

The Substitute Wife My Poor Husband is a Billionaire Chapter 211

Chapter 211 The Client

The tension between Janet and Ethan continued to prevail.

One day, after the regular meeting of the senior executives of the Larson Group, Ethan asked Garrett to stay back

Garrett had already guessed Charis's return 'would bring a lot of problems between Janet and Ethan. But he couldn't figure out how Janet found out about Charis. After all, Ethan should have been able to hide the truth

from her. "Well, Charis called me one night; Janet saw it. She asked who she was, and I told her," Ethan said intently. The smile on Garrett's face vanished in an instant. After all, Ethan's relationship with Janet was hanging by a thin thread

now.

He rubbed his forehead and let out a weary sigh. "No one would want their partner to have secrets, especially when it has something to do with the opposite sex. You should be able to connect with her." He sat on the sofa, cross-legged, and blew out a loud breath. "Women get jealous easily. You have to coax her." "I've explained it to her. I'll tell her about my past soon, but now isn't the right time." Ethan's face darkened. "I'm not good at coaxing women. You know I have used force all my life to get the things I want. But women prefer men who are kind and gentle toward them, right?"

Garrett arched his brows and thought that Ethan had finally understood the problem.

Meanwhile, Garrett had warned Charis to stay away from Janet. The two had been friends since high school. From what he knew of Charis, she wouldn't make any trouble. "It's not because Janet is jealous. You need to understand that she's upset because she knows you're hiding something from her. She won't forgive you unless you tell her the truth. Moreover, women tend to overthink. She is probably imagining the worst after you told her about Charis but without any details." "You know I have no feelings for Charis." Ethan sighed. He was a man of few words, so he didn't bother explaining himself.

"What's the use of me knowing it?" Garrett patted his shoulder. "You have to make her believe that. But I don't think she would believe you even if you told her so, since you're still hiding things from her."

Ethan leaned back on his chair, closed his eyes, and let out a weary sigh. He realized the friction would persist until he told her the truth. The following day, when Janet arrived at the company, Tiffany told her that a client had requested her to be the chief designer of the new project.

Although it was a small project, Janet was still glad to be a part of it.

After all, she had just begun her career, and opportunities like these would never knock on her door twice. She happily sorted the documents, preparing to meet with the client. Janet's breath caught in her throat when she pushed the door of the meeting

room open. Kent was sitting on the sofa, drinking coffee. He looked up and smiled at her.

“Sorry, wrong room.” Janet slammed the door shut and took a deep breath.

“Miss Lind, is this how you treat your clients? That’s very unprofessional of you.” There was a hint of ridicule in Kent’s voice. Gritting her teeth, Janet pushed the door open and smiled at him. “I’m sorry, Mr. Perkins. I thought you were here to see another designer.”

Kent smiled at her. Then, he poured a cup of coffee for Janet and slid it toward her. “Don’t be nervous. I’d never mix

work with private life. I chose you because I think you’re an exceptional designer.”

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Chapter 212 I Will Get You

Janet grew dejected when she saw Kent. However, she forced a polite smile at him. “Well then, what are your preferences, Mr. Perkins? Bank uniforms generally look formal. If you don’t have any special requests, we will make a sample design based on the template.” Kent took a sip of coffee and rested his arms on the sofa. “I trust your choices, Miss Lind. How about I show you around the Perkins Bank first so that you’ll have an idea of our enterprise culture?” . Janet frowned and checked the time on her

phone. “of course, please give me the address, Mr. Perkins. I’ll go there myself.”

Kent stood up and walked to the door. “I think it would be better if I showed you around in person,” he said, examining her face. Miss Lind, you better come with me now. I don’t think you’d want to waste your time.” Janet had no choice but to follow him into his sports car, Kent drove her to the Perkins Bank and showed her around. After that, he insisted on driving Janet home. “We still have time. Why don’t you have dinner with me? There is a classy restaurant nearby. Their food is out of the world,” Kent said, turning the steering wheel. “Thank you, Mr. Perkins, but no. My husband will be waiting for me,” Janet grunted irritably as she stared out of the window.

She was no longer the innocent girl who couldn’t understand people’s intentions. Janet very well knew why Kent was following her everywhere. Kent smiled and looked at her hand. His eyes widened when he saw the huge, sparkly ring. It looked like an expensive blue diamond ring. Kent wondered how an ordinary employee could afford it. However, he assumed it was a fake diamond and looked away.” He thought Janet’s husband was a poor man who had fooled her with a faux diamond ring. Kent was always surrounded by women, so he had noticed the ring on Janet’s finger ever since he laid eyes on her. But he didn’t mind dating a married woman. Nothing would stop him as long as he went after something he wanted. “Such a beautiful hand deserves a more expensive ring. There is a jewelry auction in the city next week. Do you want to go with me and find a ring you like?” Kent smiled, resting his hand on top of hers.

“Please behave yourself, Mr. Perkins!” Janet shook off his hand, eyeing him with surprise.

Kent wisely withdrew his hand.

‘Gosh, how ungrateful is she.’

He had never thought of taking any woman to a social event before because he didn’t want people to think they were serious. But strangely, he wanted to take Janet with him now. He didn’t mind going to any extent to impress her.

Janet couldn’t avoid him now. After all, he was her client, and she had no choice but to work for him.

However, the man had crossed his limits today, making her uncomfortable. The following days, Janet tried her best to keep the conversation professional and avoided being alone with him.

She turned down Kent’s proposals to take her out shopping or buy her a ring. And during the times he tried crossing his limits, Janet knew how to cut him off. She ignored him most of the time and talked to him only regarding work.

After nearly a week’s struggle, Kent finally admitted defeat. Janet didn’t seem to fall for any of his thicks.

“Damn it!” He kicked the gifts that Janet had returned and angrily slumped on the sofa.

He had never met a woman who remained impervious to his charm and flatteries.

However, the relentless failure somehow encouraged him to go after her. He gulped down the red wine in his glass

and wiped his mouth. “Janet, I will win you over!”

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Chapter 213 Time To Take Action

Charis had been busy dealing with the Larson Group’s affairs ever since she returned from abroad. She put herself under a lot of pressure just to impress Brandon and transform herself into a better partner for him. Now, she hoped that Kent would work his charm and win Janet’s heart. A week had passed. Charis didn’t know what was going on between Kent and Janet. She wanted to know if things were going according to plan. Charis had faith in Kent. He was a charmer. When they were still in college, almost all the girls from their class were attracted to him. After all, Kent was a handsome and wealthy man who wouldn’t mind spending money for his girlfriends. Besides, Janet was an ordinary woman. Therefore, she believed it wouldn’t be difficult for Kent to win her over.

Charis immediately called Kent and asked him to have dinner with her at a nearby restaurant.

Kent arrived an hour late. He walked into the restaurant, looking tired and grumpy. “Why do you look upset? Is something wrong?” Charis was good at reading people’s minds. She chuckled to lighten his mood. However, she was actually a bit surprised. Judging by the look on his face, she could tell he hadn’t succeeded yet.

“The girl you mentioned last time is a tough cookie.” Kent pulled a chair and sat down, massaging his

temples.

“What? You failed to win her heart?” Charis took a sip of water and silently examined his face.

“I tried every possible means, but that woman is a hard nut to crack.” Kent picked up the menu and flipped across the pages. Then, he snorted and threw it back on the table. “But it doesn’t matter, you know. She is quite cute.”

Charis’s lips curled up. She was glad to know that Kent was still interested in Janet. She put down the glass and looked at him. She didn’t expect Kent would struggle to win Janet over. Considering her initial plan had failed, Charis decided to make a move before it was too late.

The collaboration with the Perkins Bank had entered its final stage.

This afternoon, Janet hurriedly walked out of the office with the drawings.

She yelped in shock as someone bumped over her, spilling coffee on her dress.

“Oops, I’m sorry. I was busy reading the documents. I didn’t see you,” said a woman’s high-pitched voice.

“That’s all right.” Janet rubbed the stains on her chest and looked up, her eyes widening in horror. She had been busy

dealing with Kent lately that she almost forgot Charis. Janet thought that she at least wouldn't have to meet Charis too often.

“Are you Janet Lind?” Charis’s eyes lit up. She smiled and said, “Do you know that Ethan and I know each other? I recently found out that he’s married to you. I’m sorry for staining your shirt. Would you like to come to my office and change to something else? I have many clothes in my closet.”

Before Janet could react, Charis dragged her away. Although she didn't want to go to Charis's office, part of her wanted to find out about the woman's relationship with Ethan. Therefore, she followed her. Seeing Janet walking out in the new outfit, Charis looked her up and down, smiling. “This color suits you very well. By the way, Ethan also likes blue.” Janet was buttoning up the shirt. Her hands stilled when she heard Charis's comment. “Are you two close?” Charis looked out of the window and smiled. “We were classmates in high school and good friends.” After a moment's pause, she added, “I don't know if Ethan has told you this, but I liked him. I even confessed my love for him a couple of years ago.” Janet froze. She snapped up her head and looked at Charis, the shock evident on her face.

Chapter 214 Sow Discord

Seeing the look on Janet's face, Charis hurriedly held her hand. “I'm sorry. I shouldn't have said that. It's all in the past. Oh, God. Hasn't Ethan told you?” Licking her pale lips, Janet forced a smile. “No. Were you two in a relationship?”

Janet felt the two must have been together before. Why else would Ethan hide the truth about Charis? Every time she tried

asking about her, he would always try changing the topic or give a perfunctory answer. Charis shook her head and let go of Janet's hand. "It's all in the past. Forget it. It will only ruin your current relationship with him. Besides, I think it would be better for you to hear it from Ethan himself. Miss Lind, please don't take my words to heart." She smiled wryly.

Charis's words only piqued Janet's curiosity.

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The ambiguous answer made her wonder about the kind of relationship she shared with Ethan. A thousand thoughts began to swarm in her mind. "You said it was in the past, so why don't you tell me?" Janet asked, restraining her anger. She couldn't understand why she was angry. "No. I don't want to talk about it. I hope you don't mind. Forget about what I said. Let bygones be bygones. Ethan is married now, and I only wish the best for you both." Charis smiled. Although she seemed calm, the sadness was

evident in her eyes. Janet could tell that Charis still had feelings for Ethan, and she wouldn't give up. 'No wonder Charis called Ethan in the middle of the night. She isn't stupid enough to forget the time difference. She must have done it on purpose,' thought Janet. "Well, if you don't want to talk about it, I won't force you." with that, Janet stormed out of the office.

She always had an inkling that Ethan was hiding something from her. He had only told her that Charis was just his classmate, but not once did he mention that Charis liked him. Janet's suspicion intensified; she strongly believed Ethan was hiding something from her. A complacent smile emerged on Charis's face as she

watched Janet walk away, she had told everything she wanted to say and sown the seeds of suspicion in Janet's mind. She had managed to stir her peace by giving ambiguous answers to her desperate questions.

Jealousy simmered in Janet's heart. Her mind was a mess, and she couldn't concentrate on anything. When it was time to leave, Kent called her again. "We have finalized the design today. I think it deserves a

celebration. Would you like to join me for dinner?" Janet's mind flitted to the proud, complacent smile on Charis's face earlier. "Okay. I'll see you in a bit." Kent had prepared himself to face another rejection. But excitement bubbled up in her heart when he heard her answer. It looked like all his efforts had finally paid off. He quickly booked a table in an exquisite restaurant in a five-star hotel with floors of guest rooms just upstairs, so it would be convenient for him to take her up for some after-party after dinner. Kent picked Janet from the office and drove her to the hotel. The two got out of the car and walked inside. Meanwhile, Garrett brought his girlfriend to the same hotel. Just as he was about to take a bite of food, his gaze fell on Kent.

He stopped and looked intently to see the man's latest conquest. Garrett's eyes widened in horror when he saw Janet walking beside him.

Chapter 215 You're About To Lose Your Wife

Garrett grew nervous. He called Ethan right away. "Bro, come to the Sandy Hotel right now. You're about to lose your wife!"

Ethan was busy cooking at home. He had been trying his best to improve his relationship with Janet. Therefore, Ethan returned home early every day and cooked a delicious meal for Janet.

“Kent?” Ethan took off his apron, picked up his jacket from the sofa, and darted out. “Keep an eye on them. I’ll be there soon.”

“You know Kent very well. He has brought Janet to a hotel. He’s definitely up to no good. Something is about to happen tonight.”

Garrett fell silent. He couldn’t understand why Janet had agreed to have dinner with Kent in the first place. He knew that Kent had wanted Janet as the head designer for the project they were working on and also knew Janet hated Kent. Therefore, he was confident nothing would go wrong. Ethan walked out of the apartment and hailed a taxi. “It’s all my fault,” he grunted, running a hand through his hair. “Knowing Janet, I thought she wouldn’t give Kent any chance. Besides, Kent would never force a woman, so I thought everything would be fine.” Ethan didn’t think it would be a problem, so he didn’t feel the need to mess it up. After all, he didn’t want to wreck Janet’s first project as the chief designer. It would be a good opportunity to grow and hone her skills. “You should know that Kent has his way of getting into women’s pants. Either that or something is wrong with Janet. That’s probably why she has agreed to have dinner with him.”

Garrett’s heart sank when he followed them into the restaurant. Janet and Kent were laughing and chatting happily. The anticipation made him sick. “Well, I’m on my way.” Ethan hung up the phone coldly and looked out the window, hoping to reach the hotel soon. The soft lights of the room made the place all the more romantic. Kent was a little excited tonight. He had dressed into a gorgeous suit and brought his flirting game on, trying to impress her. Nobody knew what she was thinking. However, despite all his effort, Janet seemed absentminded. She propped

her chin on the palm of her hand and blankly stared outside. Kent waved his hand before Janet's face to grab her attention. "What would you like to eat? The steak here is out of the world. Miss Lind, this is the third time I'm asking you this question." Janet was lost in thought. She didn't bother paying attention to him. "Order whatever you like. I don't have anything in mind."

"What are you thinking? Tell me. I can tell something is bothering you. Maybe I can help you solve your problem." Kent ordered the food and handed the menu to the waiter.

His heart sank with disappointment. He had thought Janet's determination had finally wavered when she finally agreed to have dinner with him. However, she had been disinterested ever since she came to the hotel. "Nothing." Janet didn't like sharing her thoughts with strangers. Besides, she didn't have a good opinion of Kent, so she thought it was better to keep her worries to herself. Kent drummed his fingers on the table. Just as he was about to speak, Janet's phone blared in her bag. "Sorry, I should answer the phone." She tucked a strand of hair behind her ear and picked up the phone from her bag.

'Why is Ethan calling me now?' She frowned.

Chapter 216 Unexpected Arrival

Janet's anger was still flickering inside her. Talking to Ethan was the last thing she wanted to do now. She picked up the phone and said coldly, "I'm having dinner with a client. I'll call you back

later.” She then hung up the phone before Ethan could say a word.

The busy tone that came after his wife’s statement made Ethan’s face darken. He didn’t expect her to react like this. His fingers tightened around the phone as his heart sank. “Can’t you drive faster?” he asked in a low, but impatient voice. The atmosphere in the car instantly became tense. This question made the driver’s palms sweaty all of a sudden. He sensed Ethan’s mood and didn’t dare to disobey him. He stepped on the gas and maneuvered through the vehicles on the road.

Meanwhile, in the restaurant, a waiter just served the dishes at the table of Janet and Kent. The tantalizing aroma wafted into their nostrils. The colors of the food made them look so tempting. However, none of these moved Janet. She didn’t have an appetite for it due to her fury. She just kept forking the steak on the plate in a bid to vent her anger. “Ouch! That hurts!” Kent cried out, holding his chest. It wasn’t until this moment that Janet came to her senses. She looked up at him and asked in confusion, “What’s wrong?” Kent jerked his chin towards the steak on her plate and responded, “I’m just speaking up for the steak on your plate. If it could talk, it would say, ‘Ouch! That hurts!’” “Jeez! You’re so childish,” said Janet, rolling her eyes. She then looked down at her plate and saw that the steak had several bright-red marks amidst its crusty brown exterior. Her anger no longer blinded her.

Kent stopped making a joke about it. He quietly cut his steak into small pieces. Afterward, he exchanged her plate of steak with his and began cutting again. While at it, he looked up at her with a smile and said, “Come on, eat something first to fill your stomach. You can worry about whatever that is bothering you later. But

you can't eat steak like that. They make the best steak here. Have a taste of it. I'm sure you will love it."

Despite Kent's nudge and thoughtful help, Janet still couldn't bring herself to eat. Her anger had made her appetite non-existent. "Oh, I see. Why don't you eat both servings since it's so good?" she supported her chin with one hand and sighed slightly. It finally dawned on Kent that all wasn't well with her. He set down his cutlery and picked up the glass of wine beside him. As he poured some into his glass, he asked, "Penny for your thoughts? Tell me what bothers you. How about drowning your sorrows in wine?"

Kent was a cunning man. He knew that alcohol could easily intoxicate women. As a result, he wanted to make things easier by getting Janet drunk first. He thought schemingly, 'Damn, if I can make her drunk, it would be convenient for me to just take her to the room upstairs. Please fall for it!' Covering the brim of her glass, Janet stared at him with her eyes gleaming with vigilance. She muttered politely, "I'm sorry. I can't drink."

She had an extremely low tolerance for alcohol. No matter how she tried to control herself, she always ended up misbehaving after drinking. She had learned a lesson from what happened the last time. So, she didn't dare to drink even though it would be nice to drown her sorrow. "Hey, why not? Are you afraid that you will get drunk?" A sinister glint flashed through Kent's eyes at this moment. "No, it's not that. I have a stomach problem, so I can't drink," replied Janet, forcing a smile. "Don't worry. The alcohol percentage in this wine it's very low. It won't upset your stomach. Just take it. I assure

you that it would get rid of your dull spirit.” Kent put the glass of wine in front of her.

“No, thanks, Mr. Perkins. I don’t want to risk it.”

Janet gently pushed the wineglass towards him. He pushed it back, and this lasted for a while. All of a sudden.

someone grabbed the wineglass and gulped down its content at a go.

“I’m her husband, so I’ll just drink it for her.” Ethan heavily put the glass on the table. His eyes were as sharp as an

eagle’s. The dim light made his facial features look deeper and colder. He was staring daggers at Kent.

Under this intimidating aura, Kent was noticeably startled. Ethan only stood there and stared at him, but he sensed that he was a terrifying person. He suddenly felt the urge to pee. And he broke out in a cold sweat. “Oh my God! What is he doing here? How did he find me?” Janet’s heart was pounding. She didn’t expect Ethan to show up here. Just as she felt weak in the knees, Ethan pulled her up roughly. “Let’s go.” Never did it occur to Kent that Janet’s husband would come here. He had thought his mischievous plan would be achievable tonight. Although he was a scum, he wasn’t stupid, so he didn’t stand up to Ethan in public. Ethan pulled Janet outside of the hotel. The cold night wind hit her immediately. She couldn’t help but shiver. Her teeth also chattered.

“You said you were with a client. This is a hotel. Why are you here?” he asked with a sneer.

Chapter 217 Lovers' Tiff

Janet was a stubborn woman. Not only was she angry with Ethan, but she was also displeased that he was speaking to her in that tone. She shook off his hand and smoothed her hair which had been messed up by the cold night breeze. After she put her hair behind her ears, she faced him squarely. “Mind your words, Ethan. This might be a hotel, but it came with the restaurant downstairs. Kent booked a table in the restaurant and we were just having dinner. I've done nothing else with him. Or did you catch me doing anything out of line?”

Ethan suppressed his anger when he realized that he had been too harsh and his wife was getting angrier. He fixed

his eyes on her and said softly, “You should have declined his invitation.”

“You and I know this is not just an ordinary invitation. It's for work. Kent and I have to work together in the future. There's no way I can decline seeing him always.” Janet lowered her eyes to stare at the ground. The warm gleam in Ethan's eyes and his soft voice made her feel guilty. “I get that, but you should have told me in advance. You shouldn't have hung up the phone without giving me a chance to talk. How do you think that makes me feel?” Ethan queried calmly. Janet's anger which was previously dying down was reignited by his last sentence. ‘Humph! See who's talking about feelings? Yes, I came to have dinner with Kent in a fit of pique. I was wrong for not informing him. But

what makes him any different? After all, he hid his past with Charis from me. Why is it a big deal that I'm dining with my client? How dare he criticize me? Oh, please!" She chewed him out in her mind. Balls of fury swirled inside Janet as she thought about it. Charis' affectionate face when she talked about Ethan also flashed through her mind. It made her blood boil. The next second, she lost her cool. She raised her blazing eyes and looked at Ethan. She then shouted angrily, "Spare me your moral high ground, Ethan. You have no right to guilt-trip me. You kept your words intentionally vague when it came to Charis. I'm your wife, but you didn't tell me that she confessed her love to you before! Not once did you tell me that she had feelings for you. Why then are you concerned about who I have dinner with? Answer me!"

Many people were moving in and out of the hotel. They stole glances at the couple and whispered to each other.

They all thought that it was just a normal lovers' tiff, so none of them interfered. Ethan was rendered speechless. After a while, he frowned and said, "Yes, it's true Charis once professed her love to me. But I didn't like her, so I refused her immediately. If she still hasn't moved on, how is that my fault?" All these could be traced back to high school. As far as Ethan was concerned, Charis' confession of love was a trivial matter. He felt that it wasn't supposed to be causing a fight in his marriage. "It happened years ago. Honestly, I didn't tell you because I was afraid that you would be angrier if you knew it. Please, let's not argue over that anymore." Ethan took off his jacket and put it on Janet. Janet snorted coldly and lowered her eyes without saying anything. She felt a little powerless. Being kept in the dark was

one of the things she hated the most. She wanted to know everything about him, no matter how small.

But Ethan always had misgivings. He didn't know how sad she felt whenever he kept such little details away from her. It always made her heart ache inexplicably. Growing up as the adopted daughter of the Lind family, her opinions were never taken into consideration. They always ignored her and made decisions that were often disadvantageous to her. This was also the case with her biological parents who had abandoned her without considering how she would survive in this cruel world. All of these made Janet feel so left out and unloved. She badly wanted to feel how it was like to be taken into consideration when decisions were being made. 'I know next to nothing about my husband, but Charis knows his favorite colors and the kind of things he likes. She

was even by his side for many years. Oh, Lord!'

The thought of this caused Janet's heart to ache again. Her energy seemed to be draining rapidly.

Sensing that she was still sad, Ethan put his arms around her and patted her back gently. He then asked, "Who told

you about it?"

Janet suffered a banging headache and her face turned pale at this moment. The terrible memories tormented her

greatly. A painful lump went up to her throat when she tried to wade them off. In a fit of pique, she wriggled free, took off his

jacket, and threw it on him. She then replied with a pout, “Charis told me herself.”

Ethan caught the black jacket and frowned imperceptibly. He knew what kind of person Charis was. At this moment, he thought, ‘Jeez! How could she do such a stupid thing? I guess I wasn’t being too paranoid for keeping her a secret. She would have caused more harm if I made it clear to Janet from the onset!

Chapter 218 None Of Your Business

With that, Janet walked forward without looking back. Ethan quickly followed her and grabbed her wrist. “Even if you’re angry, you shouldn’t have gone to have dinner with Kent. He is a notorious scum in Seacisco. If I didn’t come here tonight, do you know what he would have done to you?” Janet struggled to withdraw her hand from his hold but couldn’t escape Ethan’s vice-like grip. She looked up at him and glared. “It’s none of your business! You better stay out of this. We don’t have feelings for each other. Our marriage is just a deal and we only try to make do. You have no right to interfere with my personal life.” Janet didn’t mind living alone. She wanted to live a peaceful life without any unnecessary problems and complications. After earning enough money, she had planned to bring Hannah over from the countryside. After all, Hannah was the only one who truly cared about her. Although she looked gentle and sweet, deep down, she was more stubborn than anyone else. Ethan’s body froze. He silently let go of her wrist. Janet walked to the other side of the road and hailed a taxi. She didn’t bother to look back at him even once. Janet knew that Ethan must be mad at her for what she had said. However, it didn’t matter because she believed the one he truly loved was back. Janet regarded herself

as an outsider and thought it was time for her to step back. As soon as Janet returned home, she went to her room, picked up all the things Ethan had dumped in her room, and moved them into the living room. Then, she took her belongings from Ethan's room and moved back to her room. She didn't want to live in the same room with Ethan anymore. When Ethan returned home, he saw that Janet had already moved back into her room and locked herself there. Ethan wandered around in the living room dejectedly. It was yet another cold, lonely night. He was angry and upset. However, considering he was the one who had caused all the problems in the first place, he held back his anger. Ethan walked toward Janet's room and raised his hand to knock on the door. But eventually he clenched his fist and decided against it. He walked back and slumped on the sofa, letting out a weary sigh. Ethan had always been a proud man. He didn't want to beg her to talk to him. Besides, even if he did, he feared it would only worsen things and increase her anger. Ethan had no choice but to control himself and wait for Janet to cool down. After all, she seemed upset and angry. Ethan felt it was better for them both to take a break and then sit down and discuss the problem. Charis was the reason for all their problems, so he decided to talk to her first. A thousand thoughts swarmed Ethan's mind. He took a deep breath, went downstairs, and dialed Charis's number.

Chapter 219 She Heard It

“Hey, I thought you were busy,” Charis squealed with surprise. “Why have you called me at this hour?” She had just returned home from work. “I'm not calling to say hello. I want to ask you something.” Ethan said coldly. “Why did you tell Janet about what happened between us in the past?”

When Charis decided to tell everything to Janet and sow the seeds of doubts in her mind, she knew Ethan would

come to her “What’s wrong? Did she quarrel with you?” Charis asked, pretending to be surprised. “She’s unhappy,” Ethan grunted.

“I’m sorry, but I didn’t mean to do it. You know me,” Charis whined innocently. “She asked about us and our past, and I couldn’t just walk away from our conversation. That would be rude. However, I made it clear to her that although I liked you, it’s all in the past, and you’re married now. I told her that I no longer have a crush on you and I only wish you two nothing but happiness. I didn’t expect Janet would bicker with you for such a trivial issue. I thought she was a reasonable woman.”

Charis had already prepared what to tell Ethan when he questioned her. She wanted to make it seem like she didn’t do anything wrong, and Janet’s shallowness was the reason for their problems. She wanted to shift all the blame on Janet. However, the phone call displeased her. It seemed that Ethan truly cared about Janet. He had called her late at night just to talk about this. Ethan didn’t think Charis was lying. After all, she would easily be busted if she really lied about this and he asked Janet to confront her.

He knew Charis well. She was bold, straightforward, and wouldn’t waste her time creating problems in their lives. But Ethan couldn’t entirely be sure of it. His intuition told him that things weren’t as simple as they seemed.

Janet would never make trouble out of nothing. If Charis had merely talked about the past and their friendship, Janet wouldn't be jealous.

“Why don't you say anything?” Charis knew Ethan well and understood what he must be thinking. She sighed and said, “Do you want me to talk to Janet tomorrow and explain everything clearly to her? I'm really sorry. I didn't

“No, thanks,” Ethan said unhappily. Charis's heart sank.

It looked like Ethan was suspicious of her. The cold wind gave him a headache.

Reading women's minds was an impossible task. Ethan felt the only solution to the problem was to keep Janet away from Charis. It would be better if the two never saw each other again.

However, unlike Christopher, Charis was important to the Larson Group. She was the daughter of the Turner family.

Ethan, despite being the CEO of the Larson Group, couldn't just kick her out.

“Charis, you better mind your own business,” he said, massaging his throbbing temples. “Stay out of our personal problems.”

At that moment, he heard rustling noises behind him. Ethan turned around and saw Janet standing behind him. Her dress billowed with the cold wind as she stared at him with tears in her eyes.

Chapter 220 Misunderstanding

An hour ago Janet had deliberately made noises while moving her things back to her room.

Her anger flared up when Ethan didn't respond. She slammed the door, making it rattle against the hinges.

She had thought Ethan would stop her and explain everything to her. Part of her hoped all this was just a misunderstanding, and Charis was nothing more than Ethan's classmate. Janet waited for a long time but didn't hear any sound outside. Janet walked to the bed and slumped down. She was mad at herself for not being decisive enough. She had stormed off like she didn't give a damn. However, she couldn't stop thinking about what was going on in Ethan's mind. She fell on the bed and buried her face in the pillow. It was a quiet night. As Janet stirred in her sleep, she felt like someone was standing by her bed. She quickly opened her eyes and turned the light on. However, there was no one else in her room. The white blanket was still smooth and fluffy. Janet realized no one had been watching her sleep. Ethan hadn't whispered sweet things into her ear during her sleep. Janet sat up and massaged her temples. 'Why hasn't Ethan bothered to explain himself? Was my guess right then?'

Janet couldn't stop thinking about the smug look on Charis's face. They definitely had a history. The more she thought about it, the angrier she became. Finally, unable to take it anymore, she got up from the bed.

She knew sitting in the room and wracking her brains was pointless. The only solution to the problem was to talk to Ethan about it.

But Janet was a coward. Her momentum disappeared as soon as she walked out of the bedroom. She trudged across the living room as if nothing had happened, pretending that she only got up to get some water. However, to her surprise, the living room was empty.

‘Where is Ethan?’

She frowned and tiptoed to his room.

However, Ethan wasn’t in his room either.

Janet was enraged. She couldn’t believe Ethan had left the house without even telling her. Janet took a bottle of beer from the fridge and walked to the balcony. A gust of cold breeze brushed against her as she looked down. Her gaze fell on the man standing in the garden downstairs.

It was Ethan.

He was leaning against the tree, talking over the phone. Janet grew suspicious. ‘Why does he have to go downstairs to answer the phone? Does he not want me to know who he is talking with?’ Janet quickly ran downstairs and walked toward Ethan from behind. The cool night breeze caused the shadows of the trees to dance under the street lamps.

Janet could clearly hear his voice. He uttered Charis’s name and was asking her not to get involved in their business.

‘What does he mean? It looks like the two indeed have a history — an unforgettable past.’ Janet’s heart sank.

Countless thoughts and possibilities buzzed in her mind. Her vision grew blurry. She froze and didn't dare to walk

any further It looked like Charis was telling the truth. And Ethan didn't care to explain himself probably because he never cared about Janet.

A wave of shame consumed her. She felt stupid for trying to defend Ethan for a moment.

Janet wiped her tears, turned around, and ran back A pang of jealousy settled in her heart. All of a sudden, she broke into a cold sweat, and her body began to tremble.

The Substitute Wife My Poor Husband is a Billionaire Chapter 214

Chapter 214 Sow Discord

Seeing the look on Janet's face, Charis hurriedly held her hand. "I'm sorry. I shouldn't have said that. It's all in the past. Oh, God. Hasn't Ethan told you?" Licking her pale lips, Janet forced a smile. "No. Were you two in a relationship?"

Janet felt the two must have been together before. Why else would Ethan hide the truth about Charis? Every time she tried asking about her, he would always try changing the topic or give a perfunctory answer. Charis shook her head and let go of Janet's hand. "It's all in the past. Forget it. It will only ruin your current relationship with him. Besides, I think it would be better for you to hear it from Ethan himself. Miss Lind, please don't take my words to heart." She smiled wryly.

Charis's words only piqued Janet's curiosity.

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The ambiguous answer made her wonder about the kind of relationship she shared with Ethan. A thousand thoughts began to swarm in her mind. "You said it was in the past, so why don't you tell me?" Janet asked, restraining her anger. She couldn't understand why she was angry. "No. I don't want to talk about it. I hope you don't mind. Forget about what I said. Let bygones be bygones. Ethan is married now, and I only wish the best for you both." Charis smiled. Although she seemed calm, the sadness was

evident in her eyes. Janet could tell that Charis still had feelings for Ethan, and she wouldn't give up. 'No wonder Charis called Ethan in the middle of the night. She isn't stupid enough to forget the time difference. She must have done it on purpose,' thought Janet. "Well, if you don't want to talk about it, I won't force you." with that, Janet stormed out of the office.

She always had an inkling that Ethan was hiding something from her. He had only told her that Charis was just his classmate, but not once did he mention that Charis liked him. Janet's suspicion intensified; she strongly believed Ethan was hiding something from her. A complacent smile emerged on Charis's face as she watched Janet walk away, she had told everything she wanted to say and sown the seeds of suspicion in Janet's mind. She had managed to stir her peace by giving ambiguous answers to her desperate questions.

Jealousy simmered in Janet's heart. Her mind was a mess, and she couldn't concentrate on anything. When it was time to leave,

Kent called her again. “We have finalized the design today. I think it deserves a

celebration. Would you like to join me for dinner?” Janet’s mind flitted to the proud, complacent smile on Charis’s face earlier. “Okay. I’ll see you in a bit.” Kent had prepared himself to face another rejection. But excitement bubbled up in her heart when he heard her answer. It looked like all his efforts had finally paid off. He quickly booked a table in an exquisite restaurant in a five-star hotel with floors of guest rooms just upstairs, so it would be convenient for him to take her up for some after-party after dinner. Kent picked Janet from the office and drove her to the hotel. The two got out of the car and walked inside. Meanwhile, Garrett brought his girlfriend to the same hotel. Just as he was about to take a bite of food, his gaze fell on Kent.

He stopped and looked intently to see the man’s latest conquest. Garrett’s eyes widened in horror when he saw Janet walking beside him.

Chapter 215 You’re About To Lose Your Wife

Garrett grew nervous. He called Ethan right away. “Bro, come to the Sandy Hotel right now. You’re about to lose your wife!”

Ethan was busy cooking at home. He had been trying his best to improve his relationship with Janet. Therefore, Ethan returned home early every day and cooked a delicious meal for Janet. “Kent?” Ethan took off his apron, picked up his jacket from the sofa, and darted out. “Keep an eye on them. I’ll be there soon.” “You know Kent very well. He has brought Janet to a hotel. He’s definitely up to no good. Something is about to happen tonight.”

Garrett fell silent. He couldn't understand why Janet had agreed to have dinner with Kent in the first place. He knew that Kent had wanted Janet as the head designer for the project they were working on and also knew Janet hated Kent. Therefore, he was confident nothing would go wrong. Ethan walked out of the apartment and hailed a taxi. "It's all my fault," he grunted, running a hand through his hair. "Knowing Janet, I thought she wouldn't give Kent any chance. Besides, Kent would never force a woman, so I thought everything would be fine." Ethan didn't think it would be a problem, so he didn't feel the need to mess it up. After all, he didn't want to wreck Janet's first project as the chief designer. It would be a good opportunity to grow and hone her skills. "You should know that Kent has his way of getting into women's pants. Either that or something is wrong with Janet. That's probably why she has agreed to have dinner with him." Garrett's heart sank when he followed them into the restaurant. Janet and Kent were laughing and chatting happily. The anticipation made him sick. "Well, I'm on my way." Ethan hung up the phone coldly and looked out the window, hoping to reach the hotel soon. The soft lights of the room made the place all the more romantic. Kent was a little excited tonight. He had dressed into a gorgeous suit and brought his flirting game on, trying to impress her. Nobody knew what she was thinking. However, despite all his effort, Janet seemed absentminded. She propped her chin on the palm of her hand and blankly stared outside. Kent waved his hand before Janet's face to grab her attention. "What would you like to eat? The steak here is out of the world. Miss Lind, this is the third time I'm asking you this question." Janet was lost in thought. She didn't bother paying attention to him. "Order whatever you like. I don't have anything in mind."

“What are you thinking? Tell me. I can tell something is bothering you. Maybe I can help you solve your problem.” Kent ordered the food and handed the menu to the waiter.

His heart sank with disappointment. He had thought Janet’s determination had finally wavered when she finally agreed to have dinner with him. However, she had been disinterested ever since she came to the hotel. “Nothing.” Janet didn’t like sharing her thoughts with strangers. Besides, she didn’t have a good opinion of Kent, so she thought it was better to keep her worries to herself. Kent drummed his fingers on the table. Just as he was about to speak, Janet’s phone blared in her bag. “Sorry, I should answer the phone.” She tucked a strand of hair behind her ear and picked up the phone from her

bag.

“Why is Ethan calling me now?” She frowned.

Chapter 216 Unexpected Arrival

Janet’s anger was still flickering inside her. Talking to Ethan was the last thing she wanted to do now. She picked up the phone and said coldly, “I’m having dinner with a client. I’ll call you back later.” She then hung up the phone before Ethan could say a word.

The busy tone that came after his wife’s statement made Ethan’s face darken. He didn’t expect her to react like this. His fingers tightened around the phone as his heart sank. “Can’t you drive faster?” he asked in a low, but impatient voice. The atmosphere in the car instantly became tense. This question made the driver’s

palms sweaty all of a sudden. He sensed Ethan's mood and didn't dare to disobey him. He stepped on the gas and maneuvered through the vehicles on the road.

Meanwhile, in the restaurant, a waiter just served the dishes at the table of Janet and Kent. The tantalizing aroma wafted into their nostrils. The colors of the food made them look so tempting. However, none of these moved Janet. She didn't have an appetite for it due to her fury. She just kept forking the steak on the plate in a bid to vent her anger. "Ouch! That hurts!" Kent cried out, holding his chest. It wasn't until this moment that Janet came to her senses. She looked up at him and asked in confusion, "What's wrong?" Kent jerked his chin towards the steak on her plate and responded, "I'm just speaking up for the steak on your plate. If it could talk, it would say, 'Ouch! That hurts!'" "Jeez! You're so childish," said Janet, rolling her eyes. She then looked down at her plate and saw that the steak had several bright-red marks amidst its crusty brown exterior. Her anger no longer blinded her.

Kent stopped making a joke about it. He quietly cut his steak into small pieces. Afterward, he exchanged her plate of steak with his and began cutting again. While at it, he looked up at her with a smile and said, "Come on, eat something first to fill your stomach. You can worry about whatever that is bothering you later. But you can't eat steak like that. They make the best steak here. Have a taste of it. I'm sure you will love it."

Despite Kent's nudge and thoughtful help, Janet still couldn't bring herself to eat. Her anger had made her appetite non-existent. "Oh, I see. Why don't you eat both servings since it's so good?" she supported her chin with one hand and sighed

slightly. It finally dawned on Kent that all wasn't well with her. He set down his cutlery and picked up the glass of wine beside him. As he poured some into his glass, he asked, "Penny for your thoughts? Tell me what bothers you. How about drowning your sorrows in wine?"

Kent was a cunning man. He knew that alcohol could easily intoxicate women. As a result, he wanted to make things easier by getting Janet drunk first. He thought schemingly, 'Damn, if I can make her drunk, it would be convenient for me to just take her to the room upstairs. Please fall for it!' Covering the brim of her glass, Janet stared at him with her eyes gleaming with vigilance. She muttered politely, "I'm sorry. I can't drink."

She had an extremely low tolerance for alcohol. No matter how she tried to control herself, she always ended up misbehaving after drinking. She had learned a lesson from what happened the last time. So, she didn't dare to drink even though it would be nice to drown her sorrow. "Hey, why not? Are you afraid that you will get drunk?" A sinister glint flashed through Kent's eyes at this moment. "No, it's not that. I have a stomach problem, so I can't drink," replied Janet, forcing a smile. "Don't worry. The alcohol percentage in this wine it's very low. It won't upset your stomach. Just take it. I assure

you that it would get rid of your dull spirit." Kent put the glass of wine in front of her.

"No, thanks, Mr. Perkins. I don't want to risk it."

Janet gently pushed the wineglass towards him. He pushed it back, and this lasted for a while. All of a sudden.

someone grabbed the wineglass and gulped down its content at a go.

“I’m her husband, so I’ll just drink it for her.” Ethan heavily put the glass on the table. His eyes were as sharp as an eagle’s. The dim light made his facial features look deeper and colder. He was staring daggers at Kent.

Under this intimidating aura, Kent was noticeably startled. Ethan only stood there and stared at him, but he sensed that he was a terrifying person. He suddenly felt the urge to pee. And he broke out in a cold sweat. ‘Oh my God! What is he doing here? How did he find me?’ Janet’s heart was pounding. She didn’t expect Ethan to show up here. Just as she felt weak in the knees, Ethan pulled her up roughly. “Let’s go.” Never did it occur to Kent that Janet’s husband would come here. He had thought his mischievous plan would be achievable tonight. Although he was a scum, he wasn’t stupid, so he didn’t stand up to Ethan in public. Ethan pulled Janet outside of the hotel. The cold night wind hit her immediately. She couldn’t help but shiver. Her teeth also chattered.

“You said you were with a client. This is a hotel. Why are you here?” he asked with a sneer.

Chapter 217 Lovers’ Tiff

Janet was a stubborn woman. Not only was she angry with Ethan, but she was also displeased that he was speaking to her in that tone. She shook off his hand and smoothed her hair which had been messed up by the cold night breeze. After she put her hair

behind her ears, she faced him squarely. “Mind your words, Ethan. This might be a hotel, but it came with the restaurant downstairs. Kent booked a table in the restaurant and we were just having dinner. I’ve done nothing else with him. Or did you catch me doing anything out of line?”

Ethan suppressed his anger when he realized that he had been too harsh and his wife was getting angrier. He fixed

his eyes on her and said softly, “You should have declined his invitation.”

“You and I know this is not just an ordinary invitation. It’s for work. Kent and I have to work together in the future. There’s no way I can decline seeing him always.” Janet lowered her eyes to stare at the ground. The warm gleam in Ethan’s eyes and his soft voice made her feel guilty. “I get that, but you should have told me in advance. You shouldn’t have hung up the phone without giving me a chance to talk. How do you think that makes me feel?” Ethan queried calmly. Janet’s anger which was previously dying down was reignited by his last sentence. ‘Humph! See who’s talking about feelings? Yes, I came to have dinner with Kent in a fit of pique. I was wrong for not informing him. But what makes him any different? After all, he hid his past with Charis from me. Why is it a big deal that I’m dining with my client? How dare he criticize me? Oh, please!’ She chewed him out in her mind. Balls of fury swirled inside Janet as she thought about it. Charis’ affectionate face when she talked about Ethan also flashed through her mind. It made her blood boil. The next second, she lost her cool. She raised her blazing eyes and looked at Ethan. She then shouted angrily, “Spare me your moral high ground, Ethan. You have no right to guilt-trip me. You kept your

words intentionally vague when it came to Charis. I'm your wife, but you didn't tell me that she confessed her love to you before! Not once did you tell me that she had feelings for you. Why then are you concerned about who I have dinner with? Answer me!"

Many people were moving in and out of the hotel. They stole glances at the couple and whispered to each other.

They all thought that it was just a normal lovers' tiff, so none of them interfered. Ethan was rendered speechless. After a while, he frowned and said, "Yes, it's true Charis once professed her love to me. But I didn't like her, so I refused her immediately. If she still hasn't moved on, how is that my fault?" All these could be traced back to high school. As far as Ethan was concerned, Charis' confession of love was a trivial matter. He felt that it wasn't supposed to be causing a fight in his marriage. "It happened years ago. Honestly, I didn't tell you because I was afraid that you would be angrier if you knew it. Please, let's not argue over that anymore." Ethan took off his jacket and put it on Janet. Janet snorted coldly and lowered her eyes without saying anything. She felt a little powerless. Being kept in the dark was one of the things she hated the most. She wanted to know everything about him, no matter how small.

But Ethan always had misgivings. He didn't know how sad she felt whenever he kept such little details away from her. It always made her heart ache inexplicably. Growing up as the adopted daughter of the Lind family, her opinions were never taken into consideration. They always ignored her and made decisions that were often disadvantageous to her. This was also the case with her biological parents who had abandoned her without considering how she would survive in this cruel world. All of

these made Janet feel so left out and unloved. She badly wanted to feel how it was like to be taken into consideration when decisions were being made. ‘I know next to nothing about my husband, but Charis knows his favorite colors and the kind of things he likes. She

was even by his side for many years. Oh, Lord!’

The thought of this caused Janet’s heart to ache again. Her energy seemed to be draining rapidly.

Sensing that she was still sad, Ethan put his arms around her and patted her back gently. He then asked, “Who told

you about it?”

Janet suffered a banging headache and her face turned pale at this moment. The terrible memories tormented her

greatly. A painful lump went up to her throat when she tried to wade them off. In a fit of pique, she wriggled free, took off his jacket, and threw it on him. She then replied with a pout, “Charis told me herself.”

Ethan caught the black jacket and frowned imperceptibly. He knew what kind of person Charis was. At this moment, he thought, ‘Jeez! How could she do such a stupid thing? I guess I wasn’t being too paranoid for keeping her a secret. She would have caused more harm if I made it clear to Janet from the onset!’

Chapter 218 None Of Your Business

With that, Janet walked forward without looking back. Ethan quickly followed her and grabbed her wrist. “Even if you’re angry, you shouldn’t have gone to have dinner with Kent. He is a notorious scum in Seacisco. If I didn’t come here tonight, do you know what he would have done to you?” Janet struggled to withdraw her hand from his hold but couldn’t escape Ethan’s vice-like grip. She looked up at him and glared. “It’s none of your business! You better stay out of this. We don’t have feelings for each other. Our marriage is just a deal and we only try to make do. You have no right to interfere with my personal life.” Janet didn’t mind living alone. She wanted to live a peaceful life without any unnecessary problems and complications. After earning enough money, she had planned to bring Hannah over from the countryside. After all, Hannah was the only one who truly cared about her. Although she looked gentle and sweet, deep down, she was more stubborn than anyone else. Ethan’s body froze. He silently let go of her wrist. Janet walked to the other side of the road and hailed a taxi. She didn’t bother to look back at him even once. Janet knew that Ethan must be mad at her for what she had said. However, it didn’t matter because she believed the one he truly loved was back. Janet regarded herself as an outsider and thought it was time for her to step back. As soon as Janet returned home, she went to her room, picked up all the things Ethan had dumped in her room, and moved them into the living room. Then, she took her belongings from Ethan’s room and moved back to her room. She didn’t want to live in the same room with Ethan anymore. When Ethan returned home, he saw that Janet had already moved back into her room and locked herself there. Ethan wandered around in the living room dejectedly. It was yet another cold, lonely night. He was angry and upset. However, considering he was the one who had caused

all the problems in the first place, he held back his anger. Ethan walked toward Janet's room and raised his hand to knock on the door. But eventually he clenched his fist and decided against it. He walked back and slumped on the sofa, letting out a weary sigh. Ethan had always been a proud man. He didn't want to beg her to talk to him. Besides, even if he did, he feared it would only worsen things and increase her anger. Ethan had no choice but to control himself and wait for Janet to cool down. After all, she seemed upset and angry. Ethan felt it was better for them both to take a break and then sit down and discuss the problem. Charis was the reason for all their problems, so he decided to talk to her first. A thousand thoughts swarmed Ethan's mind. He took a deep breath, went downstairs, and dialed Charis's number.

Chapter 219 She Heard It

“Hey, I thought you were busy,” Charis squealed with surprise. “Why have you called me at this hour?” She had just returned home from work. “I'm not calling to say hello. I want to ask you something.” Ethan said coldly. “Why did you tell Janet about what happened between us in the past?”

When Charis decided to tell everything to Janet and sow the seeds of doubts in her mind, she knew Ethan would

come to her. “What's wrong? Did she quarrel with you?” Charis asked, pretending to be surprised. “She's unhappy,” Ethan grunted.

“I'm sorry, but I didn't mean to do it. You know me,” Charis whined innocently. “She asked about us and our past, and I couldn't just walk away from our conversation. That would be

rude. However, I made it clear to her that although I liked you, it's all in the past, and you're married now. I told her that I no longer have a crush on you and I only wish you two nothing but happiness. I didn't expect Janet would bicker with you for such a trivial issue. I thought she was a reasonable woman.”

Charis had already prepared what to tell Ethan when he questioned her. She wanted to make it seem like she didn't do anything wrong, and Janet's shallowness was the reason for their problems. She wanted to shift all the blame on Janet. However, the phone call displeased her. It seemed that Ethan truly cared about Janet. He had called her late at night just to talk about this. Ethan didn't think Charis was lying. After all, she would easily be busted if she really lied about this and he asked Janet to confront her.

He knew Charis well. She was bold, straightforward, and wouldn't waste her time creating problems in their lives. But Ethan couldn't entirely be sure of it. His intuition told him that things weren't as simple as they seemed.

Janet would never make trouble out of nothing. If Charis had merely talked about the past and their friendship, Janet wouldn't be jealous.

“Why don't you say anything?” Charis knew Ethan well and understood what he must be thinking. She sighed and said, “Do you want me to talk to Janet tomorrow and explain everything clearly to her? I'm really sorry. I didn't

“No, thanks,” Ethan said unhappily. Charis's heart sank.

It looked like Ethan was suspicious of her. The cold wind gave him a headache.

Reading women's minds was an impossible task. Ethan felt the only solution to the problem was to keep Janet away from Charis. It would be better if the two never saw each other again.

However, unlike Christopher, Charis was important to the Larson Group. She was the daughter of the Turner family.

Ethan, despite being the CEO of the Larson Group, couldn't just kick her out.

"Charis, you better mind your own business," he said, massaging his throbbing temples. "Stay out of our personal problems."

At that moment, he heard rustling noises behind him. Ethan turned around and saw Janet standing behind him. Her dress billowed with the cold wind as she stared at him with tears in her eyes.

Chapter 220 Misunderstanding

An hour ago Janet had deliberately made noises while moving her things back to her room.

Her anger flared up when Ethan didn't respond. She slammed the door, making it rattle against the hinges.

She had thought Ethan would stop her and explain everything to her. Part of her hoped all this was just a misunderstanding, and Charis was nothing more than Ethan's classmate. Janet waited for a long time but didn't hear any sound outside. Janet walked to

the bed and slumped down. She was mad at herself for not being decisive enough. She had stormed off like she didn't give a damn. However, she couldn't stop thinking about what was going on in Ethan's mind. She fell on the bed and buried her face in the pillow. It was a quiet night. As Janet stirred in her sleep, she felt like someone was standing by her bed. She quickly opened her eyes and turned the light on. However, there was no one else in her room. The white blanket was still smooth and fluffy. Janet realized no one had been watching her sleep. Ethan hadn't whispered sweet things into her ear during her sleep. Janet sat up and massaged her temples. 'Why hasn't Ethan bothered to explain himself? Was my guess right then?'

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But Janet was a coward. Her momentum disappeared as soon as she walked out of the bedroom. She trudged across the living room as if nothing had happened, pretending that she only got up to get some water. However, to her surprise, the living room was empty.

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He was leaning against the tree, talking over the phone. Janet grew suspicious. 'Why does he have to go downstairs to answer the phone? Does he not want me to know who he is talking with?' Janet quickly ran downstairs and walked toward Ethan from behind. The cool night breeze caused the shadows of the trees to dance under the street lamps.

Janet could clearly hear his voice. He uttered Charis's name and was asking her not to get involved in their business.

'What does he mean? It looks like the two indeed have a history — an unforgettable past.' Janet's heart sank.

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The Substitute Wife My Poor Husband is a Billionaire Chapter 215

Chapter 215 You're About To Lose Your Wife

Garrett grew nervous. He called Ethan right away. "Bro, come to the Sandy Hotel right now. You're about to lose your wife!"

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Chapter 216 Unexpected Arrival

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Chapter 218 None Of Your Business

With that, Janet walked forward without looking back. Ethan quickly followed her and grabbed her wrist. “Even if you’re angry, you shouldn’t have gone to have dinner with Kent. He is a notorious scum in Seacisco. If I didn’t come here tonight, do you know what he would have done to you?” Janet struggled to withdraw her hand from his hold but couldn’t escape Ethan’s vice-like grip. She looked up at him and glared. “It’s none of your business! You better stay out of this. We don’t have feelings for each other. Our marriage is just a deal and we only try to make do. You have no right to interfere with my personal life.” Janet didn’t mind living alone. She wanted to live a peaceful life without any unnecessary problems and complications. After earning enough money, she had planned to bring Hannah over from the countryside. After all, Hannah was the only one who

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Chapter 219 She Heard It

“Hey, I thought you were busy,” Charis squealed with surprise “Why have you called me at this hour?” She had just returned home from work “I’m not calling to say hello. I want to ask you something.” Ethan said coldly. “Why did you tell Janet about what happened between us in the past?”

When Charis decided to tell everything to Janet and sow the seeds of doubts in her mind, she knew Ethan would

come to her “What’s wrong? Did she quarrel with you?” Charis asked, pretending to be surprised. “She’s unhappy,” Ethan grunted.

“I’m sorry, but I didn’t mean to do it. You know me,” Charis whined innocently. “She asked about us and our past, and I couldn’t just walk away from our conversation. That would be rude. However, I made it clear to her that although I liked you, it’s all in the past, and you’re married now. I told her that I no longer have a crush on you and I only wish you two nothing but happiness. I didn’t expect Janet would bicker with you for such a trivial issue. I thought she was a reasonable woman.”

Charis had already prepared what to tell Ethan when he questioned her. She wanted to make it seem like she didn’t do anything wrong, and Janet’s shallowness was the reason for their problems. She wanted to shift all the blame on Janet. However, the phone call displeased her. It seemed that Ethan truly cared about Janet. He had called her late at night just to talk about this. Ethan didn’t think Charis was lying. After all, she would easily be

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He knew Charis well. She was bold, straightforward, and wouldn't waste her time creating problems in their lives. But Ethan couldn't entirely be sure of it. His intuition told him that things weren't as simple as they seemed.

Janet would never make trouble out of nothing. If Charis had merely talked about the past and their friendship, Janet wouldn't be jealous.

“Why don't you say anything?” Charis knew Ethan well and understood what he must be thinking. She sighed and said, “Do you want me to talk to Janet tomorrow and explain everything clearly to her? I'm really sorry. I didn't

“No, thanks,” Ethan said unhappily. Charis's heart sank.

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However, unlike Christopher, Charis was important to the Larson Group. She was the daughter of the Turner family.

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“Charis, you better mind your own business,” he said, massaging his throbbing temples. “Stay out of our personal problems.”

At that moment, he heard rustling noises behind him. Ethan turned around and saw Janet standing behind him. Her dress billowed with the cold wind as she stared at him with tears in her eyes.

Chapter 220 Misunderstanding

An hour ago Janet had deliberately made noises while moving her things back to her room.

Her anger flared up when Ethan didn't respond. She slammed the door, making it rattle against the hinges.

She had thought Ethan would stop her and explain everything to her. Part of her hoped all this was just a misunderstanding, and Charis was nothing more than Ethan's classmate. Janet waited for a long time but didn't hear any sound outside. Janet walked to the bed and slumped down. She was mad at herself for not being decisive enough. She had stormed off like she didn't give a damn. However, she couldn't stop thinking about what was going on in Ethan's mind. She fell on the bed and buried her face in the pillow. It was a quiet night. As Janet stirred in her sleep, she felt like someone was standing by her bed. She quickly opened her eyes and turned the light on. However, there was no one else in her room. The white blanket was still smooth and fluffy. Janet realized no one had been watching her sleep. Ethan hadn't whispered sweet things into her ear during her sleep. Janet sat up and massaged her temples. ‘Why hasn't Ethan bothered to explain himself? Was my guess right then?’

Janet couldn't stop thinking about the smug look on Charis's face. They definitely had a history. The more she thought about it, the angrier she became. Finally, unable to take it anymore, she got up from the bed.

She knew sitting in the room and wracking her brains was pointless. The only solution to the problem was to talk to Ethan about it.

But Janet was a coward. Her momentum disappeared as soon as she walked out of the bedroom. She trudged across the living room as if nothing had happened, pretending that she only got up to get some water. However, to her surprise, the living room was empty.

‘Where is Ethan?’

She frowned and tiptoed to his room.

However, Ethan wasn't in his room either.

Janet was enraged. She couldn't believe Ethan had left the house without even telling her. Janet took a bottle of beer from the fridge and walked to the balcony. A gust of cold breeze brushed against her as she looked down. Her gaze fell on the man standing in the garden downstairs.

It was Ethan.

He was leaning against the tree, talking over the phone. Janet grew suspicious. ‘Why does he have to go downstairs to answer the phone? Does he not want me to know who he is talking

with?’ Janet quickly ran downstairs and walked toward Ethan from behind. The cool night breeze caused the shadows of the trees to dance under the street lamps.

Janet could clearly hear his voice. He uttered Charis’s name and was asking her not to get involved in their business.

‘What does he mean? It looks like the two indeed have a history — an unforgettable past.’ Janet’s heart sank.

Countless thoughts and possibilities buzzed in her mind. Her vision grew blurry. She froze and didn’t dare to walk

any further. It looked like Charis was telling the truth. And Ethan didn’t care to explain himself probably because he never cared about Janet.

A wave of shame consumed her. She felt stupid for trying to defend Ethan for a moment.

Janet wiped her tears, turned around, and ran back. A pang of jealousy settled in her heart. All of a sudden, she broke into a cold sweat, and her body began to tremble.

**The Substitute Wife My Poor Husband is a Billionaire
Chapter 216**

Chapter 216 Unexpected Arrival

Janet’s anger was still flickering inside her. Talking to Ethan was the last thing she wanted to do now. She picked up the phone and said coldly, ‘I’m having dinner with a client. I’ll call you back

later.” She then hung up the phone before Ethan could say a word.

The busy tone that came after his wife’s statement made Ethan’s face darken. He didn’t expect her to react like this. His fingers tightened around the phone as his heart sank. “Can’t you drive faster?” he asked in a low, but impatient voice. The atmosphere in the car instantly became tense. This question made the driver’s palms sweaty all of a sudden. He sensed Ethan’s mood and didn’t dare to disobey him. He stepped on the gas and maneuvered through the vehicles on the road.

Meanwhile, in the restaurant, a waiter just served the dishes at the table of Janet and Kent. The tantalizing aroma wafted into their nostrils. The colors of the food made them look so tempting. However, none of these moved Janet. She didn’t have an appetite for it due to her fury. She just kept forking the steak on the plate in a bid to vent her anger. “Ouch! That hurts!” Kent cried out, holding his chest. It wasn’t until this moment that Janet came to her senses. She looked up at him and asked in confusion, “What’s wrong?” Kent jerked his chin towards the steak on her plate and responded, “I’m just speaking up for the steak on your plate. If it could talk, it would say, ‘Ouch! That hurts!’” “Jeez! You’re so childish,” said Janet, rolling her eyes. She then looked down at her plate and saw that the steak had several bright-red marks amidst its crusty brown exterior. Her anger no longer blinded her.

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Chapter 217 Lovers’ Tiff

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Janet couldn't stop thinking about the smug look on Charis's face. They definitely had a history. The more she thought about it, the angrier she became. Finally, unable to take it anymore, she got up from the bed.

She knew sitting in the room and wracking her brains was pointless. The only solution to the problem was to talk to Ethan about it.

But Janet was a coward. Her momentum disappeared as soon as she walked out of the bedroom. She trudged across the living room as if nothing had happened, pretending that she only got up to get some water. However, to her surprise, the living room was empty.

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The Substitute Wife My Poor Husband is a Billionaire Chapter 217

Chapter 217 Lovers' Tiff

Janet was a stubborn woman. Not only was she angry with Ethan, but she was also displeased that he was speaking to her in that tone. She shook off his hand and smoothed her hair which had been messed up by the cold night breeze. After she put her hair behind her ears, she faced him squarely. "Mind your words, Ethan. This might be a hotel, but it came with the restaurant downstairs. Kent booked a table in the restaurant and we were just having dinner. I've done nothing else with him. Or did you catch me doing anything out of line?"

Ethan suppressed his anger when he realized that he had been too harsh and his wife was getting angrier. He fixed

his eyes on her and said softly, “You should have declined his invitation.”

“You and I know this is not just an ordinary invitation. It’s for work. Kent and I have to work together in the future. There’s no way I can decline seeing him always.” Janet lowered her eyes to stare at the ground. The warm gleam in Ethan’s eyes and his soft voice made her feel guilty. “I get that, but you should have told me in advance. You shouldn’t have hung up the phone without giving me a chance to talk. How do you think that makes me feel?” Ethan queried calmly. Janet’s anger which was previously dying down was reignited by his last sentence. ‘Humph! See who’s talking about feelings? Yes, I came to have dinner with Kent in a fit of pique. I was wrong for not informing him. But what makes him any different? After all, he hid his past with Charis from me. Why is it a big deal that I’m dining with my client? How dare he criticize me? Oh, please!’ She chewed him out in her mind. Balls of fury swirled inside Janet as she thought about it. Charis’ affectionate face when she talked about Ethan also flashed through her mind. It made her blood boil. The next second, she lost her cool. She raised her blazing eyes and looked at Ethan. She then shouted angrily, “Spare me your moral high ground, Ethan. You have no right to guilt-trip me. You kept your words intentionally vague when it came to Charis. I’m your wife, but you didn’t tell me that she confessed her love to you before! Not once did you tell me that she had feelings for you. Why then are you concerned about who I have dinner with? Answer me!”

Many people were moving in and out of the hotel. They stole glances at the couple and whispered to each other.

They all thought that it was just a normal lovers' tiff, so none of them interfered. Ethan was rendered speechless. After a while, he frowned and said, "Yes, it's true Charis once professed her love to me. But I didn't like her, so I refused her immediately. If she still hasn't moved on, how is that my fault?" All these could be traced back to high school. As far as Ethan was concerned, Charis' confession of love was a trivial matter. He felt that it wasn't supposed to be causing a fight in his marriage. "It happened years ago. Honestly, I didn't tell you because I was afraid that you would be angrier if you knew it. Please, let's not argue over that anymore." Ethan took off his jacket and put it on Janet. Janet snorted coldly and lowered her eyes without saying anything. She felt a little powerless. Being kept in the dark was one of the things she hated the most. She wanted to know everything about him, no matter how small.

But Ethan always had misgivings. He didn't know how sad she felt whenever he kept such little details away from her. It always made her heart ache inexplicably. Growing up as the adopted daughter of the Lind family, her opinions were never taken into consideration. They always ignored her and made decisions that were often disadvantageous to her. This was also the case with her biological parents who had abandoned her without considering how she would survive in this cruel world. All of these made Janet feel so left out and unloved. She badly wanted to feel how it was like to be taken into consideration when decisions were being made. 'I know next to nothing about my husband, but Charis knows his favorite colors and the kind of things he likes. She

was even by his side for many years. Oh, Lord!'

The thought of this caused Janet's heart to ache again. Her energy seemed to be draining rapidly.

Sensing that she was still sad, Ethan put his arms around her and patted her back gently. He then asked, "Who told you about it?"

Janet suffered a banging headache and her face turned pale at this moment. The terrible memories tormented her

greatly. A painful lump went up to her throat when she tried to wade them off. In a fit of pique, she wriggled free, took off his jacket, and threw it on him. She then replied with a pout, "Charis told me herself."

Ethan caught the black jacket and frowned imperceptibly. He knew what kind of person Charis was. At this moment, he thought, 'Jeez! How could she do such a stupid thing? I guess I wasn't being too paranoid for keeping her a secret. She would have caused more harm if I made it clear to Janet from the onset!

Chapter 218 None Of Your Business

With that, Janet walked forward without looking back. Ethan quickly followed her and grabbed her wrist. "Even if you're angry, you shouldn't have gone to have dinner with Kent. He is a notorious scum in Seacisco. If I didn't come here tonight, do you know what he would have done to you?" Janet struggled to withdraw her hand from his hold but couldn't escape Ethan's vice-like grip. She looked up at him and glared. "It's none of your business! You better stay out of this. We don't have feelings

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Chapter 219 She Heard It

“Hey, I thought you were busy,” Charis squealed with surprise. “Why have you called me at this hour?” She had just returned home from work. “I’m not calling to say hello. I want to ask you something.” Ethan said coldly. “Why did you tell Janet about what happened between us in the past?”

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Her anger flared up when Ethan didn't respond. She slammed the door, making it rattle against the hinges.

She had thought Ethan would stop her and explain everything to her. Part of her hoped all this was just a misunderstanding, and Charis was nothing more than Ethan's classmate. Janet waited for a long time but didn't hear any sound outside. Janet walked to the bed and slumped down. She was mad at herself for not being decisive enough. She had stormed off like she didn't give a damn. However, she couldn't stop thinking about what was going on in Ethan's mind. She fell on the bed and buried her face in the pillow. It was a quiet night. As Janet stirred in her sleep, she felt like someone was standing by her bed. She quickly opened her eyes and turned the light on. However, there was no one else in her room. The white blanket was still smooth and fluffy. Janet realized no one had been watching her sleep. Ethan hadn't whispered sweet things into her ear during her sleep. Janet sat up and massaged her temples. 'Why hasn't Ethan bothered to explain himself? Was my guess right then?'

Janet couldn't stop thinking about the smug look on Charis's face. They definitely had a history. The more she thought about it, the angrier she became. Finally, unable to take it anymore, she got up from the bed.

She knew sitting in the room and wracking her brains was pointless. The only solution to the problem was to talk to Ethan about it.

But Janet was a coward. Her momentum disappeared as soon as she walked out of the bedroom. She trudged across the living room as if nothing had happened, pretending that she only got up to get some water. However, to her surprise, the living room was empty.

‘Where is Ethan?’

She frowned and tiptoed to his room.

However, Ethan wasn’t in his room either.

Janet was enraged. She couldn’t believe Ethan had left the house without even telling her. Janet took a bottle of beer from the fridge and walked to the balcony. A gust of cold breeze brushed against her as she looked down. Her gaze fell on the man standing in the garden downstairs.

It was Ethan.

He was leaning against the tree, talking over the phone. Janet grew suspicious. ‘Why does he have to go downstairs to answer the phone? Does he not want me to know who he is talking with?’ Janet quickly ran downstairs and walked toward Ethan from behind. The cool night breeze caused the shadows of the trees to dance under the street lamps.

Janet could clearly hear his voice. He uttered Charis’s name and was asking her not to get involved in their business.

‘What does he mean? It looks like the two indeed have a history — an unforgettable past.’ Janet’s heart sank.

Countless thoughts and possibilities buzzed in her mind. Her vision grew blurry. She froze and didn't dare to walk

any further It looked like Charis was telling the truth. And Ethan didn't care to explain himself probably because he never cared about Janet.

A wave of shame consumed her. She felt stupid for trying to defend Ethan for a moment.

Janet wiped her tears, turned around, and ran back A pang of jealousy settled in her heart. All of a sudden, she broke into a cold sweat, and her body began to tremble.