

Chapter 168

"Nothing, I just burnt myself." I had not expected the pot to be so hot. I quickly faked an air of calm although searing pain was now traveling through my index finger.

He picked up my hand and took a look at it. A furious expression took over his face as he asked, "You call this nothing?"

It was only then that I saw there was a white scald wound on my index finger, accompanied by the vague smell of burnt flesh.

The expression on his face was stony as he dragged me into the living room, found the first-aid kit, and took out the burn ointment to apply onto my finger. He blew air on my finger as he applied it. His actions were gentle, but there was an ugly expression on his face. He did not say a word throughout the entire process.

"Um, I didn't do it on purpose. I accidentally..." I began babbling

nervously when I noticed he was angry.

He looked up at me, a furious expression on his handsome face and a cold look in his eyes. "Did anyone ask you to touch it? Didn't you know I had just boiled that soup? Don't you know how much it hurts to be burnt on a hot summer's day?"

I chuckled dryly and waved the hand with ointment on it. "It doesn't hurt anymore now that medicine's been applied to it."

"Hmph!" He glared at me before getting up. "Stay here, and don't move."

I hurriedly nodded.

He returned to the kitchen. Soon after, three dishes and a pot of soup were served on the dining table.

I reached out to grab myself some food but sheepishly retracted my hands and sat still when he glared at me.

He fixed up a plate of food and walked over to me so he could spoon the food into my mouth.

"I can feed myself," I said cautiously. It was just a slight burn on my left hand.

...s just a slight...
There was no need for me to be fed.

“Open your mouth!” The tone of his voice was still chilly. It seemed like he was still angry.

Left with no choice, I opened my mouth. He patiently spooned mouthful after mouthful of food into my mouth, forcing me to eat an entire plate of food and drink up an entire bowl of soup before he was satisfied.

After we finished the meal, he ignored my protests and carried me over to the couch in the living room, where he fed me pieces of cut-up fruit with a toothpick.

I clapped a hand to my forehead. I had learned a long time ago that Theo was very good at taking care of people. If he cared about you, he would take such good care of you that you would never have to lift a finger for yourself again.

“Theo, you’re going to spoil me if you continue like this,” I could not help but say quietly. To be honest, I was terrified. Terrified that I would start to crave his kindness, terrified I would eventually end up losing my sense of self because I could

losing my sense of self because I could
no longer extricate myself from such
feelings.

"I don't mind. I can take care of you if
you get spoiled, anyway," he replied
matter-of-factly.

As I gazed at his impeccably handsome
face and watched him remove the pith
from the oranges for me, I could not help
but smile.

"What are you smiling at?" he asked,
turning to look at me. The cold look in his
eyes was gone, now replaced by a gentle
expression.

"Nothing. Just happened to realize you
look quite handsome when you're
concentrating," I said as I smiled.

"So, you mean to say I'm not handsome at
the other times? It looks like I'll have to
give you a lesson in appreciating
aesthetics. I'm so good-looking, but you
never notice it."

"No need. You're so handsome, no one
can tear their eyes away from you," I said
hurriedly.

He gazed at me. "Am I just handsome?"

He gazed at me. "You're handsome and talented!"

"And?"

"Handsome, talented, and rich."

"Continue!"

"You are unparalleled and unmatched..."

Men could be quite cute when they began acting childishly. When I had finally used up all the adjectives I could think of, he finally stopped grilling me and pulled me into his arms, a satisfied look on his face.

I clapped a hand to my forehead. I had no words left for him.

"That's right. By the way, I have to attend a gathering tonight. Will you be alright staying home alone?" he asked as he looked at me.

Stunned by the sudden change of atmosphere, I remained silent for a while before nodding. "Of course. Do you really think I'm a three-year-old child?"

"Yes, you can only be three years old and no older than that." He reached out to poke my nose, a loving look in his eyes.

poke my nose, a loving look in his eyes.

Too lazy to continue arguing with him, I played with the buttons on his shirt and asked nonchalantly, "What gathering are you attending?"

He lowered his gaze and looked at me. He said, "Cindy and Grayson are returning to Whaldorf City. They've invited a few friends for dinner as a send-off party."

I immediately halted my actions and did not say anything.

He reached out to pinch my nose gently as he said softly, "Don't think too much about it. Not only will Grayson and Petra be there, but Mason and Zedd will be attending too. You don't like occasions like these, I know. I'll return home as quickly as possible."

That was true. I did not like meeting Petra and the others. Sitting back up, I straightened the collar of his shirt and said, "Don't drink too much, and remember to come home quickly. I'll be waiting for you."

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Cindy was a sort of responsibility of Theo's. He would never be able to completely ignore her for the rest of his life. Now, perhaps because of the child or because of other reasons, he treated me quite well. Cindy's departure had been the best ending I could have imagined of. I should have been happy.

"Alright," he answered quietly as he tightened his grip on me.

Since Theo had nothing to do in the afternoon, he hired several handymen. He said they had come to install the crib. Worried I would find the environment noisy, he shooed me into the third-floor bedroom and closed the door behind me, forbidding me to go downstairs.

I indeed did not like being interrupted by strangers, so I decided to ignore them and lounge in bed to read.

Pregnancy made one much more susceptible to falling asleep. I had no idea when I fell asleep, but it was five in the

when I fell asleep, but it was five in the afternoon when I woke up again. My book was now on the bedside table, and someone had pulled a thin blanket over me. Theo must have come in just now.

Listening carefully, I got up and went downstairs when I did not hear any sounds outside.

No one was downstairs. Theo had probably gone out as well.

I made several rounds around the house. Who would have expected the downstairs area of the house to go through a complete makeover in the few hours that had passed? The cupboards used to store antique vases, but most of them had been broken after the last incident. The vases had been replaced by cute decorations now.

Even the couch and dining table had been transformed from their original cool-toned shades to shades that fit a warm color scheme. The living room had instantly become much brighter and more inviting, and its appearance had also become more lively and warm.

Thick carpets had been laid on the stairs.

Thick carpets had been laid on the stairs. As I walked up the stairs to the second floor, I noticed brightly colored paintings of scenery hung up all over the walls.

Pushing open the door to the baby room that he had carefully designed, I saw that the wallpaper had been changed to be a pastel-colored one that appealed to children. Not only had he installed the crib, but he had also paired it with several beautiful decorations. The room looked very warm and inviting.

Tears welled up in my eyes. His unrestrained love made me feel uneasy. I was terrified that this warmth and happiness would be like Cinderella's glass slipper, disappearing the minute the clock struck twelve, and shoving me right back to square one.

Eager to soak up more of his attention, I sat in the baby room and refused to leave until the phone rang.

It was Cecilia. "Where are you, and what are you doing?"

"I'm at home, I just woke up. What's wrong?" I was surprised to hear how panicked she sounded.

"Your husband just got a room with someone else, and you're napping?! Hurry over here!" Cecilia sounded furious and like she was grinding her teeth together as she spoke.

"Don't be so jumpy. What could they get up to in the middle of the day?" I said lazily, leaning against the crib.

"You useless lump, who says they can't do anything in the middle of the day? I watched them walk into the hotel with my two eyes. You'll be too late if you don't come over now," Cecilia said as she panted. She was probably walking as she spoke.

"How can you still wear heels when you're pregnant?" When I heard the sounds of her walking, I knew she must have left the house in high heels.

I lifted my gaze to look at the clock on the wall. It was half past six, so Theo must have been out for several hours now.

"Haven't you been listening to me? Are my shoes what you should be focusing on now? Didn't you hear what I said? I just said your husband has entered a hotel

Did your husband has entered a hotel with Cindy Reed, who is dressed up as lavishly as a peacock. Do you think they're up to any good, entering a hotel at a time like this? Don't you care at all?" Cecilia could not understand my attitude.

I vaguely told her that I understood but quickly changed the topic. "Have you eaten dinner? Do you want to come over and eat with me?"

"You... Never mind. I'll never understand how a woman like you thinks. No, I'm not coming. I'll shop for a while and then go home, I'm tired." She hung up the phone when she finished speaking.

I understood why Cecilia had been baffled by my attitude, but I did not want to say too much and made her worry. She was pregnant now too, after all.

After I hung up the phone, I went downstairs and got ready to take a walk outside.

The sun was setting outside. Although it was still very warm, the sunset was beautiful to watch.

I grew tired after taking a leisurely walk around the house, so I sat down to rest on

ound the house, so I sat down to rest on a recliner in the garden.

Theo had also done a redecoration of this section of the house. Not only had he made the environment feel a lot more cooling, he had also added a lot of flowers around the area. Miss Woods usually took good care of the plants. The countless blooming flowers added an air of relaxation to the scene.

My phone rang again. It was from Theo.

“Are you awake?” his deep, magnetic voice rumbled through the phone the moment I answered the call.

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“Yes.” My nose burned slightly as I quietly answered.

“I ordered you dinner, someone will send it over later. Soup is included, and you should drink some of it.” His end of the line seemed to be very quiet, and I could even hear echoes as he spoke. He had probably stepped out to stand in a corridor to speak to me.

“Alright. Where are you, and what time will you be back?” I felt a wave of emotions rush over me as I gazed at the flowers, feeling a wave of inexplicable warmth and excitement.

“I’m having dinner with the others at the hotel. I’ll try my best to be back soon.” His voice sounded very deep.

We were still talking when I heard someone call out, “Theowy, come in.” It was Cindy’s voice.

“You should go back! I’ll hang up now.” I did not wait for him to say anything else before I hurriedly hung up. I heaved a

Before I hurriedly hung up. I heaved a huge sigh when the call ended. My heart felt as if someone was pinching it slightly. It hurt and stung a little.

At the end of the day, I still greatly minded the affair and could not bring myself to act like my emotions were not all over the place because of it.

The doorbell soon rang. The meal Theo had ordered for me had arrived. I opened the door to receive it and saw that it was a soup dish accompanied by multiple side dishes. They all seemed to boost one's health in one way or the other.

I did not have much of an appetite, so I went upstairs after drinking some soup.

I really liked how the baby's room was decorated and decided to sit on the carpeted floor inside and stare into space. I imagined scenes of him sitting here and talking to our kid, scenes of him reading the child storybooks in the future.

Would there ever be such a day?

There were some things you could not think about in detail lest it leave you depressed.

I did not know how long I had been sitting there when the sound of my phone ringing jerked me back to reality.

It was Zedd. Why was he calling me?

“Wanda Lane, are you deaf? Haven’t you heard me knocking for the last forever?” Zedd exploded before I could even get my bearings.

I was confused. Had there been knocking?

After some time, I finally realized that I was up on the second floor and that I had also closed the bedroom door. Of course I had not been able to hear anything.

Too lazy to argue with him, I hung up the phone and walked back downstairs to open the door.

Zedd glared at me, an ugly expression on his face and Theo’s arm slung across his shoulder. “What were you doing, woman? Don’t you know that he’s very heavy?”

I did not say anything and merely reached over to help support Theo, who was as drunk as a skunk.

was as drunk as a skunk.

“Go away. You’re so tiny, do you really think you can support him?” Zedd huffily said as he walked past me and helped Theo walk into the living room. After depositing Theo on the couch, he told me to ‘take good care of him’ before he walked off without a backward glance.

I did not know what to say in response. If Zedd knew Theo was drunk right now, why had he left him on the couch? Did he want me, a pregnant woman, to cart the man upstairs?

Left with no alternative, I bent down and shook him. “Theo, wake up. Let’s go to bed upstairs.”

He slowly opened his eyes, sitting up on the couch to pull me into his arms. He did not say anything, but he had a painful expression on his face as he narrowed his eyes.

To my eyes, he seemed to be feeling horrible. Reaching out a hand, I stroked his face and asked, “Do you want some water? I’ll go get you some.”

When he heard me speak, he tilted his

When he heard me speak, he tilted his gaze to look at me. His eyes seemed dazed and confused. Finally, he asked, "Are you hungry? I'll take you to get some food."

Then, he stood up. He wobbled on his feet as he tried to drag me out.

"I've already eaten. Sit still and don't move, or you'll fall," I said as I hurriedly grabbed him.

He smiled an extraordinarily broad grin and gazed at me as he said, "Okay, I'll listen to you. I won't move." Then, he sat back down on the couch and straightened his posture.

I could not hold my laughter in. Who would have thought that Theo would be this cute and child-like after getting drunk? Who knew how many drinks he had drunk tonight? He had never acted this way while drunk in the past.

I stood up to get him a glass of water. He reached out, grabbed my arm, and asked nervously, "Where are you going?"

"I'm going to get you some water," I said as I patted him on the shoulder.

"You're not allowed to go anywhere

"You're not allowed to go anywhere without my permission," he said stubbornly as he held my hand, refusing to let me leave.

"Be good. You'll feel better after you've had some water." Despite myself, I could not stop my maternal instincts from kicking in as I watched the way Theo was acting now. My tone had softened considerably.

"Okay, then I'll go with you. I'll go anywhere you go. You're not allowed to leave me." He stood up on shaky legs once again.

I clapped a hand to my forehead. However, left with no other choice, I helped him along as we stumbled to the dining room.

Once I helped him sit down, he dropped his head onto the table and shut his eyes.

It seemed like he had really had a lot to drink. I sighed. "Theo, open your mouth. Let's get you to drink some water."

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He raised his head obediently, opened his mouth, and took a sip of water.

“It’s late. Let’s go upstairs to sleep.”

“Okay, I’m going home. Wanda is alone at home and I’m worried about her.” After saying that, he tried to get up again.

Uh...

Speechless, I pressed him back down into his seat once more and cupped his face. “Theo, I’m Wanda. You’re back home already, so let’s go upstairs to sleep now.”

He looked at me with misty eyes, the usual coldness in his eyes now replaced by a hint of warmth. He raised his hand and touched my face, smiling in a very enchanting manner. “What are you doing here? It’s dangerous to be out here alone late at night. Come, let’s go home.”

What was going on?

“Mm, okay, let’s go home!” It was impossible to reason with a drunkard. I clenched my teeth and threw one of his

gnched my teeth and threw one of his arms over my shoulders, supporting him as we climbed upstairs. We bumped and banged all the way up the stairs and eventually managed to get upstairs safely, neither of us getting hurt.

After going upstairs, he opened his eyes and looked around before pulling me to the master bedroom.

Upon entering the room through the door, I realized that this place had been renovated again. All the previous furniture had been replaced with new ones in blue. The closet had now been turned into a cloakroom. There were not only a few more paintings on the walls, but our wedding photos had been hung up as well.

Theo had refused to hang our photos up when we had first gotten married. That was why this photo had been kept in the storage room ever since the time it was taken.

The whole room looked even more spacious now. Moreover, there were now more comfortable tones in the room that could ease and enhance one's quality of sleep.

sleep.

I was surprised by how much he had done in a single afternoon.

When he saw me in a daze, he put on a smug smile. "It's pretty, isn't it? This is a surprise I prepared for you. I knew you would like it."

"Mm, I like it." I nodded. There was a gushing flow of warmth in my heart. Theo was a man who only used a black and white color scheme to decorate his office and home, so him turning the bedroom into what it was now for my sake must have been hard for him.

I helped him to bed. When I walked out of the bathroom with a wet towel and got prepared to wipe down his body, I realized that he had fallen asleep and was even lightly snoring.

I wondered how many glasses he had drunk tonight.

The next morning, Theo woke up very early as though he had not been drunk the night before. He had forgotten everything that had happened while he was drunk, and I did not bring it up either.

was drunk, and I did not

As he had not worked for an entire day yesterday, he went to the company to handle some affairs very early in the morning. I had nothing better to do at home, so I followed him to the company.

Heidi had come to work today. After resting for some time, her complexion looked slightly rosier. It looked like she was feeling much better now.

When she saw me, she stood up awkwardly and said, "I'm looking for you, Ms. Wanda."

I nodded and pushed the door of the office open.

She had worked with me for many years and was a pretty capable lady. Her working style very much resembled mine, so I was prepared to give her another chance.

After gesturing for her to take a seat, I said, "It's all in the past now. I've been really impressed by your competence over all these years, and I think you should keep working with me. However, I hope in future you can keep your personal and professional life separated. I really

●d professional life separated. I really believe we can both work hard and achieve something great together.”

She lowered her head and clenched at the hem of her skirt. After hesitating for a very long time, she finally lifted her head to look at me.

“Thank you so much for your guidance and trust over all these years, Ms. Wanda. I’m really sorry about what happened before this. Unfortunately, I might have to let you down again this time. I’m here today to... resign.”

I looked at her in astonishment. “I thought you’d value this job a lot since you’ve worked so hard in your role before this.”

I admired Heidi because she worked harder than her peers and valued her job very much.

After a pause, I said, “As I said, we’ll let bygones be bygones. Humans make mistakes. All we need to do is make up for them.”

She did not speak, but there was a sadness in her eyes. I could tell that she

...she did not speak, but there was a
● dness in her eyes. I could tell that she
did not want to leave the job either. Her
style of doing things was similar to mine,
so I knew what she was thinking.

“What’s the real reason?” I raised my
voice.

She clenched her teeth and finally spoke
after a very long time. “I’m getting
married. My husband and his family want
me to resign to take care of the house.”

I could tell that she really did not want to
resign.

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“You’re going to quit the moment you get married? Didn’t you swear you’d never be a housewife?”

We used to talk about life, and I knew Heidi had shared my views. She also thought that even after getting married, a woman should have her own career, otherwise she would be looked down upon by others.

I remembered that when I got married, Grandma had once told me to stay at home and not to work.

Although I knew she meant well, I insisted on working. It was precisely because of my love for work that I was able to survive those three years Cindy tortured me for.

She gave me a wry smile. “Those were just things we said as young and immature girls. I’ve changed my mind now, and I think my family is more important than my career. I’m really sorry, Ms. Wanda, but I’ve made up my mind.”

mind.”

I thought it would be inappropriate for me to try to persuade her anymore at this point, so I said regretfully, “Alright then. Type up your resignation letter and hand over your duties to the next-in-line before you leave.”

She stood up and said to me in a very solemn manner, “Take care, Ms. Wanda!”

She turned around and walked to the door, but stopped in her tracks suddenly to say, “Your belly is getting bigger, Ms. Wanda, and it will soon become very inconvenient for you to work. Some things are more complicated than we initially think. I think you should start leaving the office early until your delivery!”

She pushed the door open and left after saying those words.

When I tried to ask her what she meant by that, she was already gone. I could only drop the matter.

As soon as Heidi left, my workload increased. I used to be able to hand over much of the work that came in to her, but now I had to do it all by myself. I pushed

Now I had to do it all by myself. I pushed through the discomfort in my body and bustled about throughout the whole morning.

At lunchtime, I received a message from Theo asking me to go to his office. Knowing that he wanted me to have lunch with him, I was not abashed as I shut down my computer and went to the top floor.

As soon as I stepped out of the elevator, I realized there was something different about the president's office. In just a few days, not only had a lot more green places been added to the places, flowers and murals decorated the area as well.

Theo had always been a straightforward man who disliked flowers and plants, so his office had been monotonous and cold for many years.

When I walked past the secretaries' office, I bumped into Keith, who was going out for lunch.

He was a little stunned when he saw me, but his countenance went back to normal as he said, "Ms. Lane, Mr. Grant is in the office. You can walk straight in."

office. You can walk straight in.”

Realizing the secretaries' office's five-person desk had now grown to accommodate six seats, I could not help but ask curiously, “Has there been a newcomer?”

Keith did not say anything. He merely nodded before walking past me and out the door.

He had always been a man of few words, so I did not take his aloof response to heart.

I pushed Theo's office door open. He was still working, so he said to me, “Have your lunch first. I'll be done very soon.”

I noticed a few pots of greenery in his office, a few budding lilies on the cabinet at the side of the office, and a bean bag next to the bookcase by the window.

I was slightly surprised. This was very unlike Theo.

I did not think too much about it. When I saw the meal on the table, I picked up my plate and began eating. I was famished after a busy morning.

After a busy morning.
●
Soon, Theo finished his work and came to sit beside me. "Your belly is getting bigger and bigger, and it makes it inconvenient for you to work. Is there anywhere you'd like to go? Maybe you should go out and relax."

I shook my head. Even if I did not need to work, I would rather not go anywhere. It was more important to stay put and wait for the delivery right now.

After I finished my meal, I put down my cutlery and looked at him. "Did you hire a new secretary?"

He was stunned, then smiled and said, "You have sharp eyes. You've proven yourself to indeed be the president's wife."

I dropped my head and did not say anything.

He said blandly, "She was introduced to me by President Sherman. Your belly is getting bigger, so I'll have to spend more time at home to keep you company. It'll be easier for everyone if we have an extra pair of hands around."

President Sherman?

President Sherman?

I remembered that President Sherman had once asked us to help his niece to get a job in Grant Corporation when he invited us for a meal before this.

Theo had been very decisive about asking her to go through the customary recruitment process at the time, no? It was not even a recruitment period now, yet she had been already hired? She had even been directly assigned to begin work at the president's office.

As I pondered such matters, the office door was suddenly pushed open.

I was rendered even more surprised by this person's audacity, walking into the president's office without even bothering to knock on the door firstly. When I looked to the door, I saw a lady wearing a ponytail and clad in a white blouse and black skirt, walking in with a few books in her arms.

It was the same lady I had seen last time. Compared to her demure and shy demeanor before this, she looked much more mature now, very much like a competent and strong woman in the workforce.

“You’re not allowed to go anywhere without my permission,” he said stubbornly as he held my hand, refusing to let me leave.

“Be good. You’ll feel better after you’ve had some water.” Despite myself, I could not stop my maternal instincts from kicking in as I watched the way Theo was acting now. My tone had softened considerably.

“Okay, then I’ll go with you. I’ll go anywhere you go. You’re not allowed to leave me.” He stood up on shaky legs once again.

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It seemed like he had really had a lot to drink. I sighed. “Theo, open your mouth. Let’s get you to drink some water.”

change.”

He smirked as he held me in his arms. “These are all indicators of life. They’re really resonating with your current state, aren’t they?”

I did not say anything. Although I knew what he meant by that, it did not cheer me up. There was a fear hidden within the depths of my heart, though I was not sure why I was feeling that way.

After lunch, Theo needed to go out to attend a meeting, so he asked me to take a short lunch break and rest in another room. There was no bed in my office, so I accepted his suggestion and went in straight away to lay down for a moment.

Not long after I fell asleep, I was awoken by the sound of somebody moving cabinets coming from outside the door. I got up, walked out, and saw the girl from before moving the bookcase to a new position.

When the girl saw me, she was stunned before she quickly put on an apologetic expression. “I’m sorry, Mrs. Grant, I didn’t know you were here. Did I wake you up?”

you up?"

Mr. Sherman had introduced her to us when we met last time, but I could not remember her name now, so I asked, "Your name?"

"I'm Nadia Sherman, Mrs. Grant. Thanks for giving me that encouragement back when we met last time. You gave me the confidence to not give up and finally join Grant Corporation as Mr. Grant's secretary."

Although I was curious about the process of Theo hiring her as a secretary of his, I did not ask her about it, and I merely nodded slightly. I looked at the lily and asked, "Were you the one who arranged these?"

Theo had rarely had any greenery in his office, let alone flowers. 2

She said with a smile, "Yes, Mr. Grant is a busy man who spends long hours in the office. Also, considering his cold temperament, the office's previous style was not conducive to a relaxing atmosphere for recharging. Hence, I sought Keith's permission and redecorated the place. I added a sofa to the room so he can improve his mood as h

room so he can improve his mood as he relaxes.”

I nodded, not saying much. Rubbing my sore glabella, I said, “Very well done.”

I then left the office.

I returned to my office and began another busy afternoon. Although Theo had told me not to handle the commercial endorsement, he had not said anything about the acquisition project, so I still needed to go forward with the preliminary work.

I wondered how Xander was doing now. At home, Theo refused to tell me; at work, Heidi was no longer around. It would be inappropriate for me to seek the answer from anyone else, so I could only keep the question in my heart and wait for a reply.

When it was about time to get off work, Theo sent me a text informing me that he still needed to attend a social event, so he was not going home with me. He told me to eat outside before going back home.

I was often alone, so I was already used to my own company and did not think too much about it. When I remembered that n

●ch about it. When I remembered that no one was around to prepare meals for me at home, I ate dinner near the company before going home.

As soon as I got back to the villa, I realized that the lights were on. I was a little surprised. Theo had said he was attending a social event, no?

I rushed forward and pushed the door open; Miss Woods was down on all fours cleaning the floor.

I was extremely surprised. Miss Woods had said that her daughter-in-law had just given birth and that she needed to go back to take care of her for a month, right?

“Why did you come home so soon, Miss Woods?” I quickly asked.

Miss Woods looked up and pounded on the back of her waist, saying, “I’m old and useless now, so I was rejected by them. Might as well come back and take care of you, then.”

The fraught relationship between a mother-in-law and a daughter-in-law was an eternal issue. Fortunately, I did

●s an eternal issue. Fortunately, I did not have to deal with such an issue.

I went up to help her up, saying, "We have cleaners to do this job. You've just come back, so you should be resting. I'm so glad you're back now. Theo and I have had nothing to eat while you weren't around the last few days, and we've ordered takeaways every day. You have no idea what torture that was! I'm so close to throwing up just speaking about it."

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After hearing what I had said, Miss Woods' somewhat morose expression lit up.

She said with a smile, "Young people like you don't enjoy cooking. You're pregnant now and shouldn't be eating out for all meals of the day. That's so unhealthy. Give me a moment, there's still half a chicken in the fridge. I'll make soup for you right away."

"Okay." I smiled and followed her into the kitchen.

"As long as you don't mind having me around, I'll stick around to take care of the two of you and not leave again. I believe the late old lady will be pleased with such an arrangement too," Miss Woods talked nonstop as she cooked.

"Oh, please do, Miss Woods. You'd better keep your promise. I was hoping you'd take care of my child for me." I leaned on the doorframe to chat with her.

Being needed was a blessing for the

●ing needed was a blessing for the elderly!

Though I was not hungry, I drank a big bowl of soup after Miss Woods finished boiling the soup. By the end of it, I felt as though my belly was about to burst open.

I then brought Miss Woods on a tour around the villa before coming back to the house. Seeing that Miss Woods had cheered up a lot, I went straight upstairs to sleep.

I was awoken by the sound of a ringtone in the middle of the night. I checked the time and saw that it was two o'clock in the morning. I could not see Theo anywhere, so it seemed like he had not come back yet.

I fumbled for the light and picked up my phone to take a look. It was an unknown number.

I did not want to pick up initially, but the other party persisted, the call continuing to ring. I was annoyed at being woken up from sleep, so I picked up the call and snapped, "Who is this?"

"Are you Wanda Lane?" The other party

“Are you Wanda Lane?” The other party did not mind my attitude and spoke in a neutral tone, not sounding the least bit annoyed.

“Yes. What’s the matter? It’s midnight right now.” I spoke in a daze, not wanting to waste my breath talking to this person.

“We’re calling from Whaldorf City’s Traffic Police department. Your husband got into an accident half an hour ago and is currently in the ICU. We found your number in his emergency contacts. Please come over immediately.”

I completely woke up at that and jumped out of bed.

Whaldorf City? Accident?

How could that be? He had just had lunch with me this afternoon and had sent me a text saying that he had a social event to attend.

I was a little skeptical of the caller being a fraudster, but I was unsure. My head was ringing as I thought about it. I held the phone in a daze, not knowing what to say.

“Hello, Ms. Wanda, are you there? The

● Hello, Ms. Wanda, are you there? The patient is unconscious right now and is receiving emergency treatment in People's Hospital as we speak. We hope you can come over as soon as possible," the other party continued.

"Okay," I instinctively responded. I pulled up Theo's number with trembling fingers and made a call to it. His phone was off. I then called Mason and Zedd's number, but neither answered the phone.

Just as I was at a loss as to what to do, Cindy's phone call came through. I picked it up immediately.

"What happened to Theo? Where is he?" I was so concerned that I could not think of anything else, so I asked her that in a panic.

On the other end of the call, Cindy broke down and cried, "Wanda, Theowy... Theowy got into an accident. He was bleeding a lot..."

"I know—Get to the point!" I lost my patience and yelled back.

"My family got off the plane tonight. We took a car home, and on the way down

My family got on the plane tonight. We took a car home, and on the way down the airport highway, we were rear-ended by a big truck behind us. The car was going very fast at the time, so we were squeezed between two big trucks. Theowy was badly injured trying to protect me."

She was crying helplessly and being very loud. "My parents were also injured and they've gone into surgery. Theowy kept calling out your name before he passed out. I was wrong, Wanda. I won't ask him to do anything for me anymore. I won't fight with you anymore either. I just want him to stay alive..."

I hung up the call. I did not want nor need to listen to the rest of what she had to say.

I felt inexplicably panicked. I tried my best to calm myself down as I looked for Xander's number and gave him a call. Although I knew that Cindy was probably not lying, I felt the need to prove it myself.

The phone only rang once before it was answered. "It's the middle of the night, Wandy. Do you miss me already?"

At the other end of the call, Xander's voice sounded as teasing as ever. The

At the other end of the call, Xander's voice sounded as teasing as ever. The sound of the keyboard was loud and clear, and it seemed like he had been staying up late playing computer games.

"Is your mother at home?" I asked anxiously.

He was stunned for a moment before answering, "Why are you looking for her? She and Grayson brought Cindy back to Whaldorf City tonight. Oh, I think your husband went too. Are you trying to catch them in the middle of their adulterous acts? I think you're asking the wrong person if that's the case."

Not in the mood to joke around with him now, I said, "Did your mother tell you if she arrived there safely?"

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