didn't reply since he had nothing to say. Meanwhile, Sophia snagged her cell phone after washing up. Upon seeing that her message had gone unreplied for a long time, she took a very direct route and gave the other person a voice call. John, who was still eating noodles, startled at the incoming voice call. He fixed his eyes on the cell phone intently before

cracking up a
few seconds later. I naturally
can't take this
call. Unbidden, his mind
wandered.

If Sophia finds out that it's me,
her wrath
will definitely be even greater
than when she
saw me in her house today.

That girl's temper
is getting increasingly worse. Or
more

accurately speaking, she's nice
to everyone
else, but she's progressively
short-tempered
with me alone.

Sophia called him twice, but
when she
realized that he had no
intentions of taking
the call, she finally gave up.

After a while, John tried
browsing Sophia's
posts again. Hah, how
predictable! She has
unfriended me. All at once, he
burst out
laughing. This girl is truly
decisive and

resolute in such matters. How
heartbreaking!
If only she retains an iota of her
lukewarm
disposition of the past, I
wouldn't be caught
in such a dilemma. He heaved a
sigh.

Even after Sophia had
unfriended the person
on Facebook, her mood didn't
improve much.

A fire blazed within her, making
her restless
like a cat on hot bricks. What
did that
b*stard, John Constance, meant
by coming
over and threatening me, then
leaving?

What has it got to do with him
if I get
together with some other man?
His remarks
today were truly ridiculous. I
was blinded by
rage then, for I really ought to
have
questioned his right to say all
those things to
me!

At the thought of this, stark
regret
inundated her as she felt that
she'd failed to
demonstrate her debate skills. I
actually
have tons of rebuttals that
would'
ve
rendered him speechless!
She lay on the bed with her cell
phone in
hand, casually browsing
through the news on
the Internet. There's nothing
interesting.
It's all gossip. How boring! Just
when she was
about to put her cell phone
down, she caught
sight of a rather intriguing piece
of
gossip—one related to the
woman whom John
left the bar with.
The woman's information was
dug up, and all
her previous photos were also
unearthed. The
news report even included her
casual photos

**in which she was dressed
stylishly although
most of them were captured in
nightclubs.**

**John wasn't mentioned
anywhere in there,
but the comments below were
all associated
with him. Many presumed that
he had a
preference for such women, for
the average
man couldn't withstand the
temptation of a
woman who looked so alluring
and enticing.**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 577
Sophia nodded. This woman is
indeed alluring
with her ample bosom and firm
butt,
complemented by her exquisite
makeup. At a
single glance, one can be
certain that all men
will love her. I don't believe
John remained
unmoved when confronted
with such a woman!
She looked through the news
before recalling**

**the fact that John sneaked into
her house
today, claiming that he'd be
away on a
business trip and warning her to
behave.**

**Putting aside everything else,
am I not on my
best behavior?**

**I merely go to the shop and
back home every
day. There**

**'s no one else with a better
track**

**record than I do! As she
contemplated it, she
grew increasingly vexed and
peevish, intense
fury choking her.**

**All at once, she sat up and gave
John a call
after a moment's deliberation.**

**John,
however, was taking a shower,
so he didn't**

**hear his phone ringing. When
the call went
unanswered, Sophia cursed at
her cell phone
for a while before she put it
down and went**

to bed.

She'd always felt that she had a calm

temperament, but she couldn't quite restrain

herself when it came to John.

Closing her

eyes, she heaved a sigh.

Meanwhile, when John came out after his

shower, he naturally noticed

Sophia's missed

call. In fact, he had an idea why she called.

That girl was hopping mad at me earlier. She

probably feels chagrined for having lost face,

so she wants to reclaim her pride.

He guffawed, finding it rather intriguing.

She's been growing increasingly interesting

after the divorce. He then stared at his cell

phone for some time before putting it down.

He was going on a business trip with William

tomorrow, so he took out a

suitcase and simply packed two sets of clothing. He never brought a lot every time he went on a business trip, and it was usually Zack who helped him pack. This time, however, Zack wasn't tagging along, so he had no choice but to pack by himself.

While he was packing his luggage, he recalled Sophia having followed him to Tri Asel back then. She didn't bring much either, saying that she was merely treating it as a vacation.

As far as I know, she's never been away from home alone.

All her life, the farthest she has gone was from the little mountain village in her hometown to my life. She isn't one who loves seeking excitement, so she must have

mustered tremendous courage
to leave with
all her belongings back then.
At this, a wave of distress swept
over him. I
was so determined to have a
divorce that I
forgot to consider the
aftermath of it to
her. I generously gave her
money back then,
thinking that it'll compensate
for everything,
but now, it seems that I've
given it too little
thought. After he was done
packing, he went
back to his bed and lay down,
feeling a tad
unsettled.
John left with William the next
day, and
Sophia instantly received news
of it since
Zack posted it on Facebook,
saying that his
boss had gone away to toil. He
made a whole
issue of how difficult a task it
was and
insinuated that he was truly

reluctant to part
with his boss which Sophia
scanned through.
He didn't lie at least. He has
indeed gone on a
business trip. She then put her
cell phone
down, but she couldn't help
recalling John's
remarks yesterday, growing
aggrieved once
again.

...

When Robin was done cleaning
the shop, she
leaned against the counter,
looking at ease.
She turned her gaze on Sophia.
“Haven't you
been in contact with Second
Young Master
Morgan recently?”
Sophia, on the other hand, had
her head
lowered as she tidied the place.
“Nope.
”

At this, Robin sighed.
“Doesn't
it feel
agonizing when two people

who are dating
only see each other once in a
blue moon?”

Sophia’s brows furrowed.

“My
relationship
with Ian isn’t as presumed.
”

Robin, however, hooted in
laughter.

“No? Love
remains the same at its core
despite all
apparent changes.

” She then
turned to face
Sophia.

“Is it sweet to be in love?
When you
think of that person, you feel
happy and
blissful.

” Cupping her face with
both hands,
she added,

“And when you
don’t see him, you
just feel restless.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 578
Sophia giggled.

**“You’ll know
when you’re in
love.
”**

**Robin stared at her for a while
before she
suddenly changed the subject.**

**“Sophia, will
you be upset if Mr. Constance
dates someone
else one day?”**

**While startled, Sophia truthfully
replied,
“Probably.
”**

Robin, however, was stunned.

**“Why? You’
re
dating someone else, so why
isn’t he allowed
to have feelings for another
woman?”**

**The corners of Sophia’s mouth
twitched.**

**“It’s
difficult to explain.**

**” Even if he’ll
never belong
to me in the end, I’ll still feel a
tad
discomfited to know that he has**

feelings for
some other woman. Perhaps
it's hypocritical
of me, but regardless of
whether I'll still
have feelings for him in the
future, I once
loved him, so it's inevitable.
Robin pursed her lips.
"Perhaps
you'll no
longer feel that way when
you've remarried."
"

Sophia contemplated it for a
moment before
answering,
"Perhaps.
" If I've
truly let go of
him, I probably won't be
bothered about
whether he has anyone else
anymore. The
thing was, she wasn't all that
certain either.
At this, Robin nodded but said
nothing
further.
After bustling around for a
while, Sophia's

cell phone rang. Her cell phone was on the counter, so Robin was the first person who rushed over for a peek. Thereafter, her expression froze slightly. Sophia, on the other hand, was washing some cups at the side.

“What’s wrong? Who is it?”

Robin tittered.

“It’s Mr.

Constance.

”

Taken aback, Sophia walked over and picked up her cell phone while casting it a glance.

It’s indeed John. After a moment’s contemplation, she answered the call.

“Why are you calling?”

John grunted.

“I just realized that you called me last night. I was otherwise

occupied at
that time, so I didn't hear my
phone ringing.
Thus, I'm calling to ask why you
called.

”

I called last night, yet he only
realized that
he has a missed call now? I
don't believe it!
Sophia sneered,
“Are you
kidding me, John
Constance? Did you think that
everyone else
except you is a moron?”
John dissolved into laughter as
though the
cold war and dispute between
the two of
them had never happened.

“I
only hope that
you
're a moron. How I wish you're
not so
shrewd! It tires me out since I'm
afraid that
you
'd find me out when I want to
trick you.

”

Sophia gave a bark of laughter.

“So, why exactly did you call? I’m busy over here, so I’m hanging up if you’ve got nothing to say.

”

John had probably arrived at the hotel, for he seemed to be stretching.

“I’m away on a business trip, so I’m afraid that you’d forget me in a few days without me there by your side.

”

Licking her back molars, Sophia snarled,

“John Constance, I don’t remember you ever acting in such a manner in the past. Are you this shameless before others as well?”

John chortled, not the slightest bit bothered that she was chastising him.

“Nope. I only act in such a manner before you.

”

He’s getting increasingly
impudent now!

Sophia’s rage was so great that
she
snickered.

“John Constance, you
b*stard!

Whose feathers are you trying
to ruffle by
being all lovey-dovey now? Do
you have a
loose screw? Have you
forgotten how you
treated me in the past?”

On the other end, John abruptly
went silent.

When the past came up, he was
on the losing
end since he indeed treated her
badly back
then. No matter when they
revisited this
issue, he had no way of refuting
it.

Sophia’s voice was exceedingly
wintry as she
demanded,

“Don’t call me if
there’s nothing
urgent in the future. I don’t

quite feel like
listening to your voice.
” When
she’d said that,
she hung up right away. After
doing so, she
stood there with her lips pursed
and her
expression somber.
Standing beside her, Robin
stared at her for
a long while before asking,
“Sophia, why did
John call? Is he pestering you?”
Sophia said nothing, looking
rather
disgruntled. Actually, other
than sneaking
into her house last night, John
hadn’t done
anything that had her
particularly enraged
for now.

The Returning Ex Chapter 579
However, John’s attitude of
ignoring
everything that had happened
in the past had
Sophia feeling very much
chagrined. He’s
merely feigning ignorance and

evading the
past, thinking that everything
would then
pass. In his dreams! After
standing there for
some time, she raked a hand
through her
hair, unable to make sense of
the emotions
currently coursing through her.

Pivoting, she
left the counter and strode to
the door in a
fit of pique.

Robin stared at her with pursed
lips, her
cheery mood from earlier
having vanished
into thin air. A while later, she
went over
with a cup of coffee.

“Sophia,
what’s going on
between you and John? Haven’t
you two
broken up?” she asked
cautiously.

Likewise, Sophia felt that her
relationship
with John had been severed,
and it was a

clean break at that considering
the several
rows they had recently. But he
doesn't seem
to think so. That fella changes
every so
often, even faster than a
woman's mood
swings.

Upon seeing that she didn't
answer, Robin
leaned closer and queried,
"What did it mean
that he phoned you? Does he
still have
feelings for you?"

This question was all the more
challenging for
Sophia. Does he still have
feelings for me?

Perhaps he's the only one who
knows the
answer to this. While I don't
dare say for
sure whether he has feelings for
me, I think
indignation is probably one of
the reasons for
his endless pestering.

"John seems to be very good to
you. In the

eyes of outsiders, it appears as though he's still harboring feelings for you, but he spent the night with another woman. If he still loves you, how could he get together with another woman, even if it's just a hookup?"

Robin remarked hesitatingly. That's right. He even spent the night with another woman. Although the news report back then didn't confirm it, anyone with brains can surmise what transpired between him and the woman that day in the end. After some time, Sophia replied, "Exactly."

Robin licked her lips, her expression a touch conflicted. "So, why exactly did he call you? Is he angling for reconciliation with you?"

**At this, Sophia sneered,
“God
knows why he
called me. I can’t figure out this
person
either.**

**” If his goal is
reconciliation, he knows
the kind of person I am. At the
very least, he
must be chaste. Who is he
trying to fool by
acting as though he wishes to
reconcile with
me while hooking up with some
other woman
out there? Irritation gripped her.**

**“Okay,
that’s enough. Let’s not talk
about this person
anymore. My temper spikes at
the mention of
him!”**

**Robin initially wanted to
comment further,
but she swallowed her words at
Sophia’s
remark. There weren’t any
customers right
now, so they both stood by the
door. Shortly**

after, just when they turned
around to head
back into the shop, a car slowly
cruised over.

Before it'd even drawn close,
the car window
was wound down, revealing
Fabian who was
sitting in the car.

“Wait a
moment, Sophia!”

he called out to Sophia.

Startled, Sophia stood frozen to
the spot

and stared at him. His car was
so badly

dented back then that it was
almost fit for a

junkyard, but it isn't a problem
for wealthy

people at all. He has now
changed to an even

flashier car.

Meanwhile, Robin wasn't
acquainted with

Fabian, so she merely stood at
the side and

looked on.

Fabian chuckled.

“Are you not
busy? I noticed

that you've been standing there
for a long
time.

”

Murmuring an agreement,
Sophia answered,
“I'm not particularly busy. Why,
is there
something you need that you
came over?”

Fabian was rather amicable to
her this time,
perhaps in consideration of her
help the
previous time. He then alighted
from the car.

“Nope. I was nearby, so I
dropped by for a
visit.

” As he said this, he carried
a box of
fruits out from the passenger
seat.

“This has
just been air-freighted over, so I
brought it
over for you guys.

”

Sophia blinked, at a loss as to
what he meant
by that. However, Fabian

walked into the
shop with the box, so she
followed suit after
exchanging a glance with Robin.
However, John's attitude of
ignoring
everything that had happened
in the past had
Sophia feeling very much
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merely feigning ignorance and
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still have
feelings for you?”

This question was all the more
challenging for
Sophia. Does he still have
feelings for me?

Perhaps he's the only one who knows the answer to this. While I don't dare say for sure whether he has feelings for me, I think indignation is probably one of the reasons for his endless pestering.

"John seems to be very good to you. In the eyes of outsiders, it appears as though he's still harboring feelings for you, but he spent the night with another woman. If he still loves you, how could he get together with another woman, even if it's just a hookup?"

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the end. After
some time, Sophia replied,
“Exactly.
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Robin licked her lips, her
expression a touch
conflicted.

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he call you?
Is he angling for reconciliation
with you?”

At this, Sophia sneered,
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knows why he
called me. I can’t figure out this
person
either.

” If his goal is
reconciliation, he knows
the kind of person I am. At the
very least, he
must be chaste. Who is he
trying to fool by
acting as though he wishes to
reconcile with
me while hooking up with some
other woman
out there? Irritation gripped her.

“Okay,
that’s enough. Let’s not talk
about this person

anymore. My temper spikes at the mention of him!”

Robin initially wanted to comment further, but she swallowed her words at Sophia’s remark. There weren’t any customers right now, so they both stood by the door. Shortly after, just when they turned around to head back into the shop, a car slowly cruised over.

Before it’d even drawn close, the car window was wound down, revealing Fabian who was sitting in the car.

“Wait a moment, Sophia!” he called out to Sophia. Startled, Sophia stood frozen to the spot and stared at him. His car was so badly dented back then that it was almost fit for a junkyard, but it isn’t a problem for wealthy

people at all. He has now
changed to an even
flashier car.

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"Are you not
busy? I noticed
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Murmuring an agreement,
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"I'm not particularly busy. Why,
is there
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" As he said this, he carried

a box of
fruits out from the passenger
seat.

“This has
just been air-freighted over, so I
brought it
over for you guys.

”

Sophia blinked, at a loss as to
what he meant
by that. However, Fabian
walked into the
shop with the box, so she
followed suit after
exchanging a glance with Robin.

The Returning Ex Chapter 580
Fabian placed the box on the
table.

“Grandma
has been speaking of you
recently, so go and
visit her when you’re free.

”

Upon hearing this, Sophia
laughed.

“Did you
perchance misunderstand me
because I
helped you the other day?”

Fabian looked at her.

“Did you

perchance
misunderstand me because of
my remark
earlier?" He plopped down onto
the chair.

"I
didn't mean anything. It's just
that you'
ve
helped me the other day, so I'll
look like an
ungrateful wretch if I were to
treat you with
contempt.
"

Walking over, Sophia sat down
across from
him.

"I actually helped you
because there was
no other choice at that time.
The issue
would've persisted if I hadn't
stepped
forward in that situation when
you were as
drunk as a skunk. I didn't mean
anything else.
I'm not really interested in
associating with
the Blackwell Family, so I'm

rather conflicted
by your visit. I don't quite know
how to face
you, so why don't you just
forget about
everything that had happened?
We'll just act
as though nothing happened.
How about
that?"

At this, Fabian chuckled.

"Why
are you so
cautious in everything, Sophia?"

He leaned
back against the chair.

"I'm not
interested in
associating with you either
since it's really
rather awkward to have a
family member out
of the blue. That aside, I still
have to thank
you when you've helped me
out.

"After saying
that, he sighed.

"Also, I have a
question for
you. I didn't ramble when I fell

asleep at your
house that day, did I?"

Sophia pursed her lips.

"What's

considered

rambling? Calling out a girl's
name perhaps?"

All at once, Fabian froze, his
expression
changing slightly.

"What did
you hear?"

Sophia felt that she'd hit the
nail on the

head. Sure enough, a woman is
the reason he

drank like a fish that day. From
ancient

times, even heroes have a
weakness for the

charms of a beautiful woman.

I'm actually a

touch curious as to the beauty
who managed

to lock him down. She chortled.

"I didn't hear

anything. You were inebriated,
and it sounded

vaguely like a woman's name,
but you weren't

enunciating all that well, nor

did I pay much
attention to it.
”

Fabian stared at her for a long
time before
he finally retracted his gaze. He
didn't
pursue that line of question,
probably afraid
that he'd give away even more
if he were to
speak further.

Robin, on the other hand, went
to the counter
and made coffee for them both.

Taking it
from her without an ounce of
hesitation,
Fabian took a sip of coffee.

“I
heard that
John is away on a business
trip.

” At this,
Sophia frowned, not at all
comprehending why
he suddenly mentioned John.
Fabian lifted his eyes to Sophia.

“Actually, I
witnessed the entire incident of
John leaving

with the woman.

”

Sophia was stunned, and the same went for

Robin who was at the side.

“So,

John truly

took a woman home and spent the night with

her?” Robin blurted.

Turning, Fabian cast a glance at her.

However, he didn’t find

anything amiss,

merely assuming that she was

Sophia’s

friend, thus asking on her

behalf. Grunting in

agreement, he nodded.

“John

indeed left with

the woman, and the two of

them seemed very

familiar with each other in the

bar back then.

It didn’t seem as though they

were meeting

for the first time.

”

This came as a surprise to

Sophia, for she’d

seen the woman's picture. From her dressing and all, she seems to be a person who frequents nightclubs often, so John couldn't quite possibly have known her. However, it's always difficult to say when it comes to something like this.

Meanwhile, disappointment shrouded Robin.

Gazing at Fabian, she questioned,

"In other words, John may very likely have been carrying on with that woman long ago, yes?"

Nevertheless, Fabian didn't dare run his mouth when the media itself didn't confirm it as fact, merely reporting that they both left together. Thus, he only chuckled since he wasn't in a position to draw his own conclusion. This chuckle,

however, was
tantamount to an answer.
Robin heaved a sigh.

“Never
had I expected
John to be such a person.
”

Beside her, Sophia snorted.
“Don’t assume
that everyone is good. He might
have another
side to him out of your line of
sight.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 581

After a moment’s
contemplation, Fabian
added,
“Actually, John wasn’t
such a person in
the past. He had always been
chaste. I once
met him while entertaining a
client, and while
all the other big shots were
captivated at the
sight of women, he was the
only one who had
disdain in his eyes when he
gazed at the bevy
of young ladies around him.

”

Hence, he couldn't quite figure out why John had suddenly morphed into such a debauched person now. I personally find it rather odd, but I can't say it aloud. If I voice it out, it'll seem as though I'm whitewashing him.

Quickly finishing the cup of coffee, he then got to his feet.

“I still have something to do, so I won't intrude any longer. Sophia, do come to Blackwell Residence for a visit when you're free.”

”

Sophia murmured an acquiescence that sounded very much perfunctory.

“Okay, will do.”

” She then walked him to his car. When he'd left, she turned around

and went back
into the shop.

Robin was standing at the
counter, looking
somewhat despondent. Sophia,
however,
didn't think much of it.

"Come,
come, let's
have some fruits. Let's see what
he brought
us.

" Robin was noticeably down
in the dumps,
so she went over and opened
the box. It was
actually a gift box of sorts with
an
assortment of fruits, all looking
plump and
juicy.

Many of them were foreign to
her, so she
didn't know what they were. Ah,
everything is
exotic when I've never seen
much of the
world! Taking a few fruits, she
washed them
before shifting her gaze to
Robin.

**“What’s
wrong? Why are you feeling
downcast?”**

**Forcing a smile, Robin
countered,**

**“I’m not
feeling downcast. I’m merely a
tad shocked at
Mr. Blackwell’s words.
”**

Sophia startled.

**“Shocked? Oh,
you mean
what he said regarding John?”
At this, Robin lowered her eyes.**

**“It just
came as a surprise to me. I can’t
quite explain
it, but well, I didn’t expect it.
That’s the sum
of it.
”**

Sophia chuckled.

**“Perhaps you
haven’t
experienced much of the world
yet, but such
a thing is actually quite
common. There are
often two sides to people. The
John you**

normally see is bright and dazzling, but it doesn't mean that he has no flaws.

" Robin

merely nodded without commenting further.

It wasn't particularly busy today, so when

Sophia noticed that Robin was truly out of

sorts, she asked her to get off work first

although it wasn't yet time.

There probably won't be many customers

later, so I can manage by myself for a while.

Robin didn't decline either, claiming that her

nose felt stuffy since she might have caught

a cold when she napped at the table this

afternoon.

Upon hearing this, Sophia patted her on the

shoulder.

"Go home. Drink

some ginger tea at

home. Don't wait until it's a

full-blown cold
before you're forced to take
medicine. You'll
feel even worse then.

" Robin

only packed and
left after staring at her for a
long while.

Subsequently, Sophia sat by the
window while

leaning back against the chair,
appearing a

tad dejected. As she gazed out
the window,

her mind went blank. After
some time, she

caught sight of an old
acquaintance—Madam

Matilda.

However, she wasn't alone.

Rather, she was

accompanied by her favorite
person. Isabelle

wore a long dress, looking very
much ladylike.

They do seem like mother and
daughter when

standing side by side. They
must have gone

shopping, and by plan or
coincidence, they'

re

passing by my shop. From the look of things, it's Isabelle who wants to patronize my shop.

After all, Matilda appeared a touch hesitant as she looked up at the signage, but Isabelle had already pushed open the door and walked in. Nonetheless, Sophia remained leaning against the chair without budging an inch.

"Are you here for a chat or tea?"

Isabelle looked at the menu on the wall.

"I'll order a drink. I'm tired after walking such a distance.

"

Moving languidly, Sophia lazily got up and went to the counter.

"What drink would you like?"

Isabelle ordered two cups of

coffee. After some deliberation, she then ordered two pieces of pastries as well for dine in.

The Returning Ex Chapter 582
Sophia grunted in acknowledgment.

“Have a seat. I’ll bring them over later.”

When Matilda came in, she glanced at Sophia, but her expression was much more mellow this time, no longer looking as though Sophia owed her money.

Meanwhile, Sophia’s movements were slow and measured, not the slightest bit frantic.

After Matilda and Isabelle had taken their seats, Isabelle’s lips curved into a smile.

“Have you ever been here, Mrs. Constance? I think Ms. Gwendolyn’s shop is quite nice with a pleasant décor.

”

Matilda murmured in affirmation.

“Yes, I’

ve

been here a few times.

” I told

her this a long

time ago.

Nodding, Isabelle pretended as

though she’d

just known about it.

“Then, is

there anything

you like in particular? I’d

appreciate a

recommendation.

”

Matilda couldn’t quite figure

out what

Isabelle was trying to do.

“Everything here is

nice.

” At this, Isabelle giggled

but said

nothing further.

When Sophia was done

preparing the order,

she carried everything over to

their table

before returning to the counter

once more.

Then, she took out her cell phone and started watching the short videos in her recommendation list. These short videos are actually quite interesting, each creative in its way. She initially had no interest in such a thing, but as she watched one after the other, she grew pretty enthusiastic, so much so that she didn't hear whatever Isabelle said to her.

Pursing her lips, Isabelle looked on as she kept her focus on her cell phone while blocking out the world.

Although she was well aware that it was deliberate on Sophia's part, she didn't grow incensed. Instead, she turned to Matilda.

"Mrs. Constance, did John tell you when he's coming back from his

**business trip
this time?”**

**For some reason, Matilda felt ill
at ease as
she sat there. Nonetheless, she
replied,
“No.**

**There isn’t a specific time frame
for the
business trip this time. He said
he’ll see how
it goes later.
”**

Isabelle nodded.

**“I actually
phoned him last
night, but I didn’t ask him about
his business
trip. I just asked about the news
on the
Internet.
”**

**Upon hearing this, Matilda was
stunned.**

“Really?”

**Isabelle stirred her coffee with
a spoon, but
she didn’t drink any.**

**“He
assured me that it’s
merely a gimmick by the media,**

and it's all
drivel.

” Matilda didn't respond,
so she
chortled and continued,
“He
also said he
doesn't care about all that. As
long as he has
done nothing wrong, he's not
afraid of all the
gossip.
”

Taking a sip of coffee, Matilda
grunted in
acknowledgment. I really can't
tell whether
she's telling the truth or
otherwise. I just
feel as though it's not quite
right. After all,
I've also phoned John some
time ago, and he
boldly admitted it. Could it be
that she's
intentionally saying this
because of Sophia's
presence? But what's the use of
doing so?
Sophia won't give a whit even if
she says all

this. Rather, it makes her appear petty. For the first time, she felt that Isabelle wasn't as laid-back as Sophia in matters of the heart.

She then stole a peek at Sophia out of the corner of her eye, only to see that she had her attention focused on her cell phone, obviously paying no attention to the two of them. Letting out a sigh, she suggested, "Belle, I know of a newly-opened restaurant whose food is delicious. Let's not eat pastries anymore. It's going to be dinnertime soon, so how about going for dinner?" Isabelle scrutinized her. She seems rather different from her usual self today. When she sees Sophia in the past, she always flies into a rage at once, but now,

she hasn't
uttered a single remark to make
things
difficult for her. Besides, I even
vaguely
sense that she appears to be
steering me
away from creating a conflict
with Sophia
here.

"Are you hungry, Mrs.
Constance?" she
queried.

Matilda mumbled vaguely in
affirmation.

"I
planned to take you out for a
meal in the
first place. This isn't all that
nutritious, so
there's no benefit in consuming
it. Come, I'll
treat you to a sumptuous
spread."
"

Pursing her lips, Isabelle only
agreed after a
few seconds had passed.
Actually, she hadn't
taken a single bite of anything
sold in

Sophia's shop from beginning to end.

She then went over to pay, but Sophia merely pointed at the QR code payment at the side without even lifting her head to look at her.

**"Over there."
"**

The Returning Ex Chapter 583

Isabelle went over and scanned the QR code to make payment. Then, she looked at Sophia again. Matilda, on the other hand, had already walked over to the door. It was only when she called out to her did Isabelle reluctantly leave.

At the door, Matilda walked further away upon seeing that Isabelle was making her way over. When Isabelle had caught up to her, she asked in slight puzzlement, "What was your intention in coming here?"

To say all those things to make Sophia miserable?”
In reality, Isabelle herself didn't quite understand what she was trying to do. While she indeed wanted to make Sophia miserable, she wasn't certain how she wanted to accomplish that.
That was why she used the news on the Internet back then as a starting point.
Because of the news, she'd previously experienced great agony, feeling as though someone had stabbed her in the heart.
Convinced that Sophia had certainly been tormented by it to the point of losing sleep, she brought it up before her.
However, when she did so, she herself was assailed by a wave of distress, so she bluffed and

claimed that
John had explained things to
her.

Staring at her, Matilda shook
her head.

“It’s
no use showing off with words,
Belle. Even if
you
’d said that you were the
person John left
the bar with, there wouldn’t
have been any
reaction on Sophia’s part. She
has always
been calm and unruffled. This
time, you really
lost to her.

”

Isabelle pursed her lips, likewise
finding
herself inexplicably on the
losing end in this
battle today.

Moving over to her, Matilda
patted her on
the shoulder.

“Never mind,
don’t think about
it now. Let’s go for dinner first.

”

Isabelle
said nothing further and left
with her.
Meanwhile, Sophia stood at the
counter. She
placed her cell phone down, her
face a mask
of wintry coldness. Young Lady
Isabelle
Bailey seems unable to read the
situation
now. Hah, I wonder what she
intended by
coming in and showing off. She
went over and
put away everything on their
table. Then, she
flipped the closed sign over.
After that, all that was left was
to clean up
the place. She took out the mop,
but just
when she was about to start
mopping, her cell
phone rang. She sauntered over
and picked it
up for a quick glance. It's an
unknown number,
and from another city to boot.
It's generally a scammer or
telemarketer.

She'd answered several such calls in the past, so she declined the call and went back to mopping the floor.

When she was done with the cleaning, a call came in again from the same number.

Frowning, she glanced at it. This time, she picked up the call.

**"Hello."
"**

At first, no sound came from the other end of the phone. Sophia then repeated the greeting, upon which the other person

stammered,

"Is this Sophia Gwendolyn?" It

was a woman's voice, the voice tinged with uncertainty and wariness.

Sophia didn't answer right away.

Instead, she

countered,

"Who are you?"

After a few seconds, the person

on the other
end suddenly started sobbing,
her voice soft
and timid.

“It’s me, Soph.

”

Sophia’s brows knitted together.

I don’t

recognize this person’s voice,

and no one calls

me Soph. She pursed her lips,

growing a

smidge impatient as her

conviction grew that

it was a scammer.

“Who are

you? Stop crying

and answer me first.

”

Sniffling sounded from the
other end.

“I’m

your mother, Soph.

”

Sophia froze, very much taken
aback.

“Who

are you again? Repeat that,

please.

” Her tone

was neither anxious nor

exuberant. Instead,
it was filled with contempt.
Immediately
after, she growled,
“I’d advise
you to think
carefully before you answer me.
Are scammers not doing their
homework
before scamming people
nowadays? There’s
an obvious problem with your
information. Let
me tell you, my mother is dead.
She’s been
dead for many years now. You
want to scam
me? Dream on!” After saying
that, she hung
up right away.
However, she was shaking all
over, shivering
uncontrollably. Whirling around,
she poured
herself a glass of water and
guzzled it down
in a single go. My mother?
What nonsense! That woman
has probably
reincarnated into a young and
beautiful lady

now. She inhaled deeply,
repeating the motion
a few times. Then, she promptly
packed and
locked up before hailing a taxi
home.

The Returning Ex Chapter 584

On her way home, another call
came in from
that number. This time, Sophia
didn't answer,
declining the call right away.

The moment she
arrived home, she threw her
cell phone aside
as soon as she stepped foot in
the house.

Then, she went to the
bathroom and washed
her face.

When she came out after
having done so, she
stood in the living room with
her arms

akimbo. Well, well, I'm no
longer hungry now.

Instead, both my heart and
stomach feel
leaden.

After a while, her cell phone
rang again.

Closing her eyes, she ignored it
and let it go
to voicemail. This time,
however, the caller
was particularly persistent,
calling again when
the call went unanswered. As
Sophia listened
to the incessant ringing of her
cell phone,
random thoughts crept into her
mind, making
her exceedingly irritable.
When it rang for the third time,
she strode
over in a few strides and picked
up the call
once more.
“How did you get
my phone
number?” she demanded
before the person
on the other end could say
anything.
There was a brief silence before
the woman
replied,
“I went back to the
village. An elder
in the village gave it to me.
”

Sophia laughed soundlessly. Oh yes, I left my phone number with a neighbor back when Grandpa passed away and said to contact me anytime if something happens. She then asked, "Why did you return when you've left for so many years? Are you in the village now?"

"No, I'm not."
"The woman sounded pitiful as she answered, "I'm now elsewhere. I heard about you, so I went back for a look."
"

Sophia licked her posterior molar.

"What did you hear about me? Well?"
A brief silence ensued before a voice drifted over from the other end.
"I

heard that you
got married. I'm elated, yet I'm
also sad that
I wasn't by your side. I'm really
sorry for not
having attended your
wedding.

”

At this, Sophia burst out
laughing.

“So? Why
are you calling now? My
wedding was a year
ago. There's nothing you can do
even if you
contact me now.

”

The woman seemed to be at a
loss for words
at this remark, so after catching
her breath,
Sophia commented,
“You must
be living the
high life now. The two of you
must be rather
well off out there all these
years.

”

“No, no,
” the woman instantly

refuted.

“I
haven’t been living at all. Soph,
there isn’t a
day that passes by without me
missing you all
these years. I actually wanted
to go back, but
I was embarrassed to do so.
Besides...
”

There was a slight hesitation on
the other
end before she continued,
“Your father and I
are divorced. If I returned, I
wouldn’t have
had any identity to speak of, so
I dragged my
feet all these years.
”

Sophia frowned.

“The two of
you are
divorced?” All at once, she gave
a bark of
laughter.
“When did you get
divorced? Have
you remarried, then?” There
was no

forthcoming reply. Hmm, it means that she has truly remarried, then. Thus, she nodded.

“You have another child?”

Again, she was only greeted by silence.

Finally, she murmured in assent.

“That’s good.

Spend the rest of your life with your

husband well. Don’t abandon your child again,

for that’s your responsibility.

Stop trying to

foist your child onto someone else.

Irresponsible parents go to hell, you know?”

Sobs came from the other end.

Since there

was no image whatsoever but merely a voice,

it felt as though the person was rather

grief-stricken.

However, Sophia wasn’t at all

moved. She

merely said,

“Alright, now that

you know that

I'm doing well and vice versa,
it's enough.

There really isn't a need for us
to keep in
contact anymore.

" After having
said that, she
added,

"Actually, you shouldn't
even have
contacted me.

"

The sobs from the other end of
the phone
made her feel as though she
was the villain
here, so after a moment's
contemplation, she
concluded,

"Let's call it a day.
I'm hanging up.

"

An exclamation drifted over the
line, but
before the woman could say
anything, Sophia
had already hung up.
Clutching her cell phone, she
pursed her lips,
her emotions all over the place.
Nevertheless, it wasn't grief she

felt.

**Rather, her life seemed to be
growing
increasingly chaotic, becoming
a tangled mess
with no way out.**

**The Returning Ex Chapter 585
Disheartened, Sophia didn't
cook. She made
some instant noodles and
simply ate a bite
before retiring upstairs.**

**When the sky had grown
completely dark
outside, she received a call from
Logan who
said that he was on her
doorstep. He claimed
that he was here to visit her,
but he was
surprised that she'd gone to
bed so early
upon seeing that the lights were
turned off
downstairs. Thus, she listlessly
went
downstairs and opened the
door for him
before parking her butt on the
sofa.**

Logan brought a lot of food, so

it seemed
that he hadn't had dinner. He
didn't trouble
Sophia but went to the kitchen
himself and
plated everything before
carrying them to
the dining room. Grinning, he
called out,
"Come, come. I even bought
beer, so let's
have a feast today!"
The entire house was filled with
the aroma of
grilled skewers. While Sophia
hadn't any
appetite, her stomach rumbled
at the
fragrant smell. Hence, she stood
up and went
to the dining room, only to see
that Logan had
even prepared the cutlery and
opened the
bottles of beer. She plopped
down onto a
chair.
"What happened? Why
the sudden
interest in coming over for
drinks at my place

today?"

Logan sighed.

"I was just thinking that we haven't officially eaten together ever since Ian went for the competition. I miss the days when the three of us feasted together, so I came over.

"

Upon hearing this, Sophia chortled.

"You're right. I miss those days, too.

"

There wasn't any turmoil back then, so I was in high spirits every day despite living rather aimlessly.

Now, I seem to have found my goal in life, but turmoil after turmoil assail me.

Logan then poured her some beer.

"I hope Ian performs well, and we can

then have a
gathering when he returns.
”

Sophia, however, sighed. If Ian truly makes his debut, there probably won't be many chances for us to gather together in the future. We'll all have our respective lives, and life is difficult, so there won't be so much time for us to fritter away. Without saying anything superfluous, she raised her glass to Logan before emptying it. Logan didn't realize that she was in a bad mood, assuming that they were both as easy-going as before. As they ate and drank, they both imbibed a little too much. Leaning back against her chair, Sophia lifted her head and stared at the ceiling. In a low voice, she began,

**“I was alone
when my
grandfather fell ill, and I knew
nothing at all.**

**At that time, I hated them to
the bone. Why
didn't those two
unconscionable wretches
return? How could they be so
heartless to
leave for so many years?”**

**Logan was drunk, so he paid her
no mind.**

**However, Sophia wasn't hoping
for someone
to lend her an ear, so she
continued,**

**“Later,
my grandfather passed away,
but there were
many rules in my hometown.**

**One of them was
to have the firstborn son break
a pot for the
funeral ceremony. I
volunteered to do it, but
the elders forbade me from
doing so. They
insisted on having the son doing
it, else to
just do away with the tradition.**

However, it
then meant that my
grandfather's
reincarnation wasn't certain.
”

At this, she felt her tears
trickling down the
corners of her eyes.

“I then said
that his son
had died, and it'd been years
ago. I claimed
to be his only living relative, the
only one
whom he had left.

” Dashing at
her tears, she
asserted,
“Say, aren't they dead
when they
didn't return for so many
years?”

In fact, she almost asked earlier
whether
her heartless father had also
remarried and
had another child, living the
high life as well.

Did they never consider how
the elderly man
and child they left behind were

going to
survive?

After a while, Sophia wiped her
face and
straightened in her chair. At this
time, Logan
was no longer in the dining
room. He'd gone to
the living room and dozed off
on the yoga
mat. Casting him a glance as she
stood at the
entrance to the dining room,
she then got a
blanket and draped it over him.
Subsequently,
she whirled around and went
into the dining
room to clear the table.

The alcohol had initially kicked
in, but it's all
gone after all the rambling I did.
Sighing, she
returned to her room after
putting
everything away.

The Returning Ex Chapter 586

Thereafter, Sophia received a
message from
her irresponsible mother. It was
a picture of

a young girl who looked to be
12 or 13 years
old. Actually, there wasn't
much of a
resemblance to her, but her
intuition told her
that this was probably the child
that woman
had after remarrying. She looks
quite
presentable, neat and tidy.
After a single
glance, she deleted the
message. Why did
she send this to me? I'm not at
all interested
in their lives.
She then took a shower and
sprawled out on
the bed. I've been
contemplating changing
phone numbers back when
John and I got
divorced, but I then returned
with him from
Tri Asel, so I didn't get to do so.
Now, I truly
need to consider whether to
bite the bullet.
Many inane thoughts crowded
into her mind,

but she finally drifted off
groggily.

The next day, Sophia was
awakened by the
ringing of her cell phone. With
her eyes shut,
she fumbled for her cell phone
and answered
the call. It was Robin on the
other end, and
she shrieked loudly,

“You two
are just too
romantic, Sophia!”

Squinting, Sophia grunted.

“What are you
talking about?”

Robin startled.

“Are you still in
bed? Why,
did you spend the night talking
with Ian on
the phone?”

Nonetheless, Sophia couldn't
make head or
tail of her remark. Propping
herself up, she
felt a mild pounding in her
head.

Robin then continued,
“Ian is

truly handsome,
so he must give you quite the
sense of
security, huh?"

Sophia's brows furrowed.

"Ilan?"

What's with
him?"

Again, Robin was stunned.

"Didn't you watch
him in the competition last
night?"

Oh yes, ilan's competition was
last night! It
had completely slipped Sophia's
mind due to
the trifles beleaguering her. She
heaved a
sigh. This hangover feeling truly
doesn't feel

so great. Getting out of bed, she
headed to
the bathroom. At the same time,
she asked,

"What's with ilan?"

Robin giggled.

"You should go
and take a look.

I've never had such a thought
before, but
now, I find that loyal men are

really
handsome.
”

Hissing in pain, Sophia just
couldn't wrap her
mind around Robin's remarks.
Thus, she hung
up and took a shower. When
she came out
after she was done washing up,
she did a
search on her cell phone, only
to see that
Ian's performance last night
was of a song he
composed by himself. It was his
usual style in
which he played the guitar as
he sang, slow
and lyrical.
However, the title of the song
was rather
intriguing—Fated Response.
Before he sang
it, he even explained that he
was inspired by
his girlfriend's name. He said
that his
girlfriend's name symbolized
love and
devotion, so he titled the song

thus to
encapsulate his hopes for their
future.
Sophia pursed her lips. I wonder
if he's
trying to establish a public
persona.
Nonetheless, his apparent show
of affection
had him soaring in popularity.
After all, loyal
men are very much attractive.
He received
the highest number of votes
from the live
audience last night, so this is
probably a
gimmick, Sophia thought.
Everything involves gimmicks
nowadays, but in
reality, it's all fake, and
everything is a huge
lie. Without even bothering to
listen to his
singing, she locked her cell
phone. Well, as
I've said, my life is getting
increasingly
chaotic now, and I've been
proven right.
She then went downstairs, but

Logan was still
sleeping after imbibing far too
much last
night. Her head pounding badly,
Sophia wasn't
in the mood to cook, so she
merely boiled
some water. My stomach is
feeling queasy,
and I'm slightly nauseous.
Ah, a hangover can only make
someone forget
his or her troubles temporarily,
but when the
buzz is gone, reality remains!
Whatever may
come will still come without a
doubt, and
everything may even come at
the same time.
Meanwhile, John and William
returned to the
hotel together. Before entering
his room,
William turned and looked at
John.
"Have you
called home?"
Taken aback, John stilled while
opening his
room door.

“No.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter

587Something

seemed to have occurred to

William, for he

then said,

“You’ve got to call

home. For some

things, it may be a mere

difference of

holding out just that tiniest bit

before you

score the goal. If you retreat,

it’ll then be to

no avail, but if you persist, you

might just

succeed.

”

John gaped at him in mild

surprise. He

initially thought that William

was referring

to Constance Residence, but

from his words

now, that didn’t seem to be the

case.

Lowering the key card, he

turned and walked

over to William.

“I’d like to visit

with you for
a while.
”

Flashing him a smile, William
opened the door.
The two of them reserved
adjacent rooms, so
the layout was almost the same;
the door
opened to a row of similarly
designed sofas in
the living room. Striding over,
John plopped
onto the sofa and blurted,
“I
thought you
don’t like Sophia?”
William, on the other hand,
slipped off his
jacket.
“I didn’t quite like her in
the past
since she always seemed
nervous and timid.
But on your uncle’s birthday
back then, I
found her rather pleasant. She
might have
been bullied too much by your
mother those
days, but after the divorce, she

didn't have
any more qualms, so she let her
true self
out.
”

Walking over, he sat down
beside John.

“Frankly speaking, I might like
Sophia more
than Isabelle. It's not that
Isabelle is
inferior, but perhaps she's too
good that I
just feel that something is
lacking.

” Heaving a
sigh, he continued,
“Furthermore, there are
too many people in the Bailey
Family, and
their relationships are just too
messy. Take
the issue of your divorce
coming to light, for
instance. The Baileys took
advantage of that
to make various demands. I
actually disdain
such people. Undeniably, one
might have to
resort to trickery in the business

world, but
when it comes to someone's
personal life, it's
deplorable to do such a thing.
”

John nodded slowly.

“You're
right, but I
initially thought that, like Mom,
you disdained
Sophia's background.
”

“Hmm, her background, huh?”

William
pondered for a moment.

“Actually, I mulled
over this issue at length back
when I
divorced your mother. Well,
how much is a lot
of money? Our family isn't
hurting for money.

What is our aim when we seek
a girl from a
decent family background? Her
money?” He

then continued poignantly,
“Marriage is for
life. There actually isn't much
need to place
constraints on the other

person's background
and all if one is already
successful. When
external factors don't pose
much of a threat
to our lives, I think feelings are
then the only
consideration.

”

John stared at him. He has
actually changed
a lot. In the past, he never
would've said all
that to me. He has probably
gained some new
insights after breaking free
from the chains
of marriage. He nodded
sedately.

“I think
Grandma has accepted Sophia
as well.

”

William hooted with laughter.

“Your
grandmother likes her quite a
bit now. She
said that none of us has the
kind of liveliness
she possesses.

”

At this time, something came to mind, so John remarked, "I noticed that Aunt Jennifer is frantic in introducing prospective girlfriends to Dylan. She's never been in such a hurry before. What's going on?"

William wasn't quite certain either, but he answered, "It seems that it was your uncle who brought it up and asked your aunt to settle it as soon as possible. I didn't ask why specifically, but Dylan is not getting any younger, so it's indeed time to consider marriage.

" After giving it some thought, he then added, "If you hadn't gotten divorced and had continued your life as

usual, you'd probably have a child now. Thus, can your uncle not be in a hurry?"

John pursed his lips. After a long while, he echoed,

"You're right. If I'd continued my life as usual, I'd be a father now."
"

The two of them then talked about the business trip for a bit. John was a tad anxious to return, upon which William guffawed.

"My plan was to take you away for a breather, but it now seems as though I'd miscalculated. From your look of things now, you don't appear at all keen to leave."
"

John merely chuckled without saying anything. Then, he returned to his own room.

The Returning Ex Chapter 588

John hadn't much to do, so he took a shower before lying down on the bed. Then, he took out his cell phone. Recalling that it was the first round of the knockout competition for Ian, he went online and did a search right away. Oh, how cunning of him! This Ian Morgan is quite crafty in creating opportunities for himself. He confessed his love some time ago, and now, he has started with public displays of affection! Fated Response? What f*cking title is that for a song? I think it's most fitting for him to use the name of Sophia's shop now! He was initially a tad anxious to return, but after seeing Ian's competition, he became downright restless. After all, he understood

Sophia's temperament. She bumbles around at times, so his ploy this time is just the perfect strike to her defenses. He isn't confessing his love and displaying his affections privately, but blatantly before the entire country. Considering her kind-hearted disposition, she probably can't bring herself to do anything other than lending him a hand. How could I allow that to happen? He promptly went online and looked for flight tickets. Phew, there's another flight tonight! Scrambling out of bed, he packed his luggage before going over to William's room. William was taking a nap, but John pounded on his door several times. Frowning, he demanded, "What's wrong with

you?”

With his suitcase in hand, John declared,

“I’ve booked a flight ticket, and I’ll be leaving immediately. Something came up with Sophia.

”

Leaning against the door frame, William doubled over with laughter.

“See, I just knew that you won’t be able to sit still after I’d said all those things to you.

” He then nodded.

“Sure, you can go back. There’s nothing important here, so I can manage alone.

”

John smiled and waved at him before leaving, wheeling his suitcase along. Meanwhile, Sophia stayed in her shop and worked until late at night. Robin had already left, so she calculated the profit

she'd made
since starting the business until
now by
herself. It's double my
expectation! Actually,
she knew that most of it was
from the
support of friends, Logan and
John especially.

Putting the calculator aside, she
let out a
sigh. I always say that I want to
be
independent, but in the end,
I'm still relying
on the people around me. She
then dawdled
for a while before packing up to
leave.

This time, she didn't hail a taxi
but slowly
made her way home on foot
alone while
shouldering a backpack. She'd
already
blacklisted that woman's phone
number, but
still, she felt a touch
discomfited. It was as
though she had a thorn in the
side which she

tried to avoid as much as possible.

However, this wasn't a sign that she was on the mend, nor did it signify a full recovery.

Rather, she was just lying to herself that the wound didn't exist by neither looking at it nor touching it.

It was very late when she arrived home, so she merely cooked some dumplings. Feeling down in the dumps, she wasn't even in the mood to watch television, so she went for a shower straight away before getting into bed. Nevertheless, her sleep was fitful, her dreams bizarre with a messy phantasmagoria.

As a wave of exhaustion swept across her,

Sophia's mind felt fuzzy.

Turning over, she then slowly opened her eyes.

The curtains

were
't drawn, so the room was
relatively
bright from the glow of the
moonlight
outside the window.

Thus, she could clearly see that
someone was
standing beside the bed. It was
such a
terrifying occurrence that she
even forgot to
scream, rendered motionless as
though she'd
been frozen in time.

Knowing that she was awake,
John sighed.

"You just won't listen though I
advised you to
lock the sliding door to the
balcony.

"

Sophia slowly sat up, so John
came over and
sat down on the edge of the
bed.

"What
happened? I noticed that your
sleep seemed
rather fitful.

"

Sophia stared at him intently.

All of a sudden, she sprang up and lunged at him.

“Were you trying to scare me to death, John Constance?

Let me tell you, I detest people like you!

Didn’t you know that you might have triggered a heart attack?”

Pinning him onto the bed, she straddled him and started swinging her arms, raining blows upon him.

The Returning Ex Chapter 589

In reality, Sophia couldn’t possibly restrain

John with her feeble strength, but John

knew that he’d indeed gone a tad overboard,

having scared the bejesus out of her this

time. Thus, he allowed her free rein though

he did raise his arms and shield his head.

Even while she was livid, Sophia

didn't truly
intend to beat him up. She
merely punched
his arm incessantly while
lambasting him. I
almost fainted when I caught
sight of
someone beside my bed in the
middle of the
night! Hitting someone required
energy, and
swinging one's arms was
extremely tiring, so
she was drained in no time.
Chuckling, John raised his hands
and grasped
her shoulders before moving
her off him by
exerting slight force.
Nonetheless, Sophia
continued berating him while
sitting on her
heels on the bed, saying,
"I was
too
soft-hearted in the past. I really
should have
lodged a police report against
you! John
Constance, judging from your
conduct now,

**you really need to spend a few
days in jail
before you learn your lesson!”**

**As she said
this, she looked around in
search of her cell
phone.**

**However, John moved swifter
than she did,
reaching out and grabbing her
wrist in one
fell swoop.**

**“You can lodge a
police report
later if you wish to do so, but I
have a
question for you now. I
naturally have some
misgivings since I took a flight
back all this
way. Come on, answer me
first.**

”

**Sophia tried pulling her hand
back, but when
several attempts failed, she
simply gave up.**

She fixed her eyes on him.

“Fine.

**I’m very
much interested to know what**

it is that
drove you to do such an
unconscionable thing,
so spit it out. I'm listening.
”

Leaning close to her, John's
expression
turned serious in the blink of an
eye.

“Have
you really gotten together with
Ian Morgan?”
he asked.

“Yes, that's right. Hadn't I told
you that I'm
dating Ian?” Sophia sneered.
At this, John drew closer and
lowered his
voice.

“Sophia Gwendolyn, be
honest with me.
Don't spout off just to piss me
off. Are you
truly dating Ian Morgan for
real?” His voice
grew increasingly deep and soft
as he spoke.

Due to the illumination of the
bright
moonlight and the negligible
distance

between them, Sophia could see his expression clearly. He was exceedingly solemn though one could also say that his gaze was tinged with a hint of affection. For that reason, Sophia suddenly couldn't bring herself to casually admit something that had never happened despite having done so a moment ago. Pursing her lips, she stared at him. In her daze, she even seemed to sense the travel-weary vibes radiating off him.

Lifting a hand, John rested it on her head and stroked her gently.

"You're not, are you?"

"What has it got to do with you?" Sophia countered in a huff.

John chortled.

"Of course, it has got

something to do with me. As I've said, I'll definitely kill you if you dare get together with someone else. You can only be mine, be it in the past, present, or future.
”

“Bullsh*t!” Sophia just couldn't hold herself back. After cursing him out, she added,
“You seem to have forgotten that we're divorced. And I don't quite understand you, Mr. Constance. Are you angling for reconciliation with me now? I remember that you used to turn your nose up at me in the past.
”

John's expression stiffened slightly, and he then sighed.
“I was blind in the past. Don't take offense at me, please?”
I wonder if he's making himself

sound humble
on purpose. Feeling a tad
discomfited, Sophia
inched back before changing
the subject.

“This is the last chance I’m
giving you, so
hurry up and leave. I’ll no
longer show you any
mercy if you were to do this
again in the
future.

”

John wasn’t at all intimidated
since she was,
in fact, a paper tiger. While she
seems
vicious on the surface, she’s
actually very
soft-hearted. Thus, Ian Morgan
probably did
all those things on stage to
coerce her into
accepting him because he
knows about her
weakness!

The Returning Ex Chapter 590
He knows that Sophia won’t
humiliate him. On
second thought, this Ian
Morgan is actually

very cunning despite appearing plain and unpretentious. The corners of John's mouth quirked into a smirk.

"You know what?

I came here as soon as I returned without even going back home, and my luggage is still in the courtyard. Besides, there's no taxi at this hour. Don't tell me you want me to walk home while dragging my luggage behind me...

"

He gave me a pile of drivel, yet it's all so that I'll allow him to stay overnight! Hopping mad, Sophia stared at him for a long while before getting out of bed. Opening her room door, she pointed at the corridor.

"Go out. Out!"

This means I can be anywhere as long as it's

not her room! John beamed, his smile tinged with a gleam of craftiness. Getting to his feet, he straightened his clothes. "I've got to retrieve my luggage first since it so happens that I've got a change of clothes in there."
"

Her temper getting the best of her, Sophia lifted her leg and swung it at John when he exited her room. However, John was rather nimble on his feet, so he dodged it with a simple sidestep. Chuckling, he remarked, "The damsel and the villain..."
"

In the next moment, Sophia slammed the door shut. Leaning back against the door, the vicious expression on her face relaxed. She then gave a slight sigh of relief

before
fisting her hand and hitting her
chest. I don't
quite know what I'm feeling at
the moment,
but it seems that I'm actually
not all that
enraged.

After a while, she went over to
the window
and gazed out into the
courtyard. The lights
were turned on in the living
room downstairs,
and John was standing in the
courtyard. His
luggage was indeed in the
courtyard, right
there beside him.

At this time, he lifted his head
and looked at
her window as though he was
certain that
she'd definitely be there.

Sophia was taken
aback, but she didn't dodge,
merely meeting
his gaze with a cold expression
on her face.

John, however, flashed her a
smile and even

waved at her. Then, he went into the living room with his luggage in hand. Thereafter, Sophia whirled around and went back to bed, but she didn't lay down. Instead, she sat on the bed, hugging her knees. What does John mean by doing this? Is he angling for reconciliation? Could this man have forgotten what he'd done in the past? How could he shamelessly come over now and claim that I'm his? Pshaw! As she chewed over it, she grew all the more irritated, and she plopped back in a huff. She didn't sleep well the entire night, feeling ill at ease with the sudden presence of another person, perchance because no men had stayed overnight at her house in a long time. She repeatedly jolted

awake, perking up
her ears to catch any sound
coming from
outside her room.

Thus, she woke up early the
next morning and
went downstairs after hurrying
through her
ablutions. John was already up,
and for the
first time in forever, he was in
the kitchen,
probably preparing breakfast.
Languidly
walking over, Sophia stood by
the kitchen
entrance and scrutinized him.
John was making dumplings, a
fairly easy fare
to prepare. Turning his head to
look at her,
he flashed her a smile.

“Go and
wait in the
dining room. It’ll be done in a
jiffy.”

Sophia stared at the pot for
some time.

“Are
you sure you can manage?”

**At her query, John pointed at
his cell phone
beside the stove.**

**“I looked it up
just now, so
it should be fine.
”**

**Upon hearing that, Sophia
pivoted and went
to the dining room. In no time,
John was done
cooking the dumplings which he
then carried
out and served. Subsequently,
Sophia
started,**

**“John, I think there is a
communication issue between
us when it
comes to some things. You
don’t seem to
understand my meaning.
”**

**John hurriedly insisted,
“I do, I
do. You don’t
need to say anything. I know
everything you
want to say, so hurry up and eat.
You still
have to go to the shop after**

this.

” It was clear as day that he didn’t wish to listen to whatever she wanted to say. Hence, Sophia pursed her lips and looked at him for a long while before nodding.

“Alright, then. It’s good that you understand.

”

**The Returning Ex Chapter 591
Lowering her head, Sophia ate a few dumplings before she put her cutlery down.**

Startled, John asked, “What’s wrong? Are they still raw?”

Sophia shook her head.

“No. I just don’t have much of an appetite.

” The dumplings seem to be of shiitake mushroom filling. The taste of shiitake mushroom is rather

heavy, so it's
turning my stomach.

At this, John spun around and
went into the
kitchen. Shortly after, he
brought her a glass
of milk.

"How about some milk,
then?" Hmm, I
wonder when he became so
proficient at
caring for someone else.

After breakfast, he offered to
accompany
her to the shop. However,
Sophia was very
much averse to the idea. It's my
shop, and it's
not like I don't know where it is,
so why do I
need him to accompany me?

She then urged
him to go home with his
luggage instead of
hanging around her house, but
he hemmed
and hawed, stalling by insisting,
"I'll just
accompany you to your shop
first.

I'm in no hurry.

**” She was no
match for him
when it came to playing
pull-and-tug, nor was
she in the mood to argue with
him. This man
will definitely resort to trickery
when he
can
't win with logic.**

**Instead of having someone
drive over, John
hailed a taxi with Sophia and
accompanied
her to her shop. Robin was
already there, and
she even had a smile on her
face before she
caught sight of him.**

**“Good
morning.**

”

Sophia nodded.

“Morning.

”

**Her downcast mood surprised
Robin who then
asked,**

“Why are you...

”

However, she trailed

off before she'd finished speaking.

Entering behind Sophia, John glanced at Robin.

"Morning.

"

Robin pursed her lips, only responding after a long time had passed.

"Morning.

You're back.

"

John merely murmured an affirmation

without expounding further.

Sophia didn't sleep well last night, so she was

suffering from a terrible headache at the

moment. Upon seeing that

Robin had already

done the cleaning, she thanked her before

plopping down onto a chair.

John then went

over and sat down in front of her.

"What's

wrong? Are you not feeling well?"

Raising her head to look at him,
Sophia
reflexively started growing
impatient.

“Why
haven’t you left? What are you
doing here?”

John leaned back against the
chair.

“I’m just
taking a brief respite. I’ll leave
soon. What’s
the hurry?” Fed up with his
roguish behavior,
Sophia ignored him and
massaged her
temples.

Meanwhile, Robin wiped down
the counter.

“I
thought you’d only be coming
back a few days
later.

”

John chuckled.

“My business
trip actually
hasn’t ended, but something
urgent came up,
so I returned earlier.

”

Robin brought him a cup of coffee.

“Then, why did you come with Sophia? Did you bump into each other on the way here?” John shifted his gaze to Sophia, looking as though he was stifling his laughter. Sophia, on the other hand, lifted her gaze to his and rolled her eyes without saying a single word. Taking in both their expressions, a vague sense of unease rose within Robin. John took a sip of coffee before replying, “No, I came back last night, but I couldn’t get a taxi home, so I went over to Sophia’s place.”

Robin knew that Constance Residence was located halfway up the mountain, so she still helped to explain things despite

her
astonishment at his answer,
echoing,
“That
makes sense. It must have been
late when
your flight arrived. Taxis won’t
be willing to
go too far in the middle of the
night.
”

John vaguely grunted in reply.
After drinking
half the cup of coffee, he stood
up.

“You guys
get busy, then. I’ll be leaving
first.

” It’s going
to be busy for them soon
considering the
time now.

Robin saw him to the door. She
initially
wanted to say something, but
she then
dismissed the idea upon seeing
that he hadn’t
even noticed that she’d
followed him out.

John then hailed a taxi and left,

but she
stood by the door and stared
for a long while
before turning around and
returning to the
shop.

At this time, Sophia had already
gone to the
counter and started prepping.

After a
moment's contemplation,
Robin went over to
her.

“John spent the night at
your house
yesterday?”

The Returning Ex Chapter 592
Pursing her lips, Sophia
murmured in assent.

After a long time had passed,
Robin then
commented,
“Ian will surely
feel aggrieved
when he learns about it.
”

Sophia was startled, at a loss as
to what this
matter had to do with Ian.
After saying that, Robin then
smacked her

lips.

“Anyhow, it’ll be scandalous if the two of you still live together when you’re divorced.

”

Sophia heaved a sigh.

“How I wish John shares the same sentiments as you do!” He isn’t bothered whether it’ll be scandalous. A headache assailed her when she recalled his unabashed behavior last night. Meanwhile, John went back to Sophia’s house in the taxi. He’d long since taken his luggage upstairs, and he wasn’t planning to carry it back down either. He merely came back to straighten up the kitchen. While Sophia had deleted his fingerprint for the door lock to her place, he still remembered the password. Thus, the lock couldn’t possibly

keep him out.

After he was done cleaning up,
he then left
and hailed a taxi back to
Constance
Residence. Old Mrs. Constance
knew that he
was back ages ago, so she
cackled as soon as
he stepped foot into the house.

“You finally
found your way home, huh?”
Walking over, John parked his
butt on the
sofa and stretched.

“I arrived
too late last
night, so I didn’t come home
immediately.

”

Old Mrs. Constance was
listening to music,
appearing very much laid-back,
but she had a
retort ready.

“Enough of your
excuses. Did
you think I’m oblivious to your
thoughts?”

At this, John laughed and went
over to wrap

an arm around her shoulder.

“You know me
best, Grandma.
”

Casting him a glance out of the
corner of her
eye, Old Mrs. Constance then
commented,

“Nonetheless, I’ve got to
remind you to take
things easy. Sophia is no longer
as easy-going
as before, so be mindful of her
temper. Else,
it won’t end well for you.
”

John nodded.

“Got it. I’m now
testing the
boundaries bit by bit so that I’ll
know how
far I can go.

” Sophia had
changed
tremendously, so he couldn’t
quite figure her
out. Besides, that woman
always has a
mercurial temper toward me. In
many a thing,
she might not have much of a

reaction when
it involves someone else, but
when I'm the
person in question, she goes
ballistic! This is
truly worrying.

Old Mrs. Constance then asked
whether he
had eaten, to which he
murmured an
affirmation and replied,
"I've
eaten. I only
came back to see you, so I'll be
going to the
office in a bit."
"

After giving her assent, Old Mrs.
Constance
then said,
"Oh yes, do talk to
Dylan if you see
him at the office. Your aunt was
insistent on
arranging a blind date for him
last night, but
he refused to go. The two of
them then
exchanged words. Your aunt
came over early
in the morning and told me that

she's a touch
worried, so just try talking to
him. It's for
his own good, so he shouldn't
let it come
between them.

”

John froze for a moment before
agreeing to
do so.

“Got it. I'll talk to him if I
see him.

”

He didn't tarry long at
Constance Residence.
After retrieving his car, he
drove to the
office. Alas, he was then stuck
in a traffic
jam. Traffic came to a head long
before he'd
reached the traffic light. He
couldn't see
what had happened ahead, but
many people
alighted from their cars and
walked to the
front for a look before coming
back while
cursing aloud. It was impossible
to turn the

car around and take another route at this stretch of road since there was nowhere to execute a U-turn in front. Hence, everyone had no choice but to remain in this standstill traffic.

After mulling it over, John alighted from the car and languidly made his way to where a crowd was gathered ahead. The accident didn't occur at the intersection, for the two cars collided well before the junction.

Judging from the condition of the cars, it wasn't an accident but a battle of wills with both cars deliberately slamming into each other. At present, both car owners had alighted from their respective cars and were tearing into the other. Walking over for a look, John

cracked up.

Sally Morgan! Hmm, this is a nice turn of events. It'll take the edge off my anxiety. He didn't recognize the person who was squabbling with Sally, but the person seemed even fiercer than her, outright calling her a sl*t.

The Returning Ex Chapter 593
Standing at the side, John looked on with his arms crossed. Meanwhile, Sally then stopped cursing, probably exhausted from all the shouting she'd done. However, the moment she shifted her gaze, she caught sight of John. Immense displeasure suffused her at his blatant enjoyment of the show.

In a bad mood to begin with, her temper instantly spiked upon spotting an

acquaintance. She stared in his direction, but she didn't dare rush at him, merely snapping at the people near him, "What are you all looking at? What's so interesting here?"

Chastising voices rang out around her, condemning the two of them for inconveniencing others because of their row.

However, Sally wasn't the slightest bit bothered. Whirling around, she took a baseball bat out of the trunk of her car and made a beeline for the woman who was bickering with her though her gaze remained fixed on John.

The woman wasn't afraid, sticking out her neck by standing there without budging an inch.

“Why, do you want to kill me? Let me remind you that there are a lot of witnesses here!”

Sally cast John a glance before she brought the baseball bat down on the woman’s head.

At the same time, she snarled, “You just had to stick your nose into my affairs, huh?

That’ll teach you!” These words were

probably meant for John.

She has probably found some evidence

pointing to me and Logan secretly

investigating her, or more accurately

speaking, the Morgan Family.

However, John

didn’t give a whit about that.

When everyone

around them shrieked the moment Sally

struck the woman down with the baseball bat,

he even smirked.

Standing there, Sally's emotions went haywire at the sight of his smirking countenance. She'd been sh*t out of luck recently, everything going to hell in a handbasket—her work, life, and just about everything else. This had never happened to her before, so she knew that someone had to be sabotaging her. She did have some brains at times, so she hastily sought out Leah and had her investigate the matter to ascertain whether someone was setting her up behind her back. Sally hadn't much knowledge of such things, but Leah was another story. As soon as she heard about it, a light bulb went off in her head, and she promptly contacted someone to

investigate everything
that had happened on her side.
In reality, they didn't really
unearth much,
merely the fact that Logan
played a minor
part in everything that had
happened with
the Morgan Family, but John's
involvement
seemed to have ceased
midway.

Sally understood why Logan
would be involved
since Leah set him up back then.

He was a
person who'd never allow
himself to be at a
disadvantage, so it was
understandable that
he wanted revenge. John,
however, was an
enigma to her.

She couldn't figure out why he
butted into
the matter since his relationship
with Ian
was strained, so it didn't make
sense for him
to sabotage them for Ian's sake.
Leah then

enlightened her that he probably did so because of Sophia, but that made even less sense. They were divorced, so why would he do that?

Flinging the baseball bat onto the ground, Sally pursed her lips, looking exceedingly defiant.

“You want to sabotage me? I’ll tell you what, dream on! I definitely have a way to make you pay a hundred or even a thousand times over!”

Hugging his arms, John appeared wholly unruffled, very much at odds with others who were in a flurry of panic around him. Sally had never known reality for all its cruelty since she was used to having her own way, so she didn’t seem to realize that she’d done

something to rile the public up. Someone had already called the police and reported a traffic accident here, but now, it was no longer a mere traffic accident. The traffic police happened to arrive at this time, but they were stunned at the sight of the situation here.

Onlookers had long since taken out their cell phones to film Sally's misdemeanor, but she wasn't at all intimidated, holding her head high instead. I like people like her who remain ignorant in the face of imminent disaster!

The Returning Ex Chapter 594

How nice! It's only when one is ignorant can

one be fearless. John was already gratified

at the turn of events so far.

Hence, he spun

on his heels and headed back to his car.

Meanwhile, shouts continued ringing out, the situation extremely chaotic.

With so many witnesses, Sally Morgan is truly in hot water this time!

After slipping back into his car, he reclined in his seat and gazed at the cars before him.

Shortly after that, the cars ahead of him started moving slowly, so he followed suit.

When he drove past the spot where the accident transpired, he could see that the injured party had already been carried to the roadside to await the arrival of the ambulance, while Sally had also been restrained.

When the traffic police arrived, there were only two of them, and one of them had to direct the traffic. The remaining

**officer
couldn't subdue Sally at all
since she made a
scene and kept everyone away
from her. It
was so bad that some people
just couldn't sit
on their hands. Parking their
cars by the
road, they went over and
twisted her arm
while pinning her down against
the divider at
the side.**

**No matter how aggressive she
was, she was
still a woman at the end of the
day, so she
couldn't break free when
restrained. Hence,
she resorted to cussing them
out.**

**Upon seeing that she was acting
out, the
person who was pinning her
down gave her no
quarter by holding her head
down with his
other hand and contorting her
entire body
into a pretzel. At this, she finally**

zipped her
mouth.

Chuckling, John wound up his
car window and
drove off to the office. It was
busy at the
office, and Zack wasn't yet
aware that John
had already returned.

John spotted Zack heading to
his office with
a document in hand when he
stepped out of
the elevator, so he called out to
him at once,
startling him.

"You're back?
Didn't you say
you
'd only be back in a few days?"

Nodding, John went into his
office, followed
by Zack.

"What happened? Did
it go badly?
And you came back alone?"
John grunted in affirmation.

"I
came back
alone. Anyway, it went well,
and it wasn't a

difficult collaboration in the first place.

”

There were some documents that had been processed on his desk, pending his approval.

Striding over, he briefly flipped through them before shifting his gaze to Zack.

“How was the past few days? Was it hectic?”

Zack shook his head.

“Nope, it was rather idle. I noticed that the other managers didn’t really go out to entertain clients either.

”

John nodded.

“Alright, then. I brought some documents back, so have a look at these first. I’ve done a screening of the basic data for the collaboration this time. Just look

them over and integrate everything.

”

Taking the documents from him, Zack then

studied him, his expression slightly different

now. Lowering his voice, he asked,

“You came back early by yourself?” When John said

nothing, he could somehow guess his thoughts.

“Was it because of Sophia?”

This time, John didn’t pull a long face. He

merely stared at Zack nonchalantly, so Zack continued,

“Actually, I went over to Sophia’s shop for a look while you were gone on your business trip during the past few days.

There’s nothing unusual. She’s really on her best behavior these days.

”

A few seconds later, John answered,

“I

know.

”

Zack pondered for a moment before sighing.

“Sophia is actually quite an insecure lady. I

think she sometimes acts differently than

how she truly feels. Well,

women always love

saying the opposite of what they mean.

Therefore, you shouldn't take it to heart

even if she treats you contemptuously.

”

The corners of John's mouth twitched.

“You

speak as though you're an expert.

”

At this, chagrin flooded Zack.

“I'm really an

expert. I've spent an inordinate amount of

time with women recently, so
I've figured
them out. Everything I said is
true. You'
ve
got to believe me.
”

John waved a dismissive hand.
“Alright, go
and get busy. I know what to do
about my own
affairs. Look how anxious you
are.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 595
Raking a hand through his hair,
Zack
chortled.
“I'm really anxious
when I see the
two of you at such an impasse.
”

Then, he left
the room with the documents.
John chuckled lightly. Who isn't
anxious? I
myself am anxious, but some
things can't be
resolved in haste. I've done a
few foolish
things in the past, which is why

I end up
boxing myself into a passive
state of affairs
now. Sighing, he then lowered
his head and
started perusing the
documents.

Meanwhile, Sophia plopped
onto the chair for
a rest after having bustled
around. She was
feeling crummy, but she
couldn't quite
pinpoint what exactly was ailing
her. My head
seems to be spinning, but it
then feels as
though it's gastric reflux, and at
the same
time, it also feels like a
stomachache.

Anyway, it feels complicated.
Robin was sitting beside her,
but her
exuberance earlier had all but
vanished.

Instead, she appeared a tad
distracted.
After a while, Sophia turned
and looked at
her.

**“If it’s too busy in the
afternoon, you
can just close up. I’m going
home first. I
don’t feel quite good.
”**

**Robin was startled, making it
glaringly
obvious that she’d zoned out
just now.**

**Staring at Sophia, she asked,
“What’s
wrong?”**

**Thumping her chest, Sophia
answered,**

**“I
can
’t quite explain it, but I just feel
worn
out. I probably didn’t get
enough rest
yesterday, so I’ll just go home
and catch
some Zs.
”**

**Her remark of not getting
enough rest had
Robin’s imagination running
wild. John stayed
overnight at Sophia’s place last
night, and she**

didn't get enough rest... Robin
pursed her lips.

"Did you and John—"

Truly bone-tired, Sophia didn't
catch what
she said. Getting to her feet,
she waved at
Robin.

"I'm going home first.

Just close up if
you can

't handle things. It's fine.

" Thus,

Robin

couldn't do anything else but
nod.

Sophia then left and hailed a
taxi, but her

head felt heavy throughout the
ride. Even

when she arrived home, she
had no idea how

she made it into the house.

Anyhow, the

moment she caught sight of the
sofa, she

staggered over and lay down.

Then, she slumbered until
someone tried

waking her. While she was
feeling woozy, she

felt someone helping her up
before touching
her forehead. Disgruntled, she
reached out
and slapped the hand away.
“Go away.”
”

After a moment’s
contemplation, John
scooped Sophia up and went
upstairs with her
in his arms in a few strides. Her
temperature
feels normal to me. He then
placed her on the
bed.

“What’s wrong? Are you
not feeling
well?”

However, she merely turned
over without
responding at all. Subsequently,
he sat down
beside her. It truly seems as
though
something’s wrong with her.
She didn’t even
notice it when I entered the
house, nor did
she respond even after I’d
called her name

several times. After sitting for a while, he glanced at the time and went downstairs again.

Meanwhile, Sophia had a truly good sleep.

When she next woke up, it was already afternoon. My mind feels much clearer now.

She got up and stretched before going downstairs, only to be greeted by the sight of John standing downstairs with another man. Shocked, she demanded, "Why are you here again, John?"

John merely turned and glanced at her. Then, he said to the person in front of him, "Thank you.

" The person then waved at him and left with a box in his hand. At long last, John pivoted and hurried over to her.

Staring at
her, he suggested,
“Go back up.
I’ve boiled
some soup, so I’ll bring you a
bowl later.”

At this, Sophia frowned.
“What
are you
doing? And who was that man
earlier?”

John looked at her thoughtfully.

“That was a
doctor friend of mine. I asked
him to come
and check you over. You must
have been
deeply asleep just now since
you didn’t sense
anything at all.”

Sophia had indeed slept like a
log earlier, for
she had absolutely no idea that
someone
entered her house.
Climbing a few steps further,
John wrapped
an arm around her shoulder
and led her back

to her room.

“You were near
comatose in your
sleep just now, so I asked
someone to come
and check you over. Fortunately,
nothing’s
wrong with you.

”

The Returning Ex Chapter 596

Sophia’s temperature was
normal, and her
blood pressure was fine, so the
doctor said
that she might have been too
exhausted
recently. Then, John
remembered that he
came over in the middle of the
previous night
and gave her a fright. She
probably didn’t
sleep well for the rest of the
night, so this is
all my fault.

Sophia was indeed feeling tired,
so when she
got back to her room, she
climbed back into
bed after a moment’s
deliberation.

**“I don’t
feel like eating now. You may
leave. I’ll just
rest for a while before going
down and
cooking myself something when
I’m hungry.**

”

**How could I possibly leave
when she’s in such
a condition? Walking over, he
sat down on the
edge of the bed.**

**“Go ahead and
sleep. I’ll
keep watch here.**

”

**Upon hearing this, Sophia
scoffed. What’s
there to keep watch of? At
present, no one
else would enter this house
besides him!**

**However, she wasn’t in the
mood to bicker
with him, so she turned over
and dozed off
groggily.**

**After contemplating it for some
time, John
lay down beside her. Sophia**

wasn't the only
one who hadn't gotten much
rest last night,
for he himself didn't sleep well.
Since he
harbored secrets, his sleep was
naturally
fitful.

A few heartbeats later, he
slowly hugged her
from the back and drifted off as
well. As the
atmosphere was too peaceful
and the air too
tranquil, the two of them
slumbered until
dusk fell.

John was the first to rouse
when the sky
outside was already slightly
dark. Glancing at
the time, he then hurried
downstairs. The
soup had long gone cold, so he
reheated it.

Just when he'd turned off the
stove, the cell
phone in his pocket rang.
Fishing it out, he
checked the caller ID before
answering the

call.

“What do you have to report?”

It was a woman’s voice on the other end, sounding very much coquettish.

“Are you busy, Mr. Constance?” John said nothing, so she continued, “There’s nary a problem.

Several days have passed, but I haven’t noticed anything amiss.

”

John gave it some thought before replying, “Just wait. Since they’re so imperturbable, we must be patient as well.

”

At this, a sigh came from the other end of the phone.

“It’s just a bit of a torture since I loathe waiting.

”

Taking a bowl, John scooped some soup which

he made by following the instructions on the Internet step by step. He then tried some himself. It's not exactly gourmet, but it doesn't taste awful either. I suppose it's good for my first attempt. I just hope it passes muster with Sophia.

The woman probably heard the clinking sounds from John's end, for she then giggled.

"You're in the kitchen, Mr. Constance?" When John remained mum, she sighed. "I wonder who the lucky woman is."
"

At this point, John became a tad impatient.

"I'm hanging up if there's nothing from you. I'm busy over here."
"

Sensing his irritation, the woman on the other end hurriedly tittered. "Alright,

alright, got it. I'll go and toil for
you right
away.
”

John hung up without a word.
Then, he
carried the bowl of soup
upstairs. This time,
Sophia had truly gotten her fill
of sleep, for
her mind was much clearer than
before when
she sat up. Stretching, she
remarked,
“I
might have been too fatigued
lately, which is
why I'm suffering from sleep
deprivation,
leading to my body protesting
by shutting
down.
”

John placed the soup on the
bedside table.
Wetting a towel, he then wiped
Sophia's face
and hands, treating her like a
princess.
Sophia didn't refuse either,
merely staring at

him as he served her presently.

“Who taught
you this?”

John chuckled.

“How is it? Are
you
satisfied?”

Looking at him thoughtfully,

Sophia

answered,

“Not bad. If you
apply for a job
with such skills, you might even
earn some
tips.

”

When John was done, he spun
around and
went to the bathroom to hang
up the towel.

“Apply for a job? I’m only this
tender with
you. If it were someone else, I
wouldn’t even
bother.

”

Sophia said nothing further.

After all, she

was currently famished since
she’d only eaten

a few dumplings earlier. Having

eaten nothing
till dusk, she was feeling really
weak. John
quickly brought the soup to her.
“Don’t tire
yourself out. Look what a scare
you gave me
today.
”

The Returning Ex Chapter 597
When John came in that time,
he was
greeted by the sight of Sophia
dead to the
world on the sofa, appearing as
though
something tragic had happened
to her. Later
on, she didn’t respond no
matter how he tried
rousing her, so he almost
carried her out to
the car before heading to the
hospital.
Sophia didn’t say anything.
Since she was
starving, she didn’t disdain the
soup he made
and slowly drank it. As she was
all sweaty
when she’d finished the soup,

she then
ordered him,
“Go out. I want to
take a
shower.
”

This time, John didn't argue
with her, merely
taking the bowl from her before
leaving.

Locking the door behind him,
Sophia then
promptly took a shower. Ah,
I've finally
washed the weariness off me!
After she came out, she
changed and stood
by the window. While toweling
her hair, she
gazed at John who was in the
courtyard,
watering the plants with a
serious expression
on his face. This is a picture that
would'
ve
never manifested in the past. In
his life back
then, it seemed that work was
the only thing
that existed for him.

I actually did a lot of things to win his favor, but he either didn't care or didn't notice it.

He mostly preferred to turn a blind eye to the mundane things of everyday life.

Thus, she was truly astounded to see him presently watering the plants seriously and even cooking. It seems that he has finally gotten a taste of the masses at this time.

She then opened the window. Propping herself by the windowsill, she gazed out.

Meanwhile, John spotted her as soon as he looked up after watering the plants. Sophia wasn't looking at him but gazing out at the horizon in the distance, her hair that was still damp falling casually around her. She looks quite beautiful at this

moment. His head remained lifted as he stared at her intently, a smile playing on his lips.

After a while, Sophia flipped her hair before spinning around and disappearing from view.

All at once, John's control snapped, and he burst out laughing. She must have sensed my gaze and grown embarrassed.

Besides impatience, she has finally exhibited some other emotion toward me. Whirling around, he then went back into the living room. Subsequently, he looked up as he stood at the landing.

"Sophia, what should we eat for dinner? I'm not good at cooking yet, so would you like to have takeaway?"

Sophia only came down after some time, her

movements unhurried.

“I’m fine

now, so you

may leave. I’ll settle dinner by myself.

”

In the past, John would’ve

surely teased her

by saying that she was dumping him after

having used him, but now, he seemed to have

found an even more effective method. He

outright declared,

“I’m not

leaving. I took

care of you here for the entire afternoon

and even made you soup, yet this is how you

treat me?

I’m staying.

” After saying that,

he went to

the refrigerator and rummaged around.

“If

you don’t want to eat takeaway,

we can cook

something. I think I can try my

hand.

”

Sophia rolled her eyes at him.

“I’ll do it.

”

Straightening, John looked on
as she came

over and took out some

vegetables from the

refrigerator. In the next

moment, he hastily

snatched them from her.

“I’ll do

the washing.

You just need to cook later.

”

Sophia stared at him, but she

didn’t rebuff

him in the end. He has indeed

taken care of

me today, so I’ll just consider

this as... as...

Never mind, it’s no use

overthinking it!

John then washed the

vegetables, while

Sophia cooked rice, both

working well

together. While they were still

bustling

about, Logan drove over. Before

he'd even
stepped foot into the house,
he'd started
yelling,
"Are you not feeling
well, Sophia?
I went to your shop, and Robin
said you went
home since you were feeling
out of sorts.

What's wrong?" His voice was
so thunderous
that even someone on the
second floor would
have heard him loud and clear.
Ignoring him, Sophia continued
cooking. When
Logan came in, he heard
movement in the
kitchen, so he rushed over in
the blink of an
eye.

The Returning Ex Chapter 598
Stunned, Logan gaped at John.

"John? Why
are you here?"
John was cleaning up at the sink,
so he didn't
look at him.
"Why can't I be
here? You came

over, after all.

”

Logan tutted.

“I came over because Sophia is my friend. You’re her ex-husband, so why are you so diligent in coming over?”

After a moment’s contemplation, John changed the subject.

“I saw Sally Morgan today. Her car collided with another car, and she bashed the other driver in a fit of fury.

From the look of things, the other person’s injuries are rather severe.

”

His eyes bulging, Logan’s thoughts made a complete U-turn.

“Seriously? I’ve got to investigate this, then! If it’s true, I’m the best at manipulating public opinion. I’ll have her ruined this time!”

John chortled.

**“Sure, I’ll be
waiting.**

”

**Subsequently, Logan went over
and peered at
the pot.**

**“Did you cook extra? I
haven’t had
dinner.**

”

At this, Sophia laughed.

**“Why
didn’t you have
dinner before coming over?”**

Logan harrumphed.

**“I was
coming over to
your place, and it so happened
to be
dinnertime, so I definitely had
to come on an
empty stomach.**

”

**Sophia then handed a dish to
Logan.**

**“Take
this to the dining room.**

**” She’d
cooked extra
on this day, planning to have**

some leftovers
for the next day, but it now
seemed that it
wasn't going to happen.
When everything was done, the
three of
them went to the dining room.
Logan wanted
to know more about Sally's
situation, so he
kept pestering John about it.
John languidly
related everything he saw in
brief, but Logan
wasn't at all satisfied.
Mulling it over, he then hastily
made a phone
call and asked someone to
investigate this
matter. After he'd done so, he
rubbed his
hands and declared that he
once again had a
goal in life.
Chuckling in exasperation,
Sophia looked at
him.
"If you've got so much
energy, Logan, you
can actually think about solving
your own

problems. It's a waste to always spend your time on someone else, so do consider your own issues.

”

Logan was startled.

“My own issues? I don't need to consider anything since I'm doing pretty well.

”

However, Sophia pursed her lips.

“Were you hurt in the past? By a girl perhaps?”

Logan nodded before shaking his head in the next instance.

“I was hurt in the past, but it's not what you think. I've got no interest in women after seeing those four women in my family. Really, I think it doesn't matter even if I were to spend the rest of my life alone.

”

Upon hearing this, John guffawed.

“Does your old man not nag you?”

“Nope.

” Then, Logan expounded plainly,

“He said I’ll only ruin a good lady, so he told me to behave myself and to spend my life alone.

”

Sophia couldn’t help laughing at this.

“Your old man is rather shrewd.

”

When they’d finished eating after endless chatter, Logan and John parked their butts onto the sofa. While watching television, they discussed manipulating the incident over at the Morgan Family. Meanwhile, Sophia went back to her room. She first changed into her

pajamas, but for some reason, she was again assaulted by a wave of nausea. I indeed ate while talking earlier, so I gorged myself considering I haven't eaten much earlier during the day. However, I'm not stuffed to the point of retching. This is a bit too much. Inhaling deeply, she then went over to the window and opened it. A cool breeze hit her, alleviating her nausea. However, it was only a momentary respite, for she again felt nauseated after a while. Inwardly sucking in a breath, she then went to the bathroom and rinsed her mouth before propping her hands against the sink, waiting. A moment later, nausea rose again.

The Returning Ex Chapter 599
Sophia took a deep breath, but

still, she
couldn't help throwing up. She
then promptly
rinsed her mouth before
turning on the
faucet and washing her face.

I've got gastric
problems, and it's a chronic
illness at that, so
this is probably my gastric
problems rearing
its head again.

Sure enough, I've got to take
good care of
myself. I've just slacked off a bit,
and my
body is already staging a
protest, kicking up
such a fuss!

After a while, she went
downstairs. John and
Logan were still there. During a
lull in the
conversation, John glanced at
her, only to be
taken aback.

"What's wrong?
You look
exceedingly pale.
"

Sophia went to the kitchen to

**boil some
water.**

**“Gastric problems.
”**

**John had once witnessed her
long-standing
gastric problems when she even
vomited
blood at Tri Asel back then. His
brows
creased.**

**“Do you have any
medicine here?”**

**Actually, there wasn't any
medicine here, but**

**Sophia didn't want to take any,
so she
replied,**

**“Yes. I just took some
medicine, but**

**it doesn't seem to have gone
down properly.**

**It's stuck in my throat, making
me feel**

**rather discomfited, so I'll just
drink some**

**water to wash it down.
”**

**There were no flaws in her
words, so John
didn't think too much of it.**

After boiling some water,
Sophia drank some
in the kitchen, upon which her
stomach felt
somewhat better. Then, she
went back
upstairs. She initially planned to
lie on the
bed and scroll through her cell
phone for a
while, but once she climbed
into bed, a rush
of drowsiness immediately
swept over her.
Losing her temper, she swore
before putting
down her cell phone. Ignoring
Logan and John,
she got up and locked the door
before hitting
the sack. She had no idea when
the people
downstairs left, for she slept
right through
the night.
When she woke up the next day,
the sun was
already shining brightly outside.
As she sat
up, her mind still felt fuzzy, but
she then got

out of bed to wash up after
darting her gaze
around. However, the moment
the toothpaste
went into her mouth, the same
wave of
nausea rose within her.
She sucked in a breath, finding
it a tad
strange. I've been having gastric
problems
for years on end, but it has
never felt like
this. Gazing at herself in the
mirror, nausea
abruptly assailed her, but it was
flitting, for
it was then gone in the next
instance.
She hurriedly washed up. When
she came out,
she took out her cell phone and
did a search.
However, her symptoms were
too broad, so a
myriad of answers popped out
after her
search. She stared at the
topmost result,
her gaze intensely serious.
She then gave Robin a call and

said that she wouldn't be going over to the shop that morning since she had something to do. Used to such behavior from her, Robin instantly murmured an acknowledgment. Sophia dawdled for a long while before changing. Then, she headed to the hospital. When she did the registration, she kept wavering, uncertain whether she should have her stomach or some other part checked. Although it was more likely that she was having gastric problems, she felt that some things couldn't be ignored. Thus, she went to the gynecology department after turning the matter over in her mind. It was slightly late in the day when she arrived, so many people were waiting for

their turns. She was somewhere
at the end
of the queue with a dozen
people before her.

Finding a seat, she then sat
down, her mind
blank.

Actually, there were plenty of
things she
couldn't really figure out, so she
just couldn't
fathom how such a possibility
existed. She
waited for a long time before
her name was
finally called.

When Sophia went in, she was
greeted by a
young female doctor who was
wearing a mask,
her expression a tad rigid. The
doctor
inquired about her ailment, to
which Sophia
licked her lips before answering,
"I often
feel sleepy and nauseous."
"

Studying her, the doctor could
already guess
what she wanted to ascertain.

After all, she came to the gynecology department and described the typical symptoms, so there wasn't any other possibility. Hence, the doctor typed out her recommendation on her computer right away. "Go and have a blood test. You'll know for sure whether you're pregnant when the results are out."

Initially, Sophia had wanted to ask whether it was a misinterpretation on her part and whether it could have been caused by her gastric problems since she'd been suffering from the ailment for more than a decade.

The Returning Ex Chapter 600 Since the doctor had already handed her a slip, Sophia swallowed her superfluous question. With the slip in hand,

she went to
the blood test room. It was
almost noon, so
only a few people were left, and
she had her
blood taken right away. Looking
at the
receipt, she then saw that the
results would
be out in the afternoon itself.
She wasn't quite certain how
she left the
hospital, and at such a time, she
wasn't in the
mood to go to the shop either.
As she walked,
she stopped intermittently
before finally
calling it a day at a bus stop.
Plopping down
onto the bench there, she
stared ahead at
the cars coming and going.
It'll be too much if I'm truly
pregnant. It was
a safe period for me back then,
and even if
I'm pregnant, it won't be
apparent so quickly,
no? From what I see on the
television, the

symptoms will only appear a little after a month. She pulled at her hair. It's probably my overactive imagination. I never took any steps to prevent pregnancy before the divorce, yet I never got pregnant. At one point, I even suspected whether I was barren. Thus, how could I possibly be when it was my safe period then? This is just maddening!

Sophia sat there until noon when a call came in from John. Through the line, he said he was at her shop before bombarding her with questions—why she didn't go to the shop; where she was; whether she was still having gastric problems. At his barrage of questions, she didn't quite know which to answer. Sighing, she then

massaged her temples.

“I’m
outside, but
there’s no taxi now.
”

At this, John promptly asked,
“Where are
you? I’ll come and drive you.
”

Sophia then
told him her location, upon
which he asked
her to wait for a while before
hanging up the
phone.

Putting her cell phone away,
Sophia then
stroked her stomach, her head
feeling heavy.

Meanwhile, over at the shop,
John bid Robin
farewell and made to leave
after ending his
call with Sophia. Robin hurried
over to him.

“Are you going to look for
Sophia?”

John grunted in affirmation.

“She’s outside,
so I’m going to drive her.
”

Upon hearing this, Robin pursed her lips.

“Sophia has a boyfriend now, so won’t it be inappropriate if you were to drive her?”

John was startled.

“Are you referring to Ian Morgan?”

Robin quickly nodded.

“Ian has even made a public display of affection toward Sophia during his show. Thus, Sophia will be caught in a difficult position if you do this, and it’ll also affect her relationship with Ian.

”

“Ian Morgan?” John snorted.

“You’re the only one who believes his delusions.

”

All at once, bewilderment swamped Robin.

“What do you mean?” Without further

explanation, John strode to his car and drove away.

Robin was left standing at the door, staring in the direction where he'd gone until he disappeared from sight. Her expression was slightly dejected, her exuberance when he came over earlier all but gone at this moment.

John, on the other hand, paid no heed to Robin's words, driving straight to the location Sophia gave him. When he arrived, he saw Sophia sitting on the bench at the bus stop, looking very much drowsy since she had her head tilted, still as a statue herself. Stopping the car, he then walked over to her.

Sophia didn't notice his presence at all, so he went over and stood before her. Still, her

head remained lowered, her hair falling to the front. Gazing at her for a while, his heart softened. Her petite and lean stature really tugs at my heartstrings.

“Sophia,
” he called out.

Sophia slowly raised her head.

“You’re here, John?” She seemed really sleepy, and she even lifted a hand to slap herself on the forehead.

“Let’s go.
”

Sighing in exasperation, John reached out and helped her to her feet, supporting her all the way to the car. Even after they’d gotten into the car, he was still worried.

“Are you not feeling well? How about I drive you to the hospital for a checkup?” Sophia reclined against her seat.

**“I’ve been
to the hospital. The doctor said
that my
blood pressure and blood sugar
levels are too
low, but I’m fine otherwise.
”**

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