

## Chapter 141

“Stand right there!” Zedd’s unpleasant voice rang from behind me. “What do you think you’re doing, Wanda Lane?”

I stopped, turned around, and looked at him. “Am I not clear enough? As a wife, I’ve done all that I’m supposed to do. Since Ms. Reed, the mistress, strongly insists on doing everything else that comes after this, I’ll take my leave. I know my place. Why is that wrong?”

“Remarkable speech.” Zedd scoffed. “I thought you claimed to love Theo so much? He’s still in the operating room yet you can’t wait to leave. Is this the attitude you should have as a wife?”

I could not help but laugh as I shot a look at Cindy, saying, “I do love him. That’s why when I learned my husband got into an accident when he was on a date with his mistress, I came as soon as I could to fulfill my marital duties as a wife to sign the consent form so his treatment wouldn’t be delayed. This will be the last time I show affection toward him.”

“Wanda Lane, you cruel woman! You don't deserve to be Theowy's wife.” After hearing what I had to say, Cindy interrupted hastily.

I looked at her and saw how upset she was at the injustice. I nodded and said, “You're right, I am cruel, but not cruel enough, I reckon. I shouldn't have come here. I should be at home, praying for you star-crossed lovers to make your journey to heaven together.”

“Shut up, you evil woman! Do you even have a conscience? It's a waste that Theo is so good to you.” Zedd could not bear to hear me curse at Cindy, so he stepped up to reprimand me.

“Just like what you've seen, I don't have a conscience!” I looked at the closed doors of the operating room after I was done speaking. I walked past them and exited the hospital.

It felt like there was a lump in my throat, so I wandered on the streets until about three in the afternoon before I went back to the office.

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● soon as I reached my office, Heidi followed me in and took out an agreement. "Wanda, here's the agreement with Newlight. Since President Grant isn't here and it has been agreed upon earlier, will you sign it?"

The uneasiness in my heart increased. I lifted my eyes and looked at her meaningfully. I did not say a word.

Heidi was uncomfortable under my scrutiny and hurriedly added, "Newlight has been pushing us to sign the agreement since it was delayed from all the previous amendments. They called again today and said that if we're not going to sign the agreement, they would release a statement saying that Grant Corporation is a liar and went against their word..."

"Benny Sherman's your boyfriend, right?" My voice was ice-cold.

Heidi instinctively took a few steps back, her face was instantly ashen.

I paid no attention to her as I continued, "It's been a while since I mingled in the entertainment industry. I nearly forgot that Benny Sherman is the VP of

Newlight Media.”

Heidi started to tremble, and she lowered her head as she remained silent.

I glanced at her and sighed. “You’ve been working for me since you graduated. It’s been about three years? I thought I’ve been pretty kind to you, especially regarding your salary and benefits. Your workload should be relatively light compared to your other colleagues.”

“Wanda, I...” Heidi’s face was flushed red.

I stared at her and did not continue further. “I’m sure you know how important the release of new products is for Grant Corporation. Now with Xander, the spokesperson, being the target of slander online, it has affected Grant Corporation significantly. Theo has called the project to halt, yet you’re asking me to sign Newlight’s agreement in his absence...”

“I’m sorry!” Heidi was humiliated and embarrassed. Her head was still lowered, and she could not stop rubbing her hands together. She looked like she was about to burst into tears.

She had been by my side for such a long time. I did not want to pick on her more than I had. "Theo is still investigating the incident with the rumors from before. I hope you know what to do so you won't be a target of his investigations, or things might get ugly."

That was all I had to say. After I was done, I looked down so she was no longer in my sight. A nudge was all it needed for a clever person to understand the situation. I hope she understood what I meant.

I was not daft. When Theo had mentioned to me that he would investigate this matter and brought me to dinner with President Sherman and his family, I got a gist that something was not right. However, I was still uncertain. Apart from Heidi, Xander and the other crew members knew about the last business trip too.

Heidi's eagerness earlier confirmed my suspicions.

Since Heidi has been with me for so many years, I knew her well. The only thing that would change her was a man.

I was sure Zedd was involved in this too since I had overheard his argument with Theo the other time.

Heidi betrayed me because Newlight was behind this. The purpose behind Zedd framing me was probably to chase me out of the company.

The two of them were working together to put the blame on me once the sales of our new products dipped from Xander's scandal. That way, they could get me to leave the company. When that happened, it would be perfectly reasonable for Newlight Media to request for Sandy to be the new spokesperson.

This was why Theo had called the entire thing to a halt, but he did not explain to me. Why?

I was growing increasingly frustrated the more I thought about it. I asked Heidi to go ahead and work outside my office as I sat here idly all alone.

Suddenly, there was a knock on the door.

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“Come in.” I sat up straight and brightened up, thinking that it would be another employee.

Instead, Xander pushed open my door. He had a mask and a cap on. He was like a thief sneaking in, crouching on the floor. He closed the door behind him.

“I was almost caught, it was so scary!” Once he sat down on the chair, he lightly hammered his chest and exclaimed loudly.

“You’re dressed like this on a hot and sunny day. You’ll only garner more attention.” I looked at his outfit and frowned.

“What can I do? Fans used to chase after me because they love me. Now, I’m being chased around by paparazzi, reporters, and whoever else wants to take photos of me.” Xander was sprawled in the chair with an expression that seemed to say he was better off dead.

He was being seriously slandered

recently, causing all his work to come to a screeching halt. He had stopped showing his face in public settings as well. People were desperate to take his photos. The paparazzi were hoping to take scandalous photos, while his fans who were concerned about his well-being hired people to take his photos—regardless if it was in secret or not—to know how he was doing.

“You know what the situation is like right now, so you should just stay at home. Why are you out and about?” I replied to Xander exasperatedly.

“That’s because I miss you... I miss eating with you so I wanna bring you out for a meal!”

He took a sip of the water I handed to him and continued, “I was busy previously, so busy I didn’t have time to eat with you. Now that I’m finally free, I gotta grab my chances. Come on, I’ll treat you to a feast tonight.”

“Not hungry, not interested.” I rubbed the space in between my eyes.

He got up and started yanking me out the



door. "Let's go. Look at you, all you do is frown all day looking like you've got the weight of the world on your shoulders. You're pregnant! If this continues, you might have prenatal depression."

He may not have meant what he said, but I felt my heart constrict. Theo's care for me recently had made me forget all about it. The lump I felt in my throat grew. I really could not afford to let things continue.

"What're we eating?" I took up his offer, grabbed my bag, and was about to leave with him.

Xander's face was full of smiles after I had agreed to eat with him. He exclaimed gleefully, "You said you're gonna treat me to surf and turf. Let's have that today!"

Right after stepping out of the door, Xander resumed his sneaking around and trailed behind me. It was fortunate that my office was not too far from the elevator and everyone else was focused on their work. No one paid any attention to Xander and me.

Initially, I did not want to go to the

underground car park, but I went with Xander anyway so we did not garner attention.

I thought that Xander would bring me to somewhere high-class. I was not expecting him to bring me to an old town.

This side of town was old, and the buildings were outmoded. There were a number of newly built factories from the government's decree to expand this area into an economic development zone.

Most of the people residing here were factory workers and their families. The chances of other people coming here were very slim.

Xander saw how shocked I was and said, "Don't judge this area from how it looks. It's a crucial time for me right now so this is the only place I can be now where I won't be recognized. Thing is, there's an alley inside there that's pretty decent. I think you'll like the place. The surf and turf restaurant is right at the end of the alley. The food there tastes really good."

I grew up in a rural farming area, so I would most definitely not despise this

place. On the contrary, I had an odd sense of fondness toward this place.

Xander stopped his car right outside the alley. The walls were very much dated. It was the kind that was made of exposed bricks and stretched all the way into the alley. After a bridge, there was a walkway with newly renovated houses on both sides. Even so, they still looked old-fashioned.

A little stream flowed in the middle of the walkway, and by the shore were flowers of every kind. It was spring now, so I could smell the flowers as we were walking along the stream.

After I saw what was in front of me, tears rolled down my cheeks unexpectedly. "You..."

"I told you you'd like it, right?" Xander's hands were in his pockets as he stood in front of me, smiling.

"How did you know..." Tears brimmed my eyes as I tried to register the shock and joy I was feeling.

This place was painfully similar to the

street I grew up in at my old house. I remember back when I followed my mom to go shopping along a street like this, I used to love splashing my feet in the little stream.

“I know more than you think. I found this area by accident during a shoot. I've wanted to bring you here ever since.”

Xander looked at me, his eyes glimmering with joy instead of the rebellious streak that had always been there. It seemed that it was laced with a tinge of melancholy too.

I did not bother asking him any more questions since I was still flabbergasted from the familiar scenery before me. I quickened my steps as I walked forward.

“Slowly, be careful. Don't fall.” Xander's reminder was loud as it came from behind me.

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It had been such a long time. Cecilia and I had really wanted to go back to the rural farms, but due to the emotional trauma we went through, no matter how much we dreamed about it, we had no courage to step foot there ever again.

I stood by the crystal-clear stream, watching the clear water flow as my thoughts went a thousand miles away...

“Wanda.” Xander’s voice rang out from behind me. I cocked my head toward him.

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