

## **THE SUBSTITUTE WIFE MY POOR HUSBAND IS A BILLIONAIRE**

### **Chapter 629: End Of The Rope**

During this tumultuous period of time, the Lester family experienced setback after setback.

As soon as Seth's illegal acts had been exposed, many other people were put behind bars as the investigation unfolded.

As for the Lester family's business, most of Seth's companies in Sugden were shut down, which greatly affected the Lester family's power. Now, they were no match for the Larson Group.

Even before the trial, Patrick had been running all over the country trying to keep the Lester Group afloat. The stress had aged him ten years overnight, adding wrinkles to his haggard tired face.

When he heard about Seth's verdict, he completely broke down. He didn't even have the strength to try and pull himself together anymore.

Before returning to his home, Patrick went to the private hospital where Nora was admitted.

"You underestimated Ethan. I've always found him to be a smart, composed person. When he was little, Elissa, a grown woman, often picked on him. Yet he still managed to get this far on his own."

While Nora had been confined in the hospital the past few weeks, she still caught word of what was happening outside.

But at her age, she could no longer meddle in these matters anymore. And she didn't intend to...

Nora sighed sadly.

"I don't have much time left. When your father was still alive, he used to say that people should pursue virtue after they pursued wealth. You've used up all the virtue he had saved for the family, and we're no longer blessed."

As she spoke, Patrick poured her a glass of water and handed her the medication on the bedside table. He frowned and said, "Mom, stop talking like that."

Nora sighed and pushed the medication cup away with her wrinkled hand.

"I've been taking this same medicine for years and it has done me no good. You can go back. I want to rest now."

Patrick returned to his home alone, despair looming over him like a storm cloud. The house was empty, aside from the servants.

In the past, Patrick usually heard the short-tempered Ritchie quarreling with his mother at home. But now, the house was eerily quiet and lifeless.

Patrick sank into the sofa wearily, burying his face in his palms. He had no way to fix this.

Now Patrick was fully aware of just how terrifying and cruel Ethan was. The latter had shown no mercy to his own family.

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Chapter 630: A Wise Choice

Patrick doubted Ethan would be so kind, but he was utterly exhausted and desperate. "Ethan, what more do you want? I don't want to play any games with you anymore."

"It's not up to you," Ethan answered simply, resting his chin on the back of his hand. "As you know, your family is on the verge of collapse. One push and it'll all come crumbling down."

Ethan paused for a few seconds and frowned at Patrick. "But if you turn yourself in, admit to the police and the public that you raped and then slandered my mother, and apologize to her in front of her tomb, I will let you and your family go."

Patrick's expression changed.

If he did this, his reputation would be ruined and irredeemable. Patrick had enjoyed a certain level of prestige all these years and it'd undoubtedly be a huge shame for him to apologize to a woman he had never taken seriously.

He had only ever touched Sylvia Larson because she was beautiful, nothing more.

Sylvia was born in a rich family. When she was in school, many boys had chased after her, but she rejected all of them, including Patrick.

However, things changed when the Larson family declined, and she was forced to take on a job as a waitress in a hotel in Seacisco.

At the time, Patrick had already married Elissa, and the Lester Group reached its peak under his leadership. When they met again under such a circumstance, Patrick wanted Sylvia to be his mistress. Although she

looked harmless enough, she was actually a tough woman and refused his offer without hesitation.

Patrick was so angry that he raped her in the very hotel she worked at. Afterwards, he attempted to silence Sylvia with money, because the latter was struggling financially. But she refused to accept his money.

Patrick was afraid that the scandal would affect his reputation, so he lied to the public and claimed that Sylvia had seduced him. After all, he was rich and powerful, and there were many women who wanted to sleep with him.

It wasn't until much later that Patrick found out that Sylvia was pregnant. Sylvia probably didn't abort the child because she was afraid that she might not be able to conceive again in the future, so she retreated to the countryside and gave birth to Ethan there.

Since she was incapable of fighting against the Lester family and hadn't stirred up any trouble, Patrick ignored her existence altogether.

Unexpectedly, thirty years later, her son rose from the ashes to avenge her.

"It happened thirty years ago! Even if I admit my mistake to the public, it won't make much of a difference. Your mother is dead," Patrick said desperately.

Ethan expected such a response, so he said in a cold voice, "Quit making excuses. If you do as I say and turn yourself in, you'll only be imprisoned for a few years at most, but ultimately, you'll be able to protect your precious Lester family. By the time you're released from jail, you'll have another chance to start anew. But if you don't admit what you did, I'll make sure you live a miserable life. I won't stop until the

Lester family, which has been around for hundreds of years, is completely destroyed—and you'll have no one to blame but yourself. Like I said, it's your choice now."

Patrick fell silent for a long time, and suddenly looked much older. The chandelier hanging from the ceiling illuminated his white hairs.