

Broken Heart Repaired Chapter 11 - 15

Chapter 11 Getting a Divorce

After the bank opened for business, Sophie focused on her work and stopped thinking about the fact that her mother did not return her WhatsApp text.

In the afternoon, when it was almost time for her to have her break, Sean suddenly appeared in front of Retail Banking. “Sophie,” he called out.

His voice was loud. Sophie, who was sitting at the back end reviewing the receipts, heard him clearly. Recognizing the voice to be her brother’s, Sophie was startled and turned to look outside.

Sean had a dark expression. It was as if he was there to collect a debt from his debtor. Seeing that Sophie had turned to look at him, he waved at her.

“Come out,” he said.

Sophie hurriedly walked over to the counter. She had a dark expression when she looked at Sean, who was standing outside the bulletproof window.

She said in a deep voice, “I’m working.”

Sean had an impatient look on his face. “It’s almost time for you to have your lunch break. Will it kill you to come out for a while?”

He talked really loudly. To others, it might seem as if he was worried that Sophie would not be able to hear him clearly behind the glass. However, Sophie knew that this was how Sean usually spoke. Sean spoke so harshly toward her and her mother, it was as if they owed him money.

Sophie's colleagues and the bank's customers all looked over with questioning eyes.

Sometimes, Sophie wondered if she and her mother owed Henry and Sean in their previous lives. That was why they were tortured by the father-son duo in this life.

Sophie could have her break at noon. There were still five or six minutes before it was noon. Seeing that there were no customers, Sophie stared at Helen apologetically.

"I'm sorry. I have to go out for a while," Sophie said.

Sophie knew that if she did not meet Sean to hear him out, he would create trouble for her at her workplace.

Helen nodded in understanding. "No problem. You may leave."

Helen had some understanding of Sophie's brother. Whenever he came to look for Sophie, he looked as if he wanted to make trouble. Helen was worried that Sean would make a scene at the bank one day.

Sophie walked out on crutches.

Sean was startled to see that. "What's wrong with your leg?"

"I sprained it," Sophie replied.

Following that, she gave a look to Sean, indicating for him to follow her to the VIP reception room. Since it was almost time for the lunch break, there was nobody inside.

After sitting down on the couch, Sophie asked, "Is something the matter?"

As she spoke, she studied Sean from head to toe.

Sean was dressed casually. He was wearing a casual T-shirt, pants, and loafers. Although Sophie could not tell what brand his clothes were, she knew that they had to be from some designer brand that cost a lot.

Sean was younger than her by two years. He was tall and inherited her mother's features. Sean was handsome, but he got his thin, slender eyes from Henry. He even had the same ruthless gleam in his eyes like his father had.

Sean sat down on an armchair.

He stared at Sophie sullenly. "Why do you always behave like this toward me?"

Sophie snapped, "And how do you behave toward me?"

Sean waved his hand impatiently. "Forget it. We don't have the same father anyways, so it's destined that we can't get along."

Sophie wanted to frown when she heard his words.

Sean had such a weird way of thinking. It was no wonder he strayed from the correct path in life.

"What does this have to do with having the same father or not?" Sophie asked.

Sean pursed his lips. There was a taunting look in his eyes. "Of course, it has a relation. If we had the same father, would you behave like this toward me?"

"What? How did I treat you? Am I not good to you? I helped you repay a few million dollars of loan. Is that not good enough?" Sophie replied.

Sean smacked his hand down onto his armrest angrily. "So what if you helped me repay the loan? You look down on me. You're only willing to repay my loan because of my mother. If it wasn't for her, you wouldn't help me at all."

Sophie was glad that she had the foresight to close the door on her way in earlier. Otherwise, her colleagues would definitely gossip about them if they witnessed the way Sean behaved.

Sophie coldly chuckled. "You're right. I repaid your loan because of Mom, so you should feel glad that we have the same mother. Are you here today because you want to question me about the reason why I repaid your loan?"

Sean glanced at her sideways. "Are you dating someone?"

Upon hearing his words, Sophie's heart skipped a beat. She thought he had seen her and Luke together.

However, after thinking about it for a bit, she realized that apart from the day they got their marriage certificate, she and Luke had never been together in public before.

"So when and how did Sean see Luke?" she wondered.

No matter what, Sophie decided to deny it first. "I don't have a boyfriend. Why are you asking this?"

"Then why did you leave our house to stay outside? Be honest with me. Do you already have a boyfriend, and are you staying with him now?" Sean asked.

Sophie heaved a sigh of relief when she heard his words.

"So he is merely guessing," she thought.

Sophie said calmly, “I really don’t have a boyfriend. I’m currently living in the bank’s dormitory.”

Sean sneered. “Are you afraid that I’ll make trouble for your boyfriend?”

Sophie got a little annoyed. She stared at him solemnly. “I’m telling the truth. I don’t have a boyfriend. If there’s nothing else you want to ask, please leave. I still have work to do.”

With that, Sophie pressed her hand onto the table in front of her, trying to stand up.

“It’s already time for you to have your lunch break now,” Sean said.

“I didn’t finish my work earlier since you forced me to come out,” Sophie said.

She held onto her crutches and walked over to the door, wanting to open it.

“Wait. I have something important to tell you,” Sean said.

“Quickly say it.”

Sophie turned around and glared at him.

Sean said indifferently, “Dad is going to divorce Mom.”

His words caught Sophie off guard, and she was stunned.

“Your father wants to divorce my mother?” Sophie asked.

Sean stared at her glumly. “What did you say? ‘Your father?’ Ha. I was right. Although he has raised you for over 20 years, you still refuse to acknowledge that he’s your father.”

Sophie did not want to argue with him about who was the one who raised her.

Sean was Henry's son, but if he did not have a mother, nobody knew if he would be able to grow up safely. However, he was not grateful for their mother at all.

"Why does he want a divorce?" Sophie asked.

For so many years, Henry would curse, beat, and threaten Tina. However, he had never brought up the topic of divorce. That was because Tina was very valuable.

She could wash clothes, cook, clean, and raise the kids. On top of that, Tina worked, so a good part of her salary went to the family. When Henry did not have any money to spend, he could even ask her for it. Furthermore, when he was in a bad mood, he could beat Tina up to vent his anger.

Sophie thought that she was the only one in the family who wished that her mother would get a divorce.

"So what changed Henry's mind?" she wondered.

Sean shrugged. He looked completely nonchalant about the situation. "I don't know. Mom refused to tell me. You should go back and ask her yourself."

"Did Mom agree to get a divorce?" Sophie asked.

This was what Sophie cared about the most. She stared at Sean intently, hoping to hear the answer she wanted.

"No. Mom didn't agree to the divorce, so she got beaten up by Dad again," Sean said.

Upon hearing that, Sophie tightened her hand on the crutches. She was simmering with anger.

Sean seemed so unbothered about the fact that their mother had been beaten up by his father.

She scowled at him. “Sean, are you even human? She is also your mother!”

Chapter 12 Leave With Nothing

Sean glared back at Sophie. “What can I do? Don’t tell me that you want me to beat up my father?”

“Why can’t you do that? You’re already an adult, so shouldn’t you protect your mother? But I think you don’t have the guts,” Sophie replied.

After that, she scoffed.

Seeing that Sophie looked down on him, Sean was fuming and smacked the armrest hard.

“If he was your biological father, would you ask me to hit him back? You can say something so outrageous because he isn’t your biological father. If Mom had listened to Dad, she wouldn’t have gotten a beating,” Sean remarked.

Sophie gritted her teeth and suppressed her fury. She told herself that she should not get into a quarrel with Sean at her workplace.

If he shouted at her and she shouted back, Sean would explode with rage. If that happened, she would definitely lose her job.

“So do you mean that you hope that my mother and your father get a divorce?” Sophie asked.

Sean froze. “Of course not. Who would wish for their parents to get a divorce? Sophie, you wish that they get a divorce because he isn’t your biological father.”

Sophie countered, “Didn’t you say that Mom should have listened to your father’s words?”

“I...” Sean was stumped for words.

He suddenly stood up. “Anyway, I’m only here to tell you about it.”

As Sean spoke, he walked to the door. After opening the door, he left without turning back.

Sophie stayed in the VIP reception room for a while longer. She felt very upset, and she worried about how her mother was feeling now.

In the morning, she had sent her mother a WhatsApp text but had still not received a reply. Sophie could not help but worry that her mother had gotten a severe beating.

Sophie called her mother, but the latter had switched off her phone. Sophie felt even more worried.

She planned to head back to her mother’s place during her lunch break.

After she walked out of the VIP reception room, she noticed that all of her colleagues had gotten off work. The entrance of the bank was already locked, so Sean should have left from the side door.

It was time for the security guards to change shifts. The new security guard came, and he was having his lunch. When he realized that Sophie had sprained her leg, he asked her whether she needed his help to bring back her lunch.

Sophie shook her head.

She called a cab. The driver was kind and helped her into the back seat.

Sophie's mother stayed on the third floor. Before Sophie got married, she always took the stairs as she treated it as a form of exercise. She rarely took the elevator. Now that she was on crutches, taking the elevator was her only choice.

When Sophie reached the house, she took out a key from her bag and opened the door. It was quiet, almost as if nobody was home.

"Mom!" Sophie called out. After that, she walked into her mother's bedroom with the aid of her crutches.

When Sophie reached the bedroom door, she heard her mother's voice. "Is it you, Sean?"

Her mother's voice was hoarse and weak.

"Mom. It's me, Sophie," Sophie remarked.

"Sophie?" her mother asked.

The bedroom door was not closed, so Sophie directly walked in.

Her mother was lying in bed and trying weakly to sit up. When she saw that Sophie was holding crutches, she was stunned.

"Sophie, what happened to you?" she asked.

"I'm fine, I just sprained my leg. Mom, don't get up. Lay down," Sophie said.

Sophie studied her mother's face. Her mother's face was deathly pale, and her lips were pale.

Sophie's stepfather was very smart. Whenever he beat up her mother, he never hit her face. He only hit her body, so outsiders could not tell that he abused his wife.

Her mother had never told anyone about her husband abusing her either. She always quietly endured all the pain.

Sophie's mother still sat up and leaned back against the bed's headboard. The pain coursing through her body was so intense that she felt weak.

"Why are you here?" she asked.

Sophie sat down by the bed and placed her crutches at the end of the bed. "Sean came to the bank to look for me. He told me what happened."

Her mother lowered her eyes. There was a hint of agony in her eyes as she said, "I'm fine."

Seeing that her mother treated it as a trivial matter and behaved so cowardly, Sophie felt frustrated.

"Let me have a look at your injuries. Have you gone to the hospital yet?" Sophie asked.

As she spoke, Sophie reached out to lift up her mother's shirt to have a look.

However, her mother stopped her. "I'm really fine. Sean must have exaggerated what happened. Actually, your father struck me in the heat of the moment. He accidentally hit me when he was waving his hand about."

Sophie stared at her mother in speechless anger. She could imagine how many bruises her mother had hidden under her clothes. In fact, she might even have wounds.

Just the thought of that was enough to sadden her.

Sophie took a deep breath. "Mom, since Henry wants a divorce, will you agree to it?"

Her mother threw a glance at her before shaking her head.

“Why? He tortures you every day. Now that he has initiated it, why are you still unwilling to divorce him?” Sophie asked.

Unknowingly, Sophie’s voice got louder. Although she had guessed that her mother would give that reply, she was still saddened and angered by it.

Seeing that her mother had her eyes lowered without speaking, Sophie got even angrier.

“He not only hits you but has a mistress outside. On top of that, he even has an illegitimate kid with her. Mom, how long are you going to tolerate this? I’m already all grown up. I can take care of you.”

Suddenly, her mother sniffed. She choked up a little as she said, “Sophie, I can’t get a divorce as his demands are overboard. I won’t agree to a divorce.”

Sophie froze when she heard her mother’s words.

So it was not that her mother was unwilling to get a divorce, but rather, she found Henry’s demands too unreasonable.

“What does he want?” Sophie asked.

“He wants me to divorce him and leave all the assets to him, including this house and the tea house,” her mother replied.

After she said that, her mother covered her face with her hands and sobbed.

Sophie did not expect that Henry would be so despicable. She was so infuriated that she was momentarily speechless.

Back then, when her mother and stepfather got married, her mother had used up all of her savings to pay for this house. Her grandfather had paid off half of the house loan, while

they took a bank loan for the other half. Her mother's salary and the earnings from the tea house were enough for them to slowly pay off the bank loan.

They had opened the tea house the year they got married. Her mother had invested money in it, so she held half of the shares of it.

However, now Henry wanted to take away everything and leave nothing to her mother.

Hearing her mother's sobs, Sophie covered her eyes with her hand, forcing herself to calm down.

After some thought, she looked at her mother. "Mom, let's give up the house and the tea house. What matters is that you get a divorce. In the future, I'll take care of you and support you financially."

Hearing Sophie's words, her mother stopped weeping. She took a piece of tissue from the bedside table and wiped her face. Following that, she shook her head determinedly.

"No way. I won't allow him to snatch my house and the tea house. Otherwise, you and Sean will be left with nothing. Actually, he wants to leave all of this to his illegitimate child. I will never give them up."

Sophie patiently advised, "Mom, all these are just material possessions. It's already good enough if you can leave him."

Sophie's mother was still silent, but she shook her head.

"If you don't agree to a divorce, he will continue to abuse you," Sophie said.

Her mother still shook her head.

"Then let's make a police report," Sophie suggested.

Her mother chuckled bitterly. “Will that work?”

Sophie was silent.

Her mother had made a police report before. Henry was criticized by the police, and he swore that he would change. However, soon, he was back to his old self and started abusing her mother again.

After thinking for a bit, Sophie felt that it was dangerous for her mother to continue living there. Who knew when Henry would start to abuse her mother again?

“Mom, I rented a house outside. You can stay there,” Sophie remarked.

However, her mother shook her head. “If I move out, he will immediately fetch that woman and her son back. When that happens, it’ll be difficult to chase them away.”

Sophie stared at her mother in fury and helplessness.

Chapter 13 Won’t Take It Lying Down

Failing to convince Tina, Sophie could only give up.

She ordered takeaway and ate with Tina.

While they were eating, Sophie asked Tina why she did not reply to her WhatsApp text. Only then did Tina tell Sophie that she did not realize her phone was dead.

Sophie felt upset when she thought of her mother being alone at home and getting abused by Henry. Even when Tina was so weak that she had to lay in bed, she did not dare to tell Sophie. As for Sean, he was no help at all.

However, Tina was an adult. Sophie could not force her mother to do something she did not want to do.

The only thing she could do was wait for Tina to figure things out for herself.

After having lunch, Sophie went back to the bank to work. Before she left, Sophie kept reminding Tina to contact her if anything happened.

After Sophie stepped out of the house, she went back again to suggest that she stay with Tina for some time.

However, Tina said, “You don’t have to come back. He left. He won’t be back for quite some time.”

On the way back to the bank, in the car, Sophie sent a WhatsApp text to Sean. [If you have an ounce of humanity left in you, you’d stay at home and accompany Mom. If your father beats her again, you will defend her.]

Only when Sophie got back to the bank did Sean reply, [Since you have humanity, then why don’t you stay at home and accompany Mom instead of asking me to? Why did you move out?]

Sophie texted back, [So you think that as a woman, I’m able to defend myself against a man’s fists? If I were there, I would definitely call the police to arrest your father. Are you willing to see that happen?]

The whole afternoon, Sean did not reply to her text.

That afternoon, Luke had a conversation with Simon, who was in Neswood, through video call.

Luke’s cousin, Lexie, had told Simon that the Shaw Group intended to hire him. Simon agreed without any hesitation.

The Shaw Group was the company that Simon intended to work in after he returned to the country. It was a surprise to him that the Shaw Group had taken the initiative to contact him.

Hence, very quickly, Lexie arranged for Simon to attend a video interview.

Luke was very satisfied after he got a basic understanding of Simon's experiences and abilities. As for Simon, he was already very satisfied with the Shaw Group. Luke was pleased with Simon's interview performance, so both parties immediately agreed to work together.

The Shaw Group hired Simon as the director of the Development Department.

At present, the Shaw Group was trying to acquire a technology company in Suston. Luke hoped that Simon could quickly get back to the country and take part in the acquisition. Simon agreed to return to the country two days later.

After finishing their discussion about work, they should have ended the video call, but Luke suddenly had a thought.

He looked at Simon's handsome looks and thought about the recording he heard that morning in the dining room at home. He was a little annoyed by it.

"Why do you want to come back? Often, people don't want to come back after they leave," Luke said.

Simon said calmly, "I left the country to pursue my studies. All along, I planned to return after I completed my studies."

"Do you have a girlfriend here?" Luke probed.

He had a casual tone to his voice as if it was only an informal chat.

However, Simon did not immediately reply. He lowered his eyes and seemed to be deep in thought. Following this, he looked up.

“No,” Simon said.

Luke smiled and pretended to tease him. “I saw your hesitation earlier. Looks like you don’t have a girlfriend, but you have someone you’re interested in.”

Simon chuckled awkwardly but he did not deny.

If Luke continued with this topic, it would seem that he was deliberately asking that question. Thus, Luke changed the subject and called his assistant to arrange Simon’s return to the country. The company would fully pay for the plane ticket and his accommodation.

Simon thanked Luke.

Following that, they ended the video call.

Jordan had been standing by the office table, and he had observed the entire conversation earlier.

Jordan was startled and surprised to hear Luke ask Simon about his relationship.

Luke had always been a person who separated his work from personal affairs. He never bothered about his employees’ personal life, much less an employee who had not even started work officially.

“Looks like Mr. Shaw minds Mrs. Shaw’s relationship with Simon,” Jordan thought.

He asked gingerly, “Mr. Shaw, are you really going to hire Simon?”

Luke looked up at him and asked coldly, “Why? Is there a problem?”

“No... Not at all. Then I’ll go and book the plane ticket now,” Jordan said.

Hearing Luke make a sound of acknowledgment, Jordan quickly left the office.

Luke rubbed his temples and chuckled at himself mockingly.

He could guess what Jordan was thinking. Jordan had to be thinking that he was upset about Simon’s relationship with Sophie.

He should have never asked Simon about his relationship, but somehow, he could not stop himself from asking.

Actually, Luke was trying to feel Simon out.

Luke knew that he should separate work from his personal affairs. Simon was a talent that he could not miss out on.

“In the future, Simon will become my subordinate. I mustn’t let my personal thoughts affect business,” Luke thought.

After she ended work in the afternoon, Sophie was still worried about Tina, so Sophie called her while she was in the car.

Tina answered the call really quickly. “Sophie, you ended work already?”

“Yup. Is Sean back home?” Sophie asked.

“Yes, he just reached home. Are you looking for him?” Tina replied.

“No. I was just asking. Tell him not to go out and stay home to accompany you,” Sophie instructed.

“Okay. He said he would stay at home for some time,” Tina said.

Hearing her mother's words, Sophie was slightly more at ease.

She did not expect that Sean would be so obedient this time. In the past, he always ignored her words and even ridiculed her.

“Looks like he received a shock when he found out that his parents are getting a divorce,” Sophie thought.

When she returned to Sky Crescent, Sophie asked Linda to drive the car to the entrance of the grocery store in their community. The previous night, she had finished all the food in her freezer, so Sophie intended to buy a few days' worth of groceries.

It was inconvenient for her to walk, so she did not want to go to the grocery store every day.

“Mrs. Shaw, do you need me to cook?” Linda asked.

Sophie was startled. “Does your job scope include cooking?”

Linda nodded. “Yes. My job involves doing all the housework. Last week, Mr. Shaw suddenly told me to stop my work and that I didn't need to come anymore. However, he would still pay me my salary as per usual.”

After hearing that, Sophie understood.

After they got married, Luke must have told Linda not to come anymore. “Looks like he intends to let me do all the housework,” Sophie thought.

If she was unaware of this, naturally, she would do all the housework. After all, she had been doing the chores at home since young and was used to it. Most importantly, since Luke was born into a distinguished family, Sophie was worried he would create more problems for her if she told him to help out.

Of course, her ideal husband was one that could share the chores with her. However, things were completely opposite from what she had hoped. She married Luke, a man who hailed from a wealthy family.

Besides, there was a possibility that she would get a divorce after one year, so she would not force him to share the chores.

Now that Sophie knew that Luke had intended to make things difficult for her, she felt enraged. She would not take this lying down.

She decided to teach Luke a lesson. Later that night, she would have a talk with him and discuss splitting the house chores.

With such a plan in mind, she told Linda, “Since he told you not to come, you should listen to him. You don’t have to come anymore. You only need to take me to and fro work.”

Upon hearing that, Linda did not think too much about it. She thought that Luke and Sophie were newly wedded, so both of them wanted to spend romantic time with one another. They did not want others to disturb them.

“Mrs. Shaw’s leg is injured, but I’m sure Mr. Shaw will take good care of her,” Linda thought.

Chapter 14 Ordering Him to Work

It was already half past six at night after Sophie was done with grocery shopping and returned home. She hurriedly cooked dinner.

After some time, as she was rinsing the rice, she heard the sound of the door opening. Sophie guessed that Luke was back.

When she heard footsteps approaching her, she called out, “Luke, can you come over for a while?”

After a while, Luke appeared in front of the dining hall. He was holding his briefcase in his right hand, while his phone was in his left hand. His suit jacket was draped over his right arm.

He stared at her and asked indifferently, “Is something the matter?”

Sophie pointed to the vegetables on the kitchen counter. “Wash the vegetables,” she instructed.

Luke froze and then frowned. He was a little speechless.

“Is she trying to order me about?” he thought.

Seeing that Luke seemed a little unhappy, Sophie raised her brows slightly. “Luke, since you’re also going to have dinner, you should help out too, right?”

She emphasized the word “right.”

Luke stared at her with a deep gaze.

Sophie did not have a gentle expression on her face as usual. Instead, she looked at him like she was taunting him or dissatisfied with him.

Luke wondered what had happened.

“Or does she have some plan up her sleeve?” he thought.

Seeing that Luke was silent, Sophie pursed her lips. She sneered slightly and asked, “Why? Are you unwilling?”

“If I don’t do as you tell me to, will I not get to have dinner?” Luke asked.

Without any hesitation, Sophie answered, “Yes.”

Originally, Luke did not agree that men go out to work while women stayed at home as housewives. He felt that it was ridiculous that women had to do the housework after getting home from work.

He was okay with splitting the chores with his wife. However, Luke felt a little annoyed with Sophie's attitude and tone. On top of that, he felt that she was planning something. Thus, he became suspicious.

He asked deliberately, "Shouldn't the wife be the one to cook dinner?"

Upon hearing that, Sophie furrowed her brows deeply. She said in an upset tone, "It's not a must for the wife to cook."

Luke replied, "But the daughter-in-law of the Shaws has to make dinner for her husband."

Sophie was rendered speechless.

She got even angrier and stared intently at Luke.

"No wonder he told Linda not to come anymore... It turns out that he's such a male chauvinist," she thought.

Unfortunately, Luke married a non-traditional woman.

Seeing that he made eye contact with her, Sophie smiled. "The prenuptial agreement that I signed did not have a clause that mentioned that the daughter-in-law of the Shaws has to cook for her husband. As my husband, if you want to eat, you have to help."

Luke knew that Sophie had a point, but he refused to compromise. "I give you 100,000 dollars every month as housekeeping money, yet you have the cheek to tell me to do chores."

Sophie almost burst out laughing, but she quickly held herself back. Since she did not know what kind of personality Luke had, she did not want him to misunderstand that she was mocking him and end up flying into a rage.

But it was true that she was laughing at him.

Sophie tried to hide her laughter and stopped rinsing the rice. She looked up at him calmly.

“I didn’t request for you to give me that much housekeeping money, but you already gave it to me. If I don’t use up all the money, I kept the excess. In the future, I’ll return it to you. I have my own income, so I will fork out half of the housekeeping money.”

After Sophie said that, she raised her brow. It was clear what she was implying. Since she was paying for half of the housekeeping expense, what reason did Luke have not to share the household chores?

Luke was speechless when he saw the provoking look in her eyes.

If he wanted to retort to her, he needed to say words that were absurd even to him.

For example, he had to say something like back in the older days, women were not treated as humans and were treated badly.

Luke felt a little helpless. He could only compromise with Sophie. “Fine. It’s just washing vegetables anyway.”

However, he still had a cold expression. He walked over to the dining table and placed his briefcase and suit jacket on the chair. He placed his phone on the dining table before walking over to the kitchen counter to start washing the vegetables.

Upon seeing that, Sophie was a little surprised that Luke gave in so easily.

She murmured inwardly, “But it’s not just washing vegetables.”

She took the rice that she had already washed and placed it into the rice cooker.

As Luke washed the vegetables, he peeked at Sophie with his peripheral vision. Seeing that she had difficulty moving about, he wanted to go over to help her.

However, he kept telling himself not to be soft-hearted. Sophie was only having difficulty walking about, and it was not anything painful.

Maybe she told him to help out so that he could see her having difficulty in movement. That way, he would feel sorry for her and hire a housemaid. From then on, she would be able to live a pampered and privileged life.

Of course, he would ensure that his wife lived a pampered and luxurious life. However, his wife should not be a scheming woman like Sophie, who had plotted to marry him.

Sophie had her back to Luke. She was taking out beef and fish from a bag and placed them on a plate. Sophie was completely unaware that Luke would have so many thoughts just because she told him to wash the vegetables.

She pushed the fish over to the kitchen sink. “You handle the fish.”

Luke looked at Sophie. He did not have any expression, so no one could tell what he was feeling.

If Luke’s employees had seen that expression, they would be quivering in fear. However, Sophie was unbothered.

“You wash the vegetables, and I do the cooking. Either that or I wash the vegetables and you do the cooking. Pick one,” Sophie said.

Luke coldly chuckled. “I’ve already washed the vegetables, haven’t I?”

Sophie was certain that Luke would refuse to wash the vegetables, so she deliberately told him to do that. She was unbothered that he had an annoyed look.

“If you like to cook, then from tomorrow onward, you’ll be in charge of that. I’ll wash the vegetables,” Sophie said.

Luke lowered his head and continued to wash the vegetables. “Sophie, you know that I’m really busy with work. It’s common for emergency situations to arise. I can’t possibly be back on time every day to cook for you.”

Sophie pursed her lips. “You’re not making dinner for me, but for us. If you’re busy with work and can’t come back on time to cook, I will do it. I will cook for myself. I won’t let myself starve.”

Luke swept a cold glance at her. “You’re really persistent, and you put forward a strong and fair argument.”

“That’s for sure,” Sophie said.

As she said that, she took the plate with the beef on it. With the aid of her crutches, she walked over to the other side of the counter and cut them into pieces.

She cut the one pound of beef into pieces and then heard Luke's deep voice. "I'm done washing them."

When she heard that, Sophie was startled and turned to look at him. Luke had already washed all the vegetables and placed them in a colander. In addition, he had also gutted the fish.

On the surface, it looked like he had done everything perfectly. Luke was so quick that Sophie felt it was as if he was no stranger to this and had done this loads of times.

"Everything is already washed?" she questioned.

"Take a look for yourself," Luke said.

As he spoke, he left the kitchen counter and walked over to the dining table. He took his briefcase, suit jacket, and phone.

"Call me when dinner's ready," he remarked.

Sophie watched Luke walk away and then headed over to the sink. She looked carefully. Indeed, Luke had done a good job with the vegetables and fish.

She murmured to herself, "He isn't stupid. This is the first time he's done this, but he's done quite a good job."

It did not cross her mind that Luke could be a chairman who was good at household chores.

If Luke heard her, he would have burst out laughing and then mocked her. Since Sophie wanted to share the household responsibilities equally, why did she still have such stereotypical thinking?

Chapter 15 Dividing Chores

Luke walked into the bedroom and changed into casual clothes. He then went to the study, picked a book he was reading halfway, sat on an armchair, and continued reading the book.

Luke had read just a few lines when he heard a WhatsApp notification from his phone on the coffee table.

He picked up his phone and opened WhatsApp. The message was from his cousin, Lexie.

[Luke, how could you ask Simon if he has a girlfriend?]

Simon must have thought that was a strange question for Luke to ask. That was why Simon told Lexie.

He replied, [I can't ask that?]

Lexie replied, [You can ask, but it was awkward. Couldn't you tell?]

Luke texted, [I was making small talk.]

Lexie texted back, [Tell me honestly. Does it bother you whether Simon has a girlfriend or not? He is very capable, but you shouldn't exploit him like a mercenary capitalist.]

Luke replied, [He's quite touchy about this topic. He even told you.]

Lexie replied, [Simon is very satisfied with the Shaw Group. He doesn't want to lose his job.]

She sent another message. [There's a woman he likes back home. He returned specially for her.]

Reading the last message, Luke suddenly felt an odd feeling flood over him. It was a feeling he could not put a finger on.

Luke could not shake that feeling even after a long time. He had to vent his feelings through another message. So he started typing.

[You seem to understand him quite well. You even know something as personal as his secret crush.]

Lexie asked in reply, [How did you know it's a secret crush?]

Luke replied, [He said he doesn't have a girlfriend. So isn't it a secret crush?]

Lexie texted back, [What logic is that? No wonder you're still single. You're clueless about romantic relationships.]

She texted again. [Grandpa's always pestering me to introduce girlfriends to you, but you're like a block of ice. I don't want my girlfriends to be frozen by you.]

And again... [I cannot imagine when you will ever get married. What respectable woman would want to marry you?]

Luke was already used to his cousin's piercing words. Lexie had always been like that.

However, her words now only made him want to sneer.

Luke did not know if any respectable woman was willing to marry him. But there was already a woman who devised a plan to marry him.

If Lexie knew that her cousin already had a wife, what would her reaction be?

Lexie had always been frank and liked to express her emotions openly and in an exaggerated way. Living overseas for many years did not affect her personality.

Luke waited until Lexie stopped sending disparaging messages. He then replied, [You don't have to worry about whether I'll get married.]

Lexie replied, [Who's worried about you?]

She texted again, [I want you to assure me. When Simon returns, he will be the director of the Development Department in the Shaw Group, right?]

Luke texted, [I've already said I'm hiring him. That means I'm definitely hiring him.]

Lexie texted back, [You definitely wouldn't fire him over personal feelings, would you?]

At that moment, Sophie appeared at the study's door. "Dinner's ready."

Luke had been texting Lexie about Simon. Sophie's sudden appearance somehow gave Luke a strange feeling.

But Luke replied calmly, "Okay."

Luke then replied to Lexie, [Definitely not.]

After that, Luke put down his phone and walked out of the study to the dining room.

Luke's phone made a sound. Lexie had sent a reply. [I've taken a screenshot as proof in case you make this difficult for Simon. I cannot trust a capitalist's word. People like you are good at picking at employees over a tiny mistake.]

Sophie had cooked roast beef, baked fish, and salad. She did not make any soup because she was not in the habit of drinking soup every day.

Though there were only three dishes, their portions were quite large. Sophie believed that no matter how big an appetite Luke had, this amount of food should satisfy him.

Luke walked into the dining room. The aroma from the food on the dining table alone was enough to make him feel that the food had to taste good.

Luke observed the way the silverware was set on the dining table and the serving spoons and individual serving plates that Sophie had prepared. He was extremely satisfied.

Sophie had already put some dinner rolls on her plate but did not serve any to Luke. He had no choice but to get them by himself. He was not angry but felt that she was being petty.

Luke was not a fussy eater, but he loved beef very much. The first bite he took was the beef. It was tender and well-seasoned. He was delighted.

However, he did not express his satisfaction. He merely continued to taste the other dishes.

All of the food tasted good. As a home cook, Sophie was as good as a professional chef.

Sophie was confident in her cooking skills. Not only was her family satisfied, but even her friends who had tasted her cooking also praised her.

When Sophie saw no expression on Luke's face and his silence, she did not mind. She assumed he was satisfied since he did not make any comments.

After a few bites of a dinner roll, Sophie glanced at Luke.

She said without showing any emotion, "I wish to discuss how to share in the household chores with you. Should we discuss it now or after dinner?"

Sophie raised the question because she was used to chatting with her mother while eating. However, she did not know what the Shaws did. Large families seemed to have many different rules.

Luke was chewing a piece of beef. He looked at Sophie without any expression.

He waited until after swallowing the piece of beef before asking, "Do you want to split the household chores?"

“Uh-huh,” Sophie replied. She did not see any trace of rejection on Luke’s face. She thought it was odd.

Sophie had imagined Luke would frown deeply and put on a glum expression. And that he might even get angry.

Instead, Luke replied calmly, “Tell me about it.”

Sophie pouted disapprovingly. “I’m able to do all the chores, so you should tell me what chores you can do first.”

Luke raised an eyebrow slightly when he heard that. His lips curled up a little, and he leaned forward. “I can do all the chores too.”

The fork Sophie was using to take some salad paused mid-air. She stared at Luke, trying to determine from his face whether he was telling the truth.

Luke looked down and continued eating. He did not let Sophie study his face.

Thus, Sophie took him at his word. She took some salad and put it on her plate.

“Didn’t you say you are busy at work? Why don’t you choose chores that won’t interfere with your work?”

Luke mumbled, food in mouth, “Any chore would interfere with my work.”

Sophie’s eyes immediately glared at him when she heard that. “Putting the laundry into the washing machine at night and then hanging them up to dry shouldn’t interfere with your work, right? Cleaning on weekends shouldn’t interfere with your work either, right?”

Luke looked at Sophie. He replied sarcastically, “Since you already know, why bother asking me? You could have just delegated the chores.”

Sophie was a little annoyed by Luke’s attitude. She could not find the words to retort and could only continue glaring at him.

She wondered if Luke talked to his employees like that too.

However, his employees were paid by Luke so they could put up with his coldness and sarcasm. But Sophie was not drawing a salary from Luke. She did not have to put up with his attitude.

Hence, she was not in a good mood. “Okay then, I’ll think of how to divide the chores,” she said. “You must do them.”

Nonetheless, Luke added, “Tell me how you’re going to divide up the chores.”

Now, Sophie’s tone was curt. “Let’s have dinner first. After dinner, I’ll draw up a chart and show it to you later.”

Luke placed the last piece of fish on his plate. “Mm,” he said without any feeling. “I’ll look at the chart. If I find it reasonable, I’ll abide by it.”

There was nothing wrong with what he said, but Sophie could not help feeling uneasy. No matter how she divided the chores, he would definitely find something to pick on.