

My Unexpected Marriage to the CEO by Pumpkin Witch Chapter 541

Chapter 541

Chapter 541 Saying Goodbye

Alvaro leaned back in his chair, tilted his head to one side, smiled and said half-jokingly, "If we get married, we'll get a marriage certificate. You know, effectively it is just a piece of paper. If we don't, then we won't have that paper. That's practically the only difference. Your children will have a father, and you know that they need a father. I promise that I won't force you to sleep with me."

"Alvaro!" I looked at him with an air of resignation.

He shrugged and smiled bitterly, "Well, I was just kidding anyway. I know you don't need me though. Well then, I'll leave!"

The meal was quite unpleasant to sit through. There seemed to be a kind of heavy sadness hanging in the air. It flowed into the dishes and stimulated our taste buds in a negative way.

After dinner, I washed the dishes, when I returned from the kitchen, Alvaro was sitting still on the couch. There was faint smoke hovering in front of him.

Just then, the two nannies came down with my children in their arms. Alvaro snubbed out his cigarette immediately and walked towards them.

The twins had known him for such a long time and were very familiar with him. They opened their arms, reaching out to him from a distance. It was clear that they wanted to hold and hug him.

Alvaro squatted down on his haunches, held the two children in his arms and kissed their faces lovingly.

His true feelings could not be disguised. He really loved the two kids with his whole heart.

Alvaro let go of the kids and they soon went to play with their toys. The children's world was simple. There weren't so many sorrowful things for them. They found it easy to be perpetually happy.

Even when I asked them to wave goodbye to Alvaro, they were bubbly and joyful. Their waves were perfunctory. They didn't feel any sadness when saying goodbye.

I saw Alvaro out. It was snowing heavily outside. Snowflakes whirled wildly in the sky like a myriad of feathers.

Soon, thousands of snowflakes fell onto Alvaro's hair. I figured that I must be in the same situation.

When he reached his car, he turned around and said half-jokingly, "Why don't you kiss me goodbye?"

Although he was smiling, I could clearly sense the sadness in his smile.

When he realized I didn't answer his question, he said, "At least give me a departing hug."

He moved closer to me and hugged me tenderly. This embrace wasn't as masterful and passionate as before, nor did it have an undertone of lustful desire. It only showed his reluctance to part with me.

After hugging me for quite some time, he let go of me. He gently brushed away the snowflakes on my hair, and said in a soft voice, "Take good care of yourself."

I nodded.

I stood there for a long time as I watched his car drive off.

I knew I owed him more than just one finger, but I couldn't repay it in my life.

After changing into a thick down jacket, I braved the wind and snow and paid a visit to the Martyrs ' Cemetery.

The ground was covered with snow and had become a vast expanse of whiteness.

In fact, I had been dreaming longingly that Derek would come back and appear in front of me one day. But as time went by, I had no options but to accept the hard truth.

He had really left our children and me. He wouldn't come back.

When I walked into the cemetery with the flowers in my arms, I saw a figure standing in the wind and snow from a distance. It was none other than Felix.

I placed the flowers reverentially in front of the tombstone and summoned up the courage to look at the picture on it.

At a single glance, my heart ached with such great anguish.

In the picture, Derek looked so handsome and youthful.

But the fact of the matter was that he was really dead. He would never come back again.

"Until now, I found that I have never really known my friend," Felix said.

A bitter laugh floated through the wind and snow.

I stood up and looked at the tombstone, feeling heartbroken.

"I don't think anyone really knew him. Only he knew what kind of mission he was undertaking, so no one could understand the distress he endured. He could only bear it by himself until the day came when he could no longer bear it. It was sad that he had never truly been understood."

With his hands in his pockets, Felix stared at the tombstone. He seemed to have mixed feelings, but in the end, all he did was sigh heavily.

He didn't leave until his shoulders and hair were completely covered with snow.

I stayed a little longer at the grave before I left.

The New Year was fast approaching. I decided to go to the supermarket on my own.

Everyone was carrying numerous New Year's gifts. Their faces were lit up with joy. Their joy, however, caused me to become somewhat sad. Only I was alone and I felt utterly desolated.

I walked around the supermarket blankly and seemed to forget what I had ventured there to buy.

I passed by the clothing department. The clothes were on sale. Many old women were choosing items from there. Suddenly, I spotted Becky among the crowd of women.

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Chapter 542 Regret

Becky wore sunglasses to conceal the greater part of her face, and she drowned herself in the crowd. She found a down jacket in a pile of clothes on special offer. The color and style of the down jacket were only suitable for a middle-aged person.

She took the jacket to the checkout counter. She got out a bank card and handed it to the cashier. The cashier swiped it and then returned the card to her.

"Ma'am, I'm sorry. Your card has been declined. Do you have other cards?"

Shaken momentarily, she retrieved another card and handed it over. But again, the cashier advised her that it was declined.

Becky rummaged around in her bag awkwardly, her ears turning red in embarrassment.

The queue behind her was getting longer, and people began to mutter among themselves in low, judgmental tones.

“How much is it?” I asked.

Becky must have heard the sound of my voice and suddenly turned around to face me. I couldn't see the look in her eyes because of the sunglasses, but I thought she must be astonished and mortified at that moment.

“Two hundred and sixty-eight,” the cashier advised.

I nodded, took out a card and handed it over.

“Use my card,” I said.

The cashier took it and quickly swiped it. Then she returned the card to me and handed the down jacket over to Becky.

Becky hesitated for a moment, then she accepted the jacket.

We walked out of the supermarket together. Then we found a cafe and sat down. 1

I didn't say anything at first, nor did I ask her how she was doing. I didn't want to hurt her already bruised pride.

After sitting together for some time, our bodies began to thaw out from the frigid cold. Becky finally initiated a conversation in an anxious, uneasy voice.

“Thank you for that. I will pay it back to you,” she said.

I shook my head lightly. “No, you don't need to return the money. If it were a stranger, I would still have paid for the items. I have known what it is like to be poor. I have also found myself in a similar situation in the past. I understand how embarrassing it is and just how helpless it makes you feel.”

Becky lowered her head and didn't say a word.

After a while, she raised her head again to look at me. “I heard about Derek. I didn't expect him to...” she said, drifting off in midsentence.

Her voice became hoarse when she spoke about Derek. It was as if she were too overwhelmed by emotion to continue talking. Tears escaped from under her sunglasses and rolled down her cheeks.

"I know that I did things that were just completely wrong in the past. Derek became really infuriated with me back then. I had planned on apologizing after giving him sufficient time to cool down. I was going to beg for his forgiveness for what I had done. But he passed so suddenly, without any warning, and I never have the chance to offer my heartfelt apology to him." I turned to look at the snow falling just outside the glass window. My eyes were blurred in an instant from the tears welling up in them.

"It's not important. It doesn't matter. Nothing is more important than his life," I said.

Tears kept running down from under Becky's sunglasses, she said sadly with a nasal voice, "Sorry, I deeply regret what I did. I used to make him angry and place him in such awkward positions. If I had another chance, I would never have done those things in a million years. There aren't many people in the world who are good to me. So I felt so happy when Derek doted on me. I was just afraid that he would be taken away and he would wholly forget me."

I sighed slightly. "Although he sometimes scolded you and blamed you for things, he always wanted you to live a good, happy life. He had always treated you as his very own sister."

Becky suddenly covered her mouth and cried as if I had struck a very sensitive nerve.

"Yet I failed him so dismally," she lamented.

After crying for a while, she finally took the sunglasses off her face to reveal the bruises on the corners of her eyes and the bridge of her nose.

"Did your husband hit you?" I asked with concern.

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Chapter 543 Start All Over Again

Becky took out a tissue and used it to wipe her tears away. While sniffing, she said, "We had just seen each other a few times before we got married. Honestly, I don't know him that well. Back when we first got married, he was really nice to me. But within less than a month, his feelings toward me became stale. He would always go out drinking until late in the night. And whenever he's drunk, he would beat me up. He didn't even treat me like a human being!" I remembered the day Becky came to Jolly & Mayer Company's main store. Back then, she acted all high and mighty. Because of that, I never thought that she'd been living a miserable life after marrying a rich man.

Not bothering to wipe her tears anymore, she smiled bitterly and said, "I used to be so antagonistic towards you. I'm sure you must be happy to see me like this, huh?"

I looked into her eyes and shook my head. "No, it doesn't make me happy. I feel sad for Derek. He spent a lot of time and effort to help you realize your dream, but you didn't work hard enough and even ruined your own career. Be honest. Did you really marry your husband for love? I don't believe so. I believe you only married him because of your vanity." If this had happened in the past, my comment would've merited a sarcastic remark from her. But to my surprise, she didn't.

Tears continued to stream down her face. The rims of her eyes and the tip of her nose had become red from crying.

"I deserve whatever is happening to me. I thought I'd live a comfortable life after marrying a rich man. A few days ago, he brought home a woman openly. I was so mad that I argued with him. During the argument, he told me that he'd freeze all of my bank cards. I thought he was just saying it on the spur of the moment, but I didn't expect that he'd be ruthless enough to actually do it.

I bought this down jacket for my mother. And now, I'm faced with financial problems. If I want to buy stuff for my mom, I have to be subservient towards him. I'm too scared of buying expensive clothes because he'll check my accounts. If he finds out that I'm spending too much money, he'll scold me again."

As I held the cup of coffee in my hand, I sighed. "That's why women should never lose their livelihood for whatever reason."

Becky lowered her head, visibly dejected. "It's been so long since I last worked on a movie. I don't think I can even get a chance to play as an extra anymore." "From now on, try not to be so hoity-toity. Don't view yourself as above the others. You can always start from scratch, and that's not a bad thing. Many A-list stars began their career working as extras. Go back to square one and make a fresh start. Be brave and work hard. I'm sure you can rally back from this," I advised. Becky raised her head, staring at me as tears continued to fall from her eyes.

I placed some money on the table, picked up my purse, and left.

It was so cold outside when I walked out of the cafe. The cold was enough for me to instinctively snuggle into my coat.

In my opinion, people weren't scared of starting all over again, what they feared was not having enough courage to make a fresh start. I had enough courage to start all over again. But sadly, I didn't have a chance to do so.

If I could start all over again, there was nothing for me to fear. I wouldn't care about trivial things. If God were kind enough to send Derek back to me, I would trade everything to have him again.

Sadly, the chance to start all over again was a luxury I didn't have.

On New Year's Eve, Aaron invited his friends to his house for dinner.

I knew he merely wanted to distract me from my overwhelming sadness.

And I must admit, it was indeed a lively dinner party. Lean, Tina, Eric, and Megan came. I thought that Alvaro was also alone, so I asked him to come as well. Fortunately, he hadn't left Sousen yet.

None of US mentioned anything unhappy during the dinner. It was as if everyone had lost a part of their memory and had forgotten about a certain someone. But I could never forget him. No matter how lively this reunion dinner was, without him, my heart felt empty.

After dinner, I stood outside the living room, watching the snow fall. From afar, I could hear the sound of fireworks crackling. Their mere sounds made me remember a distant memory.

It was then that I went back to the living room to grab my bag, and left the house.

They all chased after me, but I had already gotten into my car. I knew they were worried about me, so I forced a smile to put them at ease. "Don't worry. I'm just going somewhere. Nothing bad will happen."

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Chapter 544 A Promise

There were very few cars along the road. By now, people must've gone back to their respective homes for their family reunions.

Contrary to everyone's plans, I was now driving around anxiously as though I was hurrying off for a date.

I drove to Dere International. The security guard on duty knew who I was, so he let me in.

At this time, the building of the company was empty.

I went straight to the rooftop.

Once there, I stood before the railing, staring at the city from above.

I remembered how New Year's Eve happened that year. We were right here, watching the fireworks display, when the New Year's Bell resonated, we hugged and kissed each other and welcomed the arrival of the brand new year.

Derek told me that we would celebrate New Year's Eve right here every single year.

"Derek, you promise me that you'd be here with me every year. Well, I'm here now, but where are you?" At this moment, fireworks were set off from almost all directions.

The sky was filled with varying colors of fireworks. My vision was starting to blur. Despite the festive ambiance exuded by the fireworks, I still felt forlorn.

I really missed him. I missed him so damn much.

"Derek, can you please come back? I really miss you!" On the empty rooftop, tears streamed down my face, while the city was bustling with excitement.

Suddenly, the rooftop's iron door was pushed open.

I thought that nobody would come here, considering how everyone was probably at his or her home celebrating a family reunion.

Slowly, I turned around and stared at the open door.

I felt a strong hunch at the pit of my stomach; or perhaps it was better called a fantastical expectation. But whichever it was, the feeling made me nervous.

As I stared at the door, the first thing I saw was a crutch, followed by a leather shoe and a long leg in suit pants.

When the tall man finally appeared, my eyes widened in shock. My heart skipped a beat. And for a moment, I couldn't breathe.

Slowly but surely, he turned his gaze towards me.

Splendid fireworks rose from the dark skies behind him, illuminating the night.

He was wearing a black suit tonight. His handsome face was even more beautiful than any of these fireworks.

His very image was so ethereal that I felt like I was in a trance.

Was I hallucinating? Was this because I longed for him?

I couldn't bring myself to move, let alone approach him. I even tried to stop myself from breathing, for fear that I would wake myself up from this beautiful dream.

Fireworks were being set off around US one after another. But even their loud noise weren't enough to drown out the sound of my strong heartbeat.

The person that I had been yearning for day and night was finally standing before my very eyes. And at this moment, my heart was beating like a drum.

With the aid of his crutch, he walked towards me. He was having a hard time reaching me, but he was determined to do so.

If this were a dream, it would be strange that the tears from my eyes felt so real. Furthermore, his loving gaze appeared so real at the moment.

About two meters away from me, he finally stopped in his tracks and we just stared into each other's eyes.

I couldn't bring myself to speak, fearing that this fantastical dream might end.

As he pursed his lips and swallowed, he finally gathered enough strength to speak.

"I once promised you that we'd celebrate New Year's Eve on this rooftop together. I never once forgot that promise." ¹

Upon hearing those words, tears streamed down my eyes like a broken dam.

When he saw me cry, he was on the verge of tears too.

"Am I too late?" he asked in a slightly choked voice.

I plucked up enough courage to approach him. Right now, I felt excited, but I proceeded with caution.

As I stopped in front of him, I stared him, unblinking. With trembling hands, I touched his arm.

It was not a dream! He was real!

"You're not too late," I said in a hoarse voice as tears welled up in my eyes again.

He touched my face and wiped my tears away. But then, his own tears streamed down his cheeks.

His palm felt warm, and his even warmer tears fell on my face.

"You're back, huh?"

I paused so many times before I finished my sentence. I tried to speak as clearly as I could, but I couldn't control my tears from falling.

"Yeah. Here I am," he said softly.

He stroked my face, and gazed into my eyes.

I bit my trembling lips. Unable to control my surging emotions anymore, I grabbed his arms.

"Why didn't you come back sooner? Why didn't you come back until my heart was broken? Why, Derek? Why?"

At this moment, his crutch fell to the ground.

Because he was embracing me, he couldn't stand steady, resulting in him falling backwards.

"Derek!" I shouted.

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Chapter 545 A Miracle

I held Derek up, but I couldn't keep him steady.

Just then, several people came to support him. It was Timmy, along with two doctors in white coats.

Several others had already brought a wide chair, which they used to help Derek sit down.

Right after that, they left without a word.

I squatted in front of him, staring at his legs.

"What happened to your legs?"

He took my hand, helped me up, and sat me down with him. Then, he placed his arm around my shoulders.

"Even if I didn't have any legs, I would crawl up here just so I could celebrate New Year's Eve with you," he said.

What a joke! That was what I told myself, but deep down, I liked it. Thank God, it was just a joke!

I leaned against his shoulder, asking no further questions.

As long as he was by my side, I felt happy. It didn't even matter if the world was destroyed the very next second.

We put our arms around each other in silence, watching the beautiful fireworks engulf the night sky and listening to the ringing of the New Year's bell. 1 When the new year finally came, he broke our silence. "Eveline, from the bottom of my heart, I love you!" 2 The sound of his husky voice was music to my ears. I looked into his eyes, gazing into his very soul. He locked me in his gaze, and I did the same for him.

This moment was so perfect that I was content, even though we were just staring at each other in silence. "I love you too. I love you so much!"

I cupped his face with my hands and kissed him. He responded to my kiss gently.

A salty, bitter taste lingered in our kiss because of our tears. We had been in pain, and we'd both been desperately longing to see each other. 2

All of a sudden, he groaned, causing me to let him go. When I saw the pain on his face, I felt nervous.

"What's wrong?"

He clutched his chest with his hand, trying his best to put on a smile for me.

"There's no need to be nervous. I'm just so happy to finally have you by my side." 2

It was snowing heavily today, but he was wearing rather thin clothes. I could see that there was blood seeping from his chest.

Frightened, I screamed, "Timmy!"

Upon hearing my voice, Timmy rushed over along with the doctors.

The doctors immediately put Derek on the stretcher. Afterwards, they plugged him into the life-support machine and carried him downstairs.

I was so scared that I briskly followed behind him. From time to time, I glanced at Derek's pale face as he lay on the stretcher.

I got into their car, and went to the military hospital with them. Once there, they wheeled him into the emergency room.

As I waited outside the ER, Timmy told me that Derek was severely injured and had been comatose all this time. The reason he didn't tell me about this was because even the doctors believed that there was little hope for Derek to ever wake up again. But a few hours ago, Derek suddenly woke up and asked him what day it was today.

Upon finding out that it was New Year's Eve, he insisted on changing into a suit and going to the rooftop of the company. Timmy and the others knew him well, and there was nothing they could do to change his mind. Thus, they just had to do as he said and followed him to the rooftop. 1

As I listened to Timmy's story, tears streamed down my face.

Even when his life was hanging in the balance, Derek never forgot his promise.

I gripped the door of the emergency room tightly. Right now, I couldn't describe how I felt.

I was so scared for him. I had already lost Derek once. I didn't want to lose him again!

Two long, harrowing hours later, the door finally opened.

When I saw the doctors come out, I grabbed one of the doctors' arms immediately.

"Doctor, how is he?"

God knew just how scared and conflicted I was at this moment. I was looking forward to an answer, but at the same time, I was scared to hear it.

The doctor took off his mask and smiled with relief. "It's a miracle! His vital signs are stable and within the normal limits. Mr. Sullivan is out of danger!"