

## **Broken Heart Repaired Chapter 1 - 5**

### **Chapter 1 One-Year Trial Marriage**

In the lawyer's office, although the prenuptial agreement in Sophie Rane's hand had only two pages, she read it carefully word by word.

After all, marriage was a big occasion in one's life, and Sophie couldn't bear to treat it carelessly.

Not a single clause in the prenuptial agreement did harm to Sophie's interests. Her family background was ordinary, and she had only several thousand dollars. So, her nominal husband could not ask for anything from her.

The agreement was mainly to protect Luke Shaw's interests.

After reading the document, Sophie recalled the fundamental contents and pondered. Then, she said, "I have no objections to all the terms."

"Since that's the case, please sign it, Miss Rane." The lawyer handed Sophie a pen.

Sophie took the pen and instinctively turned toward Luke before signing.

Sitting on the sofa, Luke was drinking coffee leisurely. The coffee cup blocked part of his well-defined facial features.

Sophie met Luke for the first time today. She didn't expect him to be so good-looking with thick eyebrows, deep eyes, and a tall and strong figure. It was just that he was always emotionless and looked distant from others.

With only a glance, Sophie shifted her gaze and signed her name on the prenuptial agreement without hesitation.

Luke had signed it in advance, and his handwriting was hard and finished without a break.

The lawyer confirmed Sophie's signature and said to Luke, "Mr. Shaw, it's done."

Luke put down the coffee cup and picked up his suit jacket on the sofa's armrest as he stood up.

“Let's go.”

Sophie got up and asked, “Where are we going?”

“Sky Crescent.”

As he spoke, Luke glanced indifferently at Sophie with his deep eyes before walking out.

Sophie didn't understand what Luke meant and was still confused. Just as she was about to ask Luke, the lawyer reminded her.

“Mr. Shaw has bought a house in Sky Crescent.”

Sophie suddenly saw the light. She and Luke had signed the prenuptial agreement and got their marriage certificates in the morning, so what she had to do next was to move into Luke's house.

Sophie's marriage with Luke was arranged by Stanley Shaw, Luke's grandfather.

Not long ago, Sophie's half-brother ran an illegal business and owned a huge debt of more than five million dollars. Sophie's mother had been crying sadly since the day, and Sophie had no choice but to turn to Stanley for help. Stanley promised to help on the condition that Sophie married his eldest grandson, Luke.

Stanley occasionally met Sophie's grandfather when he worked in the village at a young age. Gradually, they became congenial companions and even sworn brothers.

Later, Stanley returned to the city and rarely saw Sophie's grandfather. Even so, they would send gifts and extend greetings to each other at important festivals.

A few years ago, Sophie was admitted to a university in Yalewood. During it, Stanley had been kind to her and would have a meal with her occasionally. Thus, they were somewhat familiar with each other.

However, Sophie had never met Luke before because he had been working at the Overseas Business Department of the Shaw Group at that time.

Luke returned to the country half a year ago and took over the Shaw Group.

Now, Luke was almost in his thirties, and Stanley was eager to see Luke get married, thinking that Sophie was the best candidate to be Luke's wife.

Because Stanley helped Sophie's family repay the enormous debt, Sophie was grateful to him and agreed to his request to marry Luke without any burden. Moreover, she hadn't gotten along well with her stepfather and half-brother, which was also a reason for her to leave the Raness'.

It was Luke's idea to sign the prenuptial agreement. In Sophie's opinion, it was a matter of course, and she raised no objections.

It remained quiet in the car.

Luke was looking outside the window. Seeing his indifferent profile and that he had no intention of talking to her, Sophie would not provoke him and also looked outside the other window.

She could smell the faint perfume on Luke's body, and it was a kind of woody fragrance like fir, which suited Luke's cold temperament quite a lot.

When they reached Sky Crescent, Luke got off the car without saying a word and instructed the driver to help move Sophie's luggage to the elevator.

Sophie didn't care about Luke's unfriendly attitude toward her. After all, being forced to marry an unfamiliar woman was difficult to accept for a moment.

Sophie saw through the nature of marriage when witnessing the failed ones around her, including her mother. Thus, she had no unrealistic fantasies about it anymore.

In the morning, seeing Luke's cold face, the staff in the city hall could not help but ask, "Are you sure you are going to register your marriage?"

People worldwide may get married for various reasons, and love is not the only reason. Sophie and Luke happened to become a nominal couple without love.

As Sophie exited the car, Luke handed her an access card and a business card with a string of numbers.

“The house is on the top floor, one elevator for one household. The access card is needed when taking the elevator, and the number on the business card is the password to the door.”

Luke’s voice was deep and pleasant to hear. Perhaps because of the indifference on his face, it sounded distant and even a little cold.

Sophie nodded and took the cards. “I got it.”

Luke didn’t say more, turning to leave and getting into the car.

Suddenly, he turned back and asked, “You should be clear about the content of the prenuptial agreement, right? It’s your right to claim your marital status, yet you cannot tell others I’m your husband. I hope you will not try to cash in on the power of the Shaws.”

Sophie was stunned, not expecting him to warn her like that.

In the prenuptial agreement, there was indeed a clause that Sophie couldn’t make Luke’s identity as her husband public within a year.

Moreover, Stanley called Sophie yesterday to talk about it. Luke thought he had no affection for Sophie for the time being and proposed to announce his marriage a year later if he and Sophie could get along well.

To put it bluntly, he asked for one-year trial marriage.

It satisfied Sophie’s intention, so she agreed without thinking much.

If the outsiders knew that Luke was her husband and she divorced Luke one day, she might have no way to remove the title of Luke’s ex-wife. As soon as Sophie imagined it, she trembled out of fright.

Sophie was willing to divorce Luke if she earned enough money to return to the Shaws or if Luke took the initiative to propose it.

Sophie had signed the prenuptial agreement, yet Luke still emphasized it one more time to confirm it, causing her to be a little angry.

“Mr. Shaw, I have read every clause of the agreement carefully, and since I signed it, I will abide by the terms. No one around me, including my mother, knows my marriage with you. But my grandfather knew it because Stanley told him.”

After a pause, Sophie continued, “I’d like to make it clear to you in advance. I have to tell a best friend of mine about my marriage, or I won’t be able to hide it from my family without her help. Don’t worry. I won’t tell her your true identity. Is it okay?”

Looking at Sophie’s pretty but angry face, Luke narrowed his eyes slightly. “Okay.”

He thought, “It turns out that she is not as good-tempered as I see. Were her previous gentleness and innocence fake?”

“My words should hit her sore points, so she was ashamed into anger.”

Luke didn’t say anything else and got into the car.

The car drove out of Sky Crescent, and only then did he remember that he hadn’t told Sophie to have dinner in the Shaws’ today.

It was Stanley’s order, and Luke couldn’t disobey it.

Luke wanted to call Sophie, only to find that he didn’t have her phone number or WhatsApp account because his assistant always contacted her.

Luke called his assistant, Jordan Smith, saying, “Inform Sophie that my grandfather asked her to have dinner at 7 PM today.”

When Sophie received Jordan’s call, she was in Luke’s house.

The house occupied the entire top floor and was extraordinarily spacious, in which there were luxurious decorations, as well as expensive furniture and ornaments.

Sophie thought that if she didn’t marry Luke, she would never have a chance to live in such a luxurious house for her lifetime. Although she would only live there for a year, it was unforgettable enough for her.

She stood in the living room and picked up the phone naturally.

In the past few days, Jordan had been responsible for contacting Sophie. Sophie felt awkward at first but gradually got familiar with him.

“I got it. I will get to the Shaws on time. But I don’t know the address. Please send it to me.”

After hanging up the phone, Jordan sent the address of the Shaws’ in South Lane to Sophie through WhatsApp.

Sophie checked it on the online map and found it would take an hour’s drive from Sky Crescent to South Lane.

Then, she began to tidy up her luggage.

From Luke’s attitude, Sophie could tell that he would not be willing to stay in the same bedroom as her, and neither would she.

There were also beds in the other bedrooms, and Sophie chose the smallest one where the bed was empty.

She was glad she had packed up her bedding and brought it there. Otherwise, she would have to buy a new one.

## **Chapter 2 Be Disappointed by Luke**

At nearly 2 PM, Sophie finally tidied up her bedroom and had yet to have lunch.

She went to the kitchen to see if there were any ingredients for lunch. Unexpectedly, only several eggs and bottles of milk were in the refrigerator.

Sophie could only buy some quick snacks at the grocery store downstairs.

When Sophie was in university, her stepfather refused to pay her tuition fees. She had to work part-time to support herself and to save money. She was used to having cheap lunches.

Just as Sophie was eating, her good friend, Jessica Littlewood, sent a WhatsApp message to her. [I’m in the Blue Road Branch. Why did you not come to work today?]

Sophie replied, [I asked for a day off to get the marriage certificate.]

Jessica sent a shocked image.

She texted, [Today? How could you make such a sudden decision? Didn't you have to think about it carefully?]

A few days ago, Sophie told Jessica she would soon get married. She lied that because the man was introduced by her colleagues, she didn't want to announce it but would trial the marriage for a time. Sophie also asked Jessica to help her hide it from her family.

Jessica knew the overall situation of Sophie's family members.

Henry Wilkinson, Sophie's stepfather, ran a tea house. He was addicted to gambling, often messed around with hooligans, and even had a mistress. Sean Wilkinson, Sophie's half-brother, was not better than Henry and often went out to cause trouble. Tina Wilkinson, Sophie's mother, was weak and cowardly, tolerating Henry and constantly pampering Sean.

After Sophie graduated and began to work, she gave half of her wages to Tina for daily expenses because Henry and Sean squandered the tea house profits. They hadn't given a single cent to Tina and even snatched money from her.

Tina worked as a cashier in a drugstore with a monthly paycheck of three thousand dollars. Coupled with the four thousand dollars Sophie offered, it was still insufficient to cover the expenditure.

Thus, Jessica thought that Sophie chose to marry a man she was unfamiliar with to relieve the burden of her family.

Sophie replied, [I have thought it through.]

She didn't need to consider. She might be unable to repay Stanley's favor for a lifetime, so she could only marry Luke to fulfill Stanley's wishes.

Sophie added, [If my mother asks you about me, remember to tell her that I have moved into the staff dormitory.]

The bank where Sophie worked provided a dormitory for its staff, but she hadn't become a regular worker and was not qualified to apply for a room.

Jessica typed. [I remember. Don't worry. I'll treat you to eat steaks this weekend as a celebration.]

Sophie replied, [Okay.]

She felt guilty for lying to her best friend. She had no idea how Jessica would react if she figured out the truth.

Sophie finished her lunch and went to bed to take a nap. Last night, she was too nervous to sleep well because she had to register for the marriage this morning.

At 5 PM, the alarm clock woke Sophie up, and she found two new text messages on her phone.

One was a notice from the bank that 100 thousand dollars had been successfully transferred to her bank account, and the other was from Jordan, explaining that the money was used for this month's family expenses.

Sophie raised her eyebrows as she read the messages.

According to the prenuptial agreement, Luke would transfer her a sum of money every month. But it should be 50 thousand dollars, not 100 thousand dollars.

What was going on with the extra 50 thousand dollars?

Sophie planned to ask Luke about it during dinner at the Shaws.



She thought, “His phone number is on the business card he gave me. However, he had his assistant inform me constantly, and it was obvious that he didn’t like to call me. I’d better not contact him on my initiative, or I might offend him.”

Sophie took a shower and changed into proper clothes. With her coat in her hand, she went out.

As she reached the entrance of Sky Crescent, the cab she had booked online was also there.

Sophie asked the cab driver to wait for her for a moment. She went to buy some bananas and juicy peaches at the grocery store nearby.

She couldn’t afford expensive gifts, so she bought Stanley’s favorite fruits to visit him.

Returning to the cab, Sophie received a message from her mother. [Sophie, are you settled? Come back home and have dinner with me in the evening.]

Sophie replied, [Everything is done. I won’t go home for dinner. I would like to eat with my colleagues in the same dormitory.]

Tina texted, [Alright. You move in for the first day and must build a good relationship with your colleagues.]

Sophie typed. [I will go home when I am free.]

Tina replied, [Don’t worry about me, Sophie. I will feel at ease as long as you live a good life.]

Sophie sighed.

She knew that Tina said those words out of sincerity. However, once Sean caused trouble, Tina would come to her for help. Henry wouldn't clear the mess, and Sophie was the only helper for Tina.

It was inconvenient for a car to park on the narrow South Lane, so Sophie got off the car at the entrance and walked in with the fruits.

Stanley had just called Sophie and knew that she was coming. He asked the butler, Albert, to wait for her at the gate.

Albert took the fruits from Sophie and led her in with a smile.

Seeing his favorite fruits, Stanley praised happily, "Worthy of being the granddaughter-in-law I chose in person. Luke, that brat, doesn't know my favorites at all."

"He must know. It's just that he is busy and doesn't have time to prepare it."

Since she married Luke, Sophie thought she should protect his image in front of Stanley, which would please Stanley instead.

She knew Stanley suffered from high blood pressure and had to stay in a good mood.

Stanley grinned, pointing at Sophie and saying to Albert, "Look, Sophie spoke up for that brat on the first day of their marriage. I have chosen a good granddaughter-in-law, haven't I?"

Although Sophie was acting, her face blushed when she heard Stanley's words.

Stanley led her to the sofa and sat down beside her. "Luke's parents are on vacation abroad. They said they would be back in half a month. Tonight, Luke, you, and I have a

meal together for a simple celebration. When Luke's parents return, I'll hold a party and introduce them and other relatives to you."

Sophie didn't care and even wished she wouldn't have to get to know the relatives of the Shaws. From Luke's negative attitude, she didn't pin any hope on their marriage.

However, in the face of Stanley, she put on a smile and nodded.

At 7 PM, Luke didn't come back, and Stanley instructed Albert to call Luke, his face gloomy.

Just as Albert was about to call Luke, Luke called back, saying he couldn't return because of an important dinner party.

Stanley flew into anger in an instant. "Call him back immediately. Is the dinner party more important than his newlywed wife?"

Sophie was disappointed with Luke.

Since he chose to get married, even if he was unwilling to, he shouldn't show his dissatisfaction directly and displeased Stanley.

Perhaps he indeed had an important dinner party. However, getting the marriage certificate today was decided, and he had to make arrangements in advance.

Sophie couldn't help but think, "In Luke's eyes, is disgracing me more critical than making Stanley happy?"

"Forget it. As Stanley's nominal granddaughter-in-law, I am obligated to make him feel at ease."

So, Sophie began to persuade. “Mr. Stanley, it should be a significant business appointment that Luke couldn’t refuse to attend. When he is free, I will return with him to visit you.”

Stanley looked distressed. “I don’t need you two to stay with me all day. I am old enough to take good care of myself. I only hope that Luke and you live a happy life. Sophie, don’t tolerate that brat’s bad habits too much, or else he will become more and more presumptuous.”

Sophie nodded with a smile.

Luke was at a foreign restaurant under the Shaw Group, welcoming Westley Robinson, who had just returned to the country.

Joseph Williams, their friend, was also there.

When Luke called Albert, he didn’t avoid Westley and Joseph. Thus, Westley and Joseph knew that Luke originally planned to have dinner with Stanley.

### **Chapter 3 Mutual Respect**

“Actually, you can delay our gathering for a few days,” Westley told Luke.

“I often go back to the Shaws to have a meal with my grandfather, yet I haven’t seen you for nearly a year.”

As he spoke, Luke signaled to his assistant to fill Westley’s glass with wine.

Westley had worked at an investment bank abroad for many years. This time, Luke invited him back and intended to appoint him as the president of the AK Bank under the Shaw Group.

Joseph glanced at Luke and hesitated to speak.

Joseph knew that Luke was forced to get married by Stanley and had registered his marriage this morning. So, Luke was asked to go back to the Shaws, not just to have dinner with Stanley.

At their age, it was expected that their elders would urge them to get married. However, Stanley chose a wife for Luke, which was somewhat unreasonable. Thus, Joseph understood Luke and had some sympathy for him.

Meanwhile, Joseph was also a little gloating over Luke's encounter. As a talented and successful businessman, Luke was tripped up by his marriage.

Joseph teased Luke on purpose. "Luke has bought an apartment in Sky Crescent. Westley, you can stay there for now and don't have to go to the hotel."

Westley was unaware of the hidden meaning in Joseph's words, and he said with a smile, "That's good. Mr. Shaw's apartment must be a luxurious one. I'd like to enjoy the life of the rich for a while."

Luke shot a glance at Joseph and then said to Westley, "I have bought a house for you. It is also in Sky Crescent."

For Luke, Westley was not only his good friend but also a rare genius banker. Since Luke intended to recruit Westley, he should provide the best for Westley.

From Luke's expression, Joseph could tell that Luke didn't want to mention his flash marriage at all. Thus, Joseph didn't dare to tease Luke openly or secretly anymore.

Luke didn't want to hide it from Westley. It was just that if he mentioned Sophie, he would be in a bad mood and have no appetite to continue their dinner party.

At the Shaws, the dinner was sumptuous. Stanley entertained Sophie hospitably, and Sophie was stuffed in the end.

After dinner, Sophie had some fruit and said goodbye to Stanley as she had to go to work the next day.

Stanley ordered the driver to send her back.

When Sophie returned to Sky Crescent, it was past 10 o'clock late at night, and Luke hadn't returned. Sophie ignored him and went to bed after washing up.

Sleeping in a strange house for the first night, Sophie tossed and turned for a long time. Just as she was about to fall asleep, she heard the noise outside the bedroom and was suddenly wide awake.

Sophie walked out. She saw the door of the main bedroom opening and knew that Luke had been back.

Just as Sophie was hesitant about whether she should have a talk with Luke, Luke walked out. A bath towel wrapped around his waist, and his study and tanned muscles were still wet, looking healthy and bringing Luke a sense of natural charm.

Sophie shifted her gaze in a hurry, and her face blushed instantly.

“You... You are back.”

Sophie stammered in a low voice.

“Um.” Luke walked past her and just uttered a single syllable.

Sophie hesitated for a while and thought it was necessary to talk to Luke. Although they didn't have to pretend to be a loving couple, they should at least respect each other to reassure Stanley.

She didn't want Stanley to complain about Luke again as he did tonight, nor did she wish to rack her mind to speak up for Luke.

Sophie followed Luke into the dining room.

Luke took a bottle of ice water from the fridge and gulped it down. Then, he turned around to look at Sophie, frowning.

“What's the matter?”

“Mr. Stanley was angry tonight,” Sophie said seriously.

Luke screwed the cap of his water bottle and placed it on the table. “I went to attend an important dinner party tonight. I was not disgracing you on purpose.”

Sophie nodded. “It must be very important. I believe you.”

However, Luke's eyes suddenly turned much colder as he felt she was provoking him.

Sophie looked straight into Luke's cold eyes. "Mr. Stanley helped repay the debt of my family. I am grateful to him and hope to see him happy. Since we get married, we should respect each other like ordinary couples. This way, Mr. Stanley will feel more at ease."

Luke's eyes changed instantly, judging whether Sophie had said those words out of sincerity.

Although his gathering with Westley and Joseph tonight was important, it could be delayed.

Luke had obtained the marriage certificate, and he thought that Sophie and Stanley would be satisfied and wouldn't care about whether he went back to have dinner with them in the Shaws'. However, Luke didn't expect them to value the dinner so much.

In Luke's heart, Sophie was reprimanding him for neglecting Stanley, and her words made him feel uncomfortable.

"I know how to care for my grandfather better than you," Luke said coldly.

Hearing that, Sophie was stunned by Luke's straightforwardness. On second thought, she knew that he might understand her.

She explained hurriedly, "I didn't mean that. I mean, if we returned to the Shaws together on important days, Mr. Stanley would have thought that we got along well with each other and would have felt more at ease."

However, even so, Luke still thought that Sophie was forcing him to be a satisfying husband in the name of Stanley.

He could only be a qualified husband unless he were willing to. He wouldn't compromise to any coercion.

Luke's face remained cold as ever as he said, "I can't delay or refuse to attend some important business banquets. I think Grandfather understands it. As my wife, you should consider my difficulty and help me comfort Grandfather."

Sophie sensed Luke's anger, not knowing that she was such an unreasonable woman in his heart. She said gently and tried to calm him down.

“I understand. I will work hard to be a qualified wife. Since we must live under the same roof, we should express ourselves clearly. If I have done something wrong, please tell me directly.”

Luke stared meaningfully at her.

After Luke returned to the country, Stanley spared no effort to praise Sophie as a virtuous and good-looking girl in front of him.

When Luke first met Sophie today, he was amazed by her outstanding appearance, especially her pure and clean eyes.

Even her conservative and ordinary pajamas couldn't hide her pure beauty.

However, thinking of Sophie's illegal family business and her scheme to make Stanley choose her to be his granddaughter-in-law, Luke nearly failed to suppress the anger in her heart.

He thought, “For so many years, Grandfather has rarely paid attention to my relationship or marriage. Why did he suddenly care about it and even pick up a candidate for me as soon as I returned to the country? I can't help suspecting her.”

Luke's eyes turned gloomy, and he walked past Sophie with a cold face.

Sophie didn't finish her words. “Shouldn't the living expenses be 50 thousand dollars a month? Why did you transfer 100 thousand dollars to me? 50 thousand dollars is already too much for me.”

Luke replied without looking back, “Grandfather said 50 thousand dollars was too little, so I doubled it. He also asked me to buy you a car. I think the rest of the money is enough for the monthly installments of a car.”

Sophie watched as Luke walked out of the dining room. She sighed in her heart.

She could hear the sarcasm in his words, but in terms of money, she had no way to retort at all.

Sophie couldn't spend so much money in a month, so she planned to keep it and waited for a good chance to return it.



## Chapter 4 Employees of the Shaw Group

Luke returned to his bedroom and prepared to sleep. Suddenly, his mother, Rose Shaw, sent him a WhatsApp message. [Luke, are you going to sleep now?]

Luke replied, [Yes.]

Shortly after his message was sent, he received a video call from Rose.

Luke picked it up helplessly and said, “Mom, it’s late.”

“Did you get your marriage certificate today?”

“Yes,” Luke replied simply.

“Then you should see the girl. How did you feel?”

“I met her for the first time today and didn’t have many topics to talk to her about. Don’t mention it.”

Luke believed that Sophie would not expose her true intentions quickly.

Seeing Luke’s impatient expression, Rose was sure he didn’t take a fancy to Sophie.

Rose hadn’t met Sophie before and had only heard that Sophie was pretty gorgeous.

However, obviously, Luke wasn’t attracted to her.

As for Sophie’s character, Stanley only mentioned that she was a good girl. Thinking of Sophie’s unreliable family members, Rose didn’t believe that Sophie wouldn’t be affected by them and remained righteous.

Rose felt sorry for Luke.

She only hoped that Sophie would only be greedy for money and wouldn’t stir up trouble.

“Where do you live?” Rose asked.

“In Sky Crescent.”

As he spoke, Luke stroked his temples. He had an all-day-long meeting today and drank some wine at the gathering, so he was quite tired now.

Hearing that, Rose knew Luke didn't treat Sophie as his wife.

Luke had a villa in Rivera Villas, nestled under a mountain and near a river. If he were not busy with work late at night, he would return to Rivera Villas, and Sky Crescent was only a temporary residence for him.

Rose thought, “It seems Luke has the same thoughts as me. He and I will observe Sophie for a period of time before considering accepting her.”

She had been worried that Sophie's beauty would bewitch Luke. But now, she was relieved and put on a smile.

“Rest early. Good night.”

Rose ended the video call.

Luke lay on the bed, and what Sophie had said in the dining room echoed in his mind.

Being in a high position, Luke had a sensitive and suspicious mind and was not surprised to hear Sophie's concern for Stanley.

Instead, he thought, “She must believe that if she wants to gain a foothold in the Shaws, she has to pretend to care about Grandfather so that she can win his support.”

Luke didn't sleep until late at night. The next day, he got up at 7:30 AM, an hour later than usual.

Sophie had gone to work. She prepared breakfast for Luke, and there was a boiled egg, a cup of warm milk, and three pieces of toasted bread on the table.

Luke guessed that Stanley had told Sophie about his favorites. However, he liked poached eggs or fried eggs instead of boiled eggs.

He sneered when seeing the boiled egg.

He thought, “She wanted to curry favor with me, yet she didn’t ask what kind of eggs I like. How superficial.”

Luke ate the toasted bread and the milk, leaving the boiled egg in place. This way, when Sophie returned, she would know she failed to win his favor but exposed her insincerity.

Sophie walked into the Blue Road Branch under the OCL Bank and clocked in before 8:30 AM.

After moving to Sky Crescent, she had to spend half an hour more than before in the subway.

Being late would leave a bad impression and impact becoming a regular worker, so Sophie decided to get up earlier in the future.

Her internship would end a month later. After it, she wanted to apply to work in Corporate Banking to learn more professional skills for promotion.

The bank would open twenty minutes later, and Sophie took out her phone.

On the screen were a missed call and a WhatsApp message.

They were both from Sean. Sophie was not surprised by the content of asking for money and the threatening tone.

She ignored Sean, not calling or replying to him on WhatsApp.

Helen Wood went back from Corporate Banking.

Helen had worked as the manager of Integrated Services for two years. She was talkative, while Sophie was reticent. Thus, Helen could only go to other departments to chat with others.

“I heard a piece of big news!”

Helen’s tone was always exaggerated, and she was used to holding back her words to arouse others’ curiosity. However, if Sophie didn’t respond, Helen couldn’t hold it back for long.

“The AK Bank has finished the mergers and acquisitions toward our bank!”

Sophie had long gotten used to Helen’s exaggerated way of speaking, and she wasn’t surprised about what Helen said.

Half a year ago, the OCL Bank was already rumored to be a takeover target of the AK Bank. In these two years, everyone in the OCL Bank knew that it was cut and dried.

They were all glad to see the OCL Bank advance from “middle class” to “upper class.”

Helen sighed, “We can also be considered employees of the Shaw Group.”

Sophie was stunned. “What do you mean? Does it have anything to do with the Shaw Group?”

Helen looked at Sophie with strange eyes. “Don’t you know the AK Bank is under the Shaw Group?”

Sophie was dumbfounded by Helen’s words and stared at Helen without blinking.

Helen rolled her eyes. “Sophie, you are engaging in the banking sector. Don’t you even know the background of the AK Bank?”

Sophie smiled awkwardly. She had indeed paid little attention to other banks.

She asked, “Are the mergers and acquisitions true?”

“Caylee told me about it. It won’t be false.” Helen blinked her eyes meaningfully.

Caylee Bundred joined the OCL Bank in the same year as Helen and was assigned to Corporate Banking. She was the niece of Jane Bundred, the director of the Personnel Department, and the news she knew should be from Jane.

Sophie was not afraid that she would meet Luke often. As an insignificant employee of the Blue Road Branch, it was hard enough for her to see the president of the OCL Bank, not to mention the chairman of the Shaw Group.

She didn’t think much about it and began to work.

At noon, when it was almost time for lunch, Sophie received a call from Sean, yet she ignored it once again. Then, Sean sent a WhatsApp message to her. [Sophie, if you dare, you can refuse to pick up my calls for a lifetime, and you don’t have to care about Tina’s life and death.]

Sean was a pure uneducated jerk who always fought with the hooligans and messed around, and he didn’t even respect his biological mother. Sophie’s heart had been numb with his threats.

Not long after, Tina asked Sophie to return home for lunch through WhatsApp. Although Sophie knew that Tina would help Sean, she agreed when she thought it was almost time to transfer living expenses to Tina.

When Sophie entered the house, she smelled the flavor of onion and braised beef. It seemed that Tina had made Sophie's favorite beef noodles today.

Tina walked out of the kitchen with a large bowl of beef noodles. "It was just done."

Standing before the dining table, Sophie sighed secretly and felt pity for Tina. Tina's gray hair and the wrinkles on her face had increased, making her look old and worn.

Tina was only 45, yet she seemed to be in her fifties. It was all because of Henry and Sean's torture.

"Sophie, sit down."

Sophie took a fork and another plate from the kitchen cabinet. She shared half of the beef noodles with Tina.

"I can't eat so much."

"Alright. I'll eat it with you."

Sophie took a few bites unhurriedly, and Tina asked, "Is it delicious?"

"Yes. Thank you, Mom." Sophie lowered her head and couldn't bear to see Tina's flattering smile.

"But you moved out. You won't have many chances to taste the beef noodles I cook in the future."

The fork in Sophie's hand paused. She didn't say anything and continued to eat, feeling a bit sad in her heart.

Even if Sophie stayed home, Tina wouldn't cook beef noodles often because the beef was too expensive.

## **Chapter 5 Ignore His Newlywed Wife Deliberately**

Tina could have lived a comfortable life. However, as long as Sean asked her, she would give him all her money without hesitation. She wouldn't have to fill her stomach with instant noodles if not for her weakness.

Back then, Sophie's grandfather scrimped and saved to give Sophie a good education, or else Sophie would have to work after graduating from high school.

Tina forked a piece of beef and put it into Sophie's plate, asking, "Sophie, I heard that the employees in the bank are given special preference when loaning. Is it true?"

Startled by Tina's words, Sophie swallowed the beef without chewing. "Mom, why did you ask about it?"

She had a hunch that Sean had stirred up trouble once again.

Tina said in a low voice, "Sean plans to start a business with his friends and needs 200 thousand dollars."

Sophie rejected without asking what kind of business Sean would do. "I have no money. I am not a regular employee in the bank yet."

"Won't you be soon?"

"I am not sure I'll make it."

"You are always outstanding, and you will definitely make it."

Sophie didn't say more, lowering her head and eating her noodles.

She said in her heart, "Do I deserve to be squeezed by your son just because I am your outstanding daughter?"

Sophie had wanted to question Tina about that long ago. However, her grandfather had once said Tina was a poor confused woman. When Sophie recalled it, she held back her words.

“Sophie, help Sean. You don’t want to see him bum around all day long, do you?”

Hearing Tina’s pleading tone, Sophie frowned. “Mom, last year, Sean ran an illegal business with his cronies and owed a huge debt of more than five million dollars. Have you forgotten it? If Mr. Stanley didn’t lend money to us, we wouldn’t have been able to repay the debt even if we sold our house.”

“Mr. Stanley is a multimillionaire. Five million dollars is little for him. When Sean became rich, he would return it to Mr. Stanley. Sean was unlucky last time and would definitely succeed this time.”

Sophie put down the fork. “Five million dollars is little for Mr. Stanley? Mom, how could you say that? Don’t you know every cent of it was earned by the Shaws’ hard work? Moreover, Sean broke the law last time, which had nothing to do with his luck.”

Although Stanley stated explicitly that Sophie didn’t need to return the money, Sophie told Tina that Stanley lent the money to them and that they had to return it in the future.

Sophie thought that she had to repay the money, and she saved part of her salary every month. Even if she faced greater financial pressure and didn’t know when she could save five million dollars, she felt at ease when doing that.

Sophie didn’t pin any hope on Sean’s business, and she would rather rely on herself.

Tina said somewhat awkwardly, “Sean has always remembered Mr. Stanley’s kindness and wants to return the money to him as soon as possible. That’s why Sean plans to cooperate with his friends in the business. He said that the trade is safe this time...”



“No this time, no next time, either,” Sophie interrupted Tina. “You should try to persuade him to seek a proper job and save money to start his own business. He is not allowed to borrow money or rely on loans again. I’d like to go to work. I will come back and visit you often.”

Sophie couldn’t bear to stay any longer. Before leaving, she transferred four thousand dollars to Tina on WhatsApp.

When she continued her work in the afternoon, Sean sent her another threatening message. [Sophie, so heartless you are! You will regret it!]

Sophie put her phone into the drawer expressionlessly.

If she were indeed heartless, Sean would have long been put into prison.

After getting off work, Sophie returned to Sky Crescent and bought some ingredients from the supermarket.

Sky Crescent’s residents were wealthy, so the ingredients in the supermarket were abundant, and some were even imported from foreign countries.

Returning home, Sophie sent a WhatsApp message to Jordan. [Mr. Smith, can you help me ask Mr. Shaw if he will return home for dinner today?]

At that moment, Luke was in the car heading for the airport.

Sitting in the passenger’s seat, Jordan turned to Luke. “Mr. Shaw, Mrs. Shaw asked if you would return home for dinner.”

Jordan said in a businesslike manner. However, he complained in his heart, “How long is Mr. Shaw going to let me act as an intermediary between him and Mrs. Shaw?”

Only then did Luke remember that he hadn't told Sophie he was going on a business trip. He had been a loner for a long time and didn't realize it.

Also, he didn't take his so-called newlywed wife to heart at all.

Luke frowned slightly and said nonchalantly, "Tell her I'm on a business trip."

"Okay."

Although Jordan responded simply, he explained it in detail to Sophie.

[Mrs. Shaw, Mr. Shaw is on his way to Suston for a business trip, and his return date isn't decided. Perhaps a few days are needed.]

Luke looked outside the window expressionlessly, his fingers tapping on the car door handle. He was wondering if he needed to add Sophie on WhatsApp so they could chat directly.

After a short while, he gave up on the idea and decided to ignore Sophie for a few more days. Otherwise, she would have the fantasies that he had accepted her.

He thought, "I have given her my business card, and she can call me on her own. Even so, she still contacted me through Jordan. How pretentious.

"Anyway, it was she who sought the marriage with me. She has no right to feel wronged."

While receiving Jordan's reply, Sophie was stunned at first and then sighed resignedly.

She didn't think Luke ignored her on purpose because perhaps he forgot to tell her.

But she was still disappointed. Last night, she told him to respect each other like ordinary couples.

Sophie walked into the dining room and was about to make dinner. She saw the egg on the table at a glance.

After a moment of confusion, she realized it was the boiled egg she had prepared this morning. Luke didn't eat it.

But he finished the bread and milk. It meant that he could accept the breakfast Sophie prepared and didn't like the boiled egg only.

When Albert told Sophie about Luke's food preferences last night, Sophie didn't ask in detail. It was her negligence.

She pursed her lips nonchalantly and felt Luke was picky. She thought, "Does it matter a lot to eat a boiled egg occasionally?"

"He put the egg in the center of the table as if blaming me on purpose.

"How childish!"