

## **Chapter 61 She Drank His Water**

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Zoey felt regretful because she had thought she had met someone who actually understood art, but it

turned out that the other person...

She sighed inwardly, a trace of disappointment crossing her eyes.

She quietly observed Orlando, curious about his thoughts on her designer being perceived as a

mistress.

But Orlando was too composed. He even took up the water the waiter had prepared earlier and sipped

it as if all of this was unimportant to him.

There were soft whispers all around.

"She's stunning, but she's a mistress. It's no surprise she's so self-assured."

"Whose marriages did she destroy? Was she a mistress since she was a student?"

"She is accustomed to being a mistress. Such a waste of her beauty."

"Don't you think she's mentally tough? Even after her heinous past was revealed, she remained calm."

Unconsciously, everyone's gazes turned to Penny. Penny stood quietly with a slight frown on her

forehead.

"Don't Ms. Bender and Ms. Foster know that one should take responsibility for their words?"

She said calmly, taking out her phone. "Ms. Bender, I've given you a chance."

After pressing the play button, Fiona's voice instantly came through.

"You tried to seduce Rocco back then, but his wife chased you to the school and poured paint on you. It

caused quite a commotion. Several years have passed; did you think everyone had forgotten it?

Besides, I'm the head now."

...

"Mr. McKay often asks me about you."

"Now you're just a designer. If Mr. McKay finds out your whereabouts, will he come looking for you

personally? After all, he regrets not sleeping with you back then. He's been longing for you for a long

time."

As a teacher and head, how can she say these words to her former student?

Penny finished playing the recording and held her phone lightly in her fingertips.

"Ms. Bender, why don't you tell us who I was the mistress of? Was it your ex-lover, Rocco? Too bad!

You admitted it in the recording yourself. Back then, when you and he pressured me together, I resisted

with all my might. To make me submit, you didn't hesitate to spread rumors about me plagiarizing, almost preventing me from receiving my graduation certificate. Even the work I submitted for the competition was sent back. Ms. Bender, you're really enjoying yourself now. But I wonder how many students you've pressured like this to where you sent them to Rocco's bed." Fiona's face turned pale as paper, and even the last trace of blood drained. Penny smiled and looked at the police, pointing at Fiona.

"Officers, I want to sue not just Ms. Foster for defamation, but also the head of Chatville University for defaming students and forcing them to accompany the investors. The evidence of coercion against me is on her phone."

The video that Fiona used to threaten Penny now became the most favorable evidence.

Penny knew very well that the existence of that video allowed her to reveal the truth.

This was Chatville University, with so many vital figures around. The police couldn't afford to be lenient,

so they quickly had someone retrieve Fiona's phone.

Fiona felt weak all over and looked at Mr. Hardy for help.

Mr. Hardy's face also turned gray, and his lips trembled. He almost fainted directly.

Fiona's phone was taken away, and a hidden file contained videos of her scheming to pressure female

students was found out.

Some students were wholly devastated and gave up on this career path completely.

Some didn't even receive their graduation certificates and became the laughingstock of their families.

The art studio at Chatville University's School of Arts was large enough to hold numerous awards, but it

was also little enough to not accommodate a group of girls' dreams.

When the police saw those videos, their expressions changed instantly. They handcuffed Fiona with

silver handcuffs.

"Ms. Bender, the evidence is conclusive. Please go with us."

After saying that, the police turned to Ruby.

"Ms. Foster, please come with us to make a statement."

Ruby's mind was blank, and she didn't understand how the situation had developed in a completely

unexpected direction for her.

Meanwhile, Fiona slumped to the ground, weak and unable to get up.

It's over.

Everything is finished.

That video not only failed to threaten Penny, but it also became evidence that pushed herself into the

abyss.

How did it come to this...

She grabbed onto Mr. Hardy's trouser leg as if seeking help.

"Mr. Hardy! Save me! You were involved in her affairs too! Didn't you tacitly approve of what I did?"

Mr. Hardy stepped back in fear, even considering kicking Fiona away.

But Fiona was so panicked that she desperately clung to Mr. Hardy as if he was her last straw.

The police couldn't help but look at Penny, seeking confirmation of Mr. Hardy's innocence.

This matter involved many people and took place before many vital figures. They absolutely couldn't

afford to be negligent.

Penny raised an eyebrow. "Mr. Hardy, both Ms. Bender and Ms. Foster have mentioned you. Don't you

want to come out and explain yourself?"

Mr. Hardy's face turned pale, and he dared not look into Penny's eyes. He lost all his momentum, and

finally, his eyes went dark, and he fainted directly.

The police were helpless. But even if Mr. Hardy had fainted, they still had to take him away for

questioning.

Fiona was pushed forward, glaring fiercely at Penny.

"You bitch! You're a bitch! I should've killed you back then."

"How could I lose to a student who is nothing?"

Penny allowed them to manipulate her back then, but she had forced them into such a miserable state

in just a few short years.

It was silent, and no one spoke.

Countless eyes were on Penny, but she simply sat back down, picked up a glass of water, and then

took a sip.

Orlando, who was sitting next to her, frowned slightly. That was his water, and he had just sipped it.



## **Chapter 62 Let Me Heal You**

Chapter 62 Let Me Heal You

Penny remained calm, oblivious that she had drunk someone else's water.

When the police took Mrs. Bender and Mr. Hardy away, Mr. Preston immediately took charge and

welcomed the guests.

Mr. Preston personally came to apologize to Orlando when the farce ended.

"Mr. Fletcher, I'm sorry for causing you embarrassment. Chatville University will be held responsible for

all investors, and we will aggressively participate in the police inquiry."

Orlando wrinkled his brow, remarking that Mr. Preston's demeanor was preferable to Mr. Hardy's.

Mr. Preston sighed as he glanced at Penny. "It's been a long time, Perry."

Mr. Preston was quite helpful when Penny switched from painting to design. Under the dual pressure of

Mr. Hardy and Fiona, she would have required additional time to complete her degree.

"Mr. Preston, I hope you're well."

"I came up with your designer name back then," remarked Mr. Preston, smiling. "I thought I misheard

when I heard Mr. Fletcher's designer's name was the same as yours until I met you today. I am relieved

to see that you are doing well."

Although he had helped Penny intentionally a few years ago, he was restricted in what he could do and

could only assist her in obtaining her degree.

Fiona was the head of Chatville University's School of Arts and was well-connected and influential.

Penny will surely confront various challenges if she proceeded along the path of painting.

Mr. Preston had asked about Penny's intentions at the time. It was clear that she would fail if she

continued to paint.

Penny's sole words were, "Break to Rebuild."

She would break through and start again since the previous path was inaccessible.

Mr. Preston was struck with recollections as he looked at Penny. Back then, she was his favorite student.

He was, however, preoccupied and didn't have time for small talk. He had to comfort other visitors to the art exhibition.

Zoey pinched her cheeks as soon as Mr. Preston departed to make sure what just happened was true.

Mr. Hardy and Ms. Bender were in trouble as soon as Perry arrived?

And she even had that snobbish Ruby taken by the police.

Zoey realized she wasn't dreaming when she felt pain from pinching herself.

Penny had no intention of staying here. She smiled at Orlando and went away.

Her heart wasn't at peace, so she wanted a quiet place to digest everything.

However, as soon as she walked out of the hall, she could hear the rain outside.

It was pouring, and the world seemed like a swaying landscape painting.

She didn't pack an umbrella since it was sunny when she set off.

There are no stores within a hundred meters of the art building.

She heard Clark's voice as an umbrella appeared over her head.

"Miss Penny, I thought you were quite impressive just now."

Penny couldn't help but wrinkle her brows as his tone remained flippant.

This guy had remained unseen the whole time, even disappearing into the crowd when she mentioned



Rocco. And now that storm had gone, he returned nonchalantly.

Penny's face had a slight tinge of irony, which could only be observed with close inspection.

"Shouldn't Mr. McKay return to your family to see what's going on?" Perhaps your loving father will be arrested."

Clark's lips pursed, and he lifted his finger to brush across her face. When he saw Penny's vigilance, he retracted his hand.

"If something happens to him, I'll naturally take over as president of the McKay Group. Perry, I should really thank you this time. I'm becoming more interested in you. Why don't we get together for a meal?

Allow me to free you from the shade cast by my father."

He smiled gently, his eyes somewhat ambiguous.

Penny couldn't stand it any longer. She took his umbrella and dashed into the rain curtain.

Clark's smile faded as he watched her figure recede into the rain. He had just one umbrella.

He got a glimpse of her silhouette through the rain curtain and laughed.

Things have just become more interesting.



## **Chapter 63 Are My Hands Beautiful**

Chapter 63 Are My Hands Beautiful

Penny took a short walk outside with the umbrella, and her pants were soaked.

A car slowly approached her and honked twice.

She was annoyed because she believed it was Clark again.

Zoey's voice could be heard as the car window opened slightly.

"Get in the car quickly. Traffic is awful right now, and many people are outside."

Penny looked around where her car was parked and spotted a large gathering. Because the rain was getting heavier, she accepted the invitation and thanked Zoey before getting into the car.

The rain and humidity were sealed outside, making the inside of the car refreshingly silent.

Penny assumed this was the Fletcher family's car for picking up Zoey, but to her astonishment, it was

Orlando's driver who drove the car.

She noticed Orlando sitting by the window, holding paperwork between his fingertips and lost in

thoughts, and she wondered what he was thinking.

Fortunately, Zoey was also in the car, so it wasn't too awkward.

Zoey's small cheeks glowed with delight.

"Do you know you're well-known among us students? Ruby used to be arrogant, but now she's been

hauled to the police station. The Foster family is most likely rushing to bail her out right now. And who

would have guessed Mr. Hardy and Ms. Bender had such ugly affairs behind their usual appearances?

They are truly revolting!"

Zoey couldn't help but softly pull Orlando. She waited for Orlando's calm stare to turn towards her

before looking at him eagerly. "Orlando, Ruby will undoubtedly complain to her brother later. Please

don't make things tough for Perry because of this, okay?"

Penny was a little moved. She thought Zoey was utterly innocent. After all she had been through, it was

the first time she had been protected by others.

Orlando's forehead furrowed, but he still said, "Okay."

Zoey's face instantly brightened. When the car arrived at her house, she took the umbrella the driver

offered her and said, "Please take Penny home, Orlando. She helped me with my artwork and helped

me win the first place. She is both my teacher and my benefactor. You must be respectful to her."

Zoey was like a chirping bird.

The atmosphere within the car got thick once the small bird vanished.

Penny couldn't help but straighten her spine as she noticed Orlando's hand on the paperwork. It was

thin and looked like nicely carved porcelain.

She couldn't stop staring at it.

She watched his fingers lightly tapping on the paperwork and heard him say, "Is it beautiful?"

Penny hadn't realized she'd been staring at his hand for a minute. Now that she'd heard him ask, she

raised her eyes and smiled at him directly.

"Mr. Fletcher's hands are very beautiful. They make people want to paint them unconsciously."

Hands were the most challenging component of a figure painting to paint, since they were people's

second face.

Penny had so formed a habit of looking at other people's hands.

Orlando appeared cool at first glance, but his wrist bones were lengthy and white. Every visible part of

his hands fits perfectly. During his thought, he moved his fingertips as gently as a virgin.

This was top-tier material for an artist.

Except for the person who captured Penny's heart, gender didn't matter in her eyes.

The only distinction was whether what she observed was appropriate for painting. As a result, she was

unaware that a woman staring at a man without turning away was an indirect seduction.



## Chapter 64 The Bridal Cottage

### Chapter 64 The Bridal Villa

The rain was falling fiercely outside, and Penny's words could be heard clearly in the quiet cabin.

Orlando's fingers froze, a weirdness flaring in his eyes.

Penny didn't notice his reaction because her compliment was merely a passing remark.

She closed her eyes, hoping to sleep for a while. The car jolted at that moment.

Her head leaned in towards his, and the distance between them was cut in half right away.

With so much rain, the wet road made traffic jams worse.

They were stalled for half an hour before slowly moving again.

Penny closed her eyes and took a nap during that half-hour to avoid the unpleasantness of being with

Orlando.

Her recent sleep quality had been poor, and coupled with the mesmerizing sound of rain outside, she

unknowingly drifted into a deep sleep.

Zane, seated in the front row, didn't notice the mood behind until he spotted another car disobeying the

regulations through the rear-view mirror.

Suddenly, that car hit theirs, causing the entire vehicle to jolt forward.

Penny was about to hit the side window as a result of the incident.

Orlando furrowed his brow and hastily drew her back.

Inertia caused her smooth and boneless form to fall immediately into his arms.

Penny, who was fast asleep, felt as if she had touched a strange "pillow" that was generating warmth.

She embraced it, snuggled against it, shifted to a more comfortable posture, and fell back asleep.

Orlando's grip on her arm froze instantly. She was now cuddled in his arms, and her breath happened

to brush across a sensitive spot.

That was the most susceptible place for a man to be teased.

His eyes darkened, and he bent his head to stare at her.

She slept quietly, her long hair dispersed, showing a delicate and petite side profile. Under her eyelids

were thin dark circles.

The dark light inside the car gleamed on her face, giving her a calm, soft, and seductive expression.

Orlando looked at her for a moment before deciding not to bother her. Instead, he turned his head to

stare out the window, trying to calm himself.

Penny massaged her eyes when she awoke, only to discover a chin in her field of sight. She sat up

abruptly, startled.

Orlando's brow furrowed slightly as his chin leaned up. "We've arrived. Get off."

She couldn't determine if he was angry or showing another emotion.

Outside, the rain had already stopped.

"Mr. Fletcher, I'll see you next time."

Penny thanked him, slightly embarrassed, without paying attention to his reaction. She quickly entered

her own flat without turning around after getting out of the car.

But before she entered the room, she was aware of an unexpected presence.

The door, which should have been closed tightly, had a crack. She recovered from her embarrassment

and cautiously pulled the door open.

The flat was in chaos as if a robber had broken in.

There was also a small gap in the bedroom door, but she didn't dare to open it. Instead, she called the

police.

She waited until the police arrived before accompanying them inside. Knowing that nothing was gone,

she sighed with relief.

The flat, on the other hand, was clearly no longer safe. What would happen if the thief returned while

she was inside the flat?

A single woman living alone could not bear the thought.

She packed a few pieces of clothing and took everything she needed for work.

It was already late when she arrived at Hills Villa.

The security man at the entrance respectfully opened the gate after she paid the fare.

Rex gave her this bridal villa when she married Orlando. However, since Orlando had gone overseas at

that moment, he was unlikely to be aware of the existence of this place.

## **Chapter 65 Backstab Penny**

Chapter 65 Backstab Penny

As Penny walked in, she heard a burst of barking and noticed a white figure approaching her from a

distance and then frantically circling her.

Penny dropped her head and placed her hand on its brow.

"Niko, have you been a good boy while I was away?"

Anika emerged from the kitchen, wearing an apron and seemed to be approximately fifty years old,

compassionate and honest.

"When you weren't there, he was naughty. He even went to the fishpond yesterday and captured all the

fish. Finally, I removed the thorns and fried the fish for him."

Penny laughed and caressed Niko's head harder.

"How come you're so greedy?"

Niko was a German Shepherd who was roughly six years old and had always been by Penny's side.

Penny couldn't keep a dog in her flat, and Rex occurred to gift her this cottage. So she asked Anika to

look after Niko for her.

Penny dragged her bag into the hall after a while of playing with Niko.

Anika's eyes widened with amazement when she saw Penny in this state.

"Ms. Stuart, have you finally decided to live here?"



"My flat was broken into by thieves, so I'll be staying here for a few days."

Anika was taken aback and concerned. "Did you call the police? It is unsafe for a girl to live outside.

Why don't you just stay here from now on, Ms. Stuart? Rex instructed me to look after you, but you've

barely come here in the last three years. It's difficult for me to explain to Rex."

"I can only stay here until I find a new house."

Penny curled her lips slightly as she played with Niko with one hand.

Niko lay on the ground, excitedly wagging its tail, his eyes sparkling brilliantly.

On the other side, Orlando had just dropped off Penny when he received a call from Rex.

"Orlando, my paperwork is nearly finished. I'll be back soon."

Orlando rubbed his temples. "I know, Grandpa. Look after yourself."

"If you truly care about me, hurry up and have a big baby with Penny. Perhaps that will make me heal

faster. What is the use of simply caring in words?"

Orlando couldn't help but think about Penny's lovely handwriting on that agreement-Penny Stuart.

It was claimed that one's handwriting mirrored their true character. The Stuarts were notoriously

greedy, but her handwriting appeared clean and simple. It fell short of her family's reputation.

"I will do my best."

He said this without flinching his gaze.

Rex breathed a sigh of satisfaction, believing he was making an attempt.

"All right, when I come back, you and Penny must join me for meals on a regular basis."

Orlando furrowed his brows. He tried to frame it more gently after a few periods of thought.

"Grandpa, my schedule is incredibly packed. With my recent assumption of leadership at the Fletcher

Group, I have numerous new ventures to embark upon and internal policies to overhaul. I'm afraid that

I have only limited availability."

"Then tell me honestly, how do you feel about Penny?"

"Not bad."

Orlando replied with minimal enthusiasm. Upon noticing the video invitation on his computer, he found

an excuse.

"I'm about to participate in an online meeting. Grandpa, let's chat more when you come back."

After ending the call, he massaged his temples, feeling uneasy about not discussing it with Penny. He

realized that it would be challenging to avoid making mistakes when acting later.

As he pondered the covert operations of the Stuart family, a crease formed on his forehead. Ultimately,

he refrained from making the call but agreed to attend the online meeting.

If she proved incapable of managing such a trivial matter, there was no reason for the Fletcher Group

to provide the Stuarts with further financial support.

After all, the agreement said they would work together to act out the love story. If they screwed it up, it

was her breach of contract; don't blame him for being callous.

Near the end of the meeting, the car pulled over to the hotel where he was staying.

Just as he stepped out of the car, he heard a woman in the hotel lobby say, "Mr. Fletcher."

Orlando turned to face the source of the voice and discovered the woman was unfamiliar.

Norah's face lit up with delight. She had hoped that Penny would introduce her to Orlando, but she had

not expected to run into him at the hotel.

Her recent use of relationships to seek information appeared to have paid off.

Norah introduced herself, "Hello, Mr. Fletcher, I am a designer in the same studio as Perry. I also

competed for your project a while ago, but Perry worked the harder. Even when she was sick, she

persisted on meeting you with Mr. Pratt. In the end, she received what she wanted, and it is an honor

that you choose our studio."

She seemed to be praising Penny, but she was actually hinting that Penny would go to any length to

get close to Orlando.

How could Orlando have been unaware that she was backstabbing Penny?

He ignored her and was about to leave.

When Norah saw this, she instantly stated, "I just met with Mrs. Moran. She is really gentle and asked

me a few questions about Perry. Her statements imply that she believes Perry has hidden objectives. I

was planning on calling Perry to remind her, but I didn't expect to see you here."

## **Chapter 66 He Is Allergic to Dog Hair**

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Norah was a smart woman. She suspected that Orlando's relationship with his wife was bad after

learning that he had been sleeping in hotels since his return to Chatville. They most likely only met a

couple times every month.

The couple's bond in the wealthy family was so delicate that even if she fabricated a small untruth

about knowing Mrs. Fletcher, Orlando shouldn't suspect anything.

All she wanted was to create trouble for Penny.

Orlando paused and furrowed his brows almost imperceptibly.

He became increasingly disgusted with this so-called Mrs. Fletcher.

How did she dare assert her authority as Mrs. Fletcher outside?

"If Perry is bothering you, Mr. Fletcher can always speak with Mr. Pratt and seek an alternative

designer. After all, we've had similar circumstances in the past where a client's wife personally

approached us and asked for a replacement."

Norah spoke sincerely.

Orlando simply glanced at her and said, "Hmm."

With just this one-word reply, he walked towards the elevator.

Norah's face stiffened, and she couldn't continue following him.

She'd already said enough. If Orlando wasn't happy with Penny, who else in the studio could replace

her besides Norah herself?

She felt excited, thinking that she still had a chance.

As long as she could appear in front of Orlando more often...

Norah's heart raced as she watched his figure vanish into the elevator, unable to help but flush.

Penny had no idea that she had been backstabbed in front of Orlando.

She threw a plate into the air.

Niko eagerly ran up, caught it with its mouth, and then proudly crouched down beside her.

"Your legs."

Penny patted its head twice with a smile and threw the plate again.

After throwing it, she became aware of a person approaching in that direction. Penny's expression

changed slightly, and she hurriedly said, "Niko, come back!"

But Niko had already pounced on the person directly.

"Ah!"

Keely exclaimed as she saw the dog's pawprints on her white pants. Her brows furrowed.

Keely had never come here on her own before.

Penny didn't expect her to come today.

"Why are you keeping a dog here? This dog must be removed. Don't you know Orlando has a dog hair allergy?"

Penny and Niko almost never played like this. After all, she was generally too preoccupied with work to return. Niko, her family, had been with her since he was a puppy.

What does Orlando's dog hair allergy have to do with Niko?

"Ms. Moran, why do you come here?"

Keely wiped the dog's pawprints off her pants with a disgusted look and looked towards Anika, who was not far away.

"Rex will return soon. Although I wish you and Orlando a speedy divorce, Rex's health has always

been frail and unable to withstand stress. When he returns, the divorce will be postponed. So Orlando

will come here and remain for a few days. I've come to inform you of his habits and to bring you two more servants."

She spoke as if she was the hostess, and then looked at the big white dog.

"This dog must be removed. There must not be a single dog hair in this house. Orlando has a serious allergy. And if something happens to him, you won't be able to carry the blame."

In truth, Penny had no personal concerns with Orlando. Although they were married in name, they are nothing more than strangers in fact.

But if she were asked to compromise for Orlando's preferences, that wouldn't be possible.

Between Niko and Orlando, Niko naturally took priority.

However, because this villa was not her property, she had no reason to refuse.

"I'll look after Niko, but the servants are unnecessary. Rex has made plans for someone to be here for

Mr. Fletcher."

Keely snorted and entered the lobby.

This villa was personally prepared by Rex. It wasn't the best in Chatville, but it was probably the most

convenient and comfortable.

Keely was also satisfied with the villa.

"The cleaning is not too bad, however the dog is a nuisance. Remember to disinfect every inch of the

floor tiles after you have sent it away."

## **Chapter 67 Chance Encounter**

Chapter 67 Chance Encounter

Penny lowered her eyes, not wanting to engage in unnecessary arguments.

During these days of fulfilling the contract with Orlando, she merely wanted to spend time pleasantly

with the Fletcher family and occasionally appear in front of Rex. She tried her hardest to avoid disputes

with the other members of the Fletcher family.

Moreover, Keely cared a lot about her son Orlando, and if Penny argued with her, Keely would become

even more obstinate towards her.

So even when Keely picked on her inside the house, Penny stood there with lowered brows and did not

argue back.

It was not until Keely reached the second floor and saw the bed in the master bedroom that her brow

furrowed deeply.

"If Orlando moves in, he will undoubtedly occupy the master bedroom. You'll be sleeping in the guest

room. Don't expect anything to happen between you two during this period. And don't forget that once

Rex's condition improves, you'll have to leave."

Keely furrowed her brow after condemning Penny who had been silently following her since the

beginning.

"Did you hear what I said?"

Penny nodded, "I understand, Mrs. Moran. Is there anything else I should be aware of?"

Keely felt a lump in her chest. Why did she often find herself dumbfounded in front of this woman?

The frustration of not having anywhere to vent caused her to lose the urge to nitpick. She only gave

Anika a few instructions before leaving, notably about Orlando's food, advising her to be cautious with

it.

Anika could only nod in agreement.

After Keely left, Anika looked at Penny with some hesitation.

"Ms. Stuart, are you really going to send Niko away?"

"Anika, isn't there a large empty room behind this villa? If Mr. Fletcher comes over, we can temporarily

put Niko in there. Niko is just too energetic, and taking him to my friend's house would only lead to

chaos."

Anika exhaled a sigh of relief. She also liked Niko a lot, and after taking care of him for so long, she

had established an emotional relationship with him.

"Alright, I'll put Niko's toys in that room for now."

Penny gave a nod. Keely's whining had already put her in a terrible mood. Besides, she had no

intention of sharing a house with Orlando. It seemed that she needed to find a new place to live as quickly as possible.

She called Sandra and mentioned looking for a new flat, which naturally led to the incident in which her current place was broken into.

Sandra was concerned about her living alone outside and considered for a time, "Why don't you come live with me?"

Penny lifted an eyebrow, "Living with you? Will I have to watch you and Trevor have sex?"

"..."

Sandra was taken aback by her words, "Oh, if you come to live with me, I'll make sure he doesn't come

over. I'll just hand myself over on a silver platter to him."

She always spoke freely. Penny found it hilarious and stopped teasing her.

"No need, just keep an eye out for a house for me. If there's a suitable one, I'll move in immediately.

I've already put my current flat online."

Being broken in once indicated the flat was unsafe. Therefore, she needed to locate a more secure

house this time to avoid feeling concerned all the time.

"Okay, I'll keep an eye out for you."

After hanging up the phone, Penny noticed Niko still hopping around at her feet, wagging his tail on the

ground and scratching her leg. He didn't even know that he was detested.

Sandra was quick to respond, and the next day she presented Penny with various housing alternatives

and arranged for a professional real estate agent to accompany her to the locations.

Penny made an appointment with the agent at 11 o'clock in the morning and played with Niko for a



while before leaving.

"Ms. Stuart, this location is relatively quiet, and it's a mix of townhouses and villas with a low floor area

ratio. The setting is fantastic and ideal for young individuals like you."

Penny looked at the developer and knew it wouldn't be cheap here. The estimate would be around 10

million dollars, or perhaps more for the townhouses and villas.

"There are now two townhouses offered here, one for 8.4 million dollars and the other for 9 million

dollars. They are oriented differently. Ms. Stuart, would you want to come with me and take a look?"

Just hearing the price made Penny cringe.

She asked Sandra to find a safer place, but she didn't expect her to jump straight to townhouses.

She paid roughly two million dollars for her small flat. The price here, including taxes, would be at least

five times more.

Throughout the years, she had never asked Cason for money. She had a respectable sum in her bank

account after working for several years, but buying a house for eight or nine million dollars all at once

was still a challenge.

However, if she sold her flat and utilized the proceeds as a down payment, she could immediately

afford several million dollars.

She noticed another agent leading a couple to view a villa just as she was thinking about the down

payment.

It was none other than Helen and Cason.

Penny had gone unnoticed at first, but she overheard Helen say, "Talon wants to live in a villa, and

there happens to be a villa priced at 30 million dollars. He likes it. Therefore, I brought you here to see whether it's suitable."

Cason smiled, "If he likes it, let's buy it. What about Lana? Shouldn't she get her own place if her

brother gets one? She's grown up now, and I imagine she feels the same way most kids do, that living

with parents is inconvenient."

Helen scolded him with a glare, "I can't bear letting Lana live alone. It's not safe."

Cason nodded, "You're right. If a girl is left outside by herself, who knows what might happen? Lana's

health is also not good, so it would be best to keep her close."

## **Chapter 68 Is She Even Qualified**

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Penny stood still, expressionless, as she listened to these words.

She had been trying to convince herself that Cason wasn't biased. Her father had been good enough to

her since her mother's death.

But compared to how well he treated Helen's children, it was less than a fraction.

Penny found it hilarious that she was working so hard to save for a down payment while Cason easily

handed Talon millions of dollars for a villa.

Cason and Helen soon noticed her.

Helen frowned, "What are you doing here?"

Cason looked over and felt an unexplainable sense of embarrassment when he saw the real estate

agent in the same uniform standing next to Penny.

"Penny, are you buying a house?"

Penny was already deeply disappointed, but she kept her cool on the outside.  
"Hmm, my flat was

broken into, so I came here to find a safer place."

Cason hesitated, feeling guilty as he thought about Penny living alone all these years.

"Well..."

Before he could finish his sentence, Helen pulled at his sleeve.

"Don't make your father feel sorry for you. I heard Rex offered you a bridal villa worth billions of dollars.

Just go there if you truly have nowhere to live. Also, it will strengthen your bond with Orlando. You two

are now husband and wife, and if you look after him, your father's business will run much more

smoothly."

"Helen."

Penny glanced at Helen with a faint look, reminding her, "Even if I were to act pitiful in front of my

father, it seems to have nothing to do with you, right? Can you prevent him from purchasing a house for

his own daughter if he can gift the son of someone else a villa worth millions of dollars? And my father

hasn't even declared he'll buy it for me. Why are you in such a hurry to say that?"

Helen blushed at Penny's words.

Cason believed it was awkward to anger either party. However, he also felt that Penny's words were a

little excessive. They were in front of two real estate brokers, and Helen was, after all, her elder.

"Helen is just impatient. Don't mind her. Which one do you like? Daddy will buy it for you."

Cason attempted to smooth over his guilt towards his daughter with money.

Penny tugged at her lips and lowered her gaze. "No need, father. You and Helen can continue. I'll check out other places."

She didn't want to live in the same neighborhood as Talon.

Cason was rejected, and a helpless expression appeared on his face. Helen, by his side, furrowed her eyebrows directly.

"What do you mean? It appears that you haven't always thought of us as a family. And if it weren't for you, Lana wouldn't still be in the hospital right now."

"Helen, I believed that I was clear. Why make it so challenging when we are all adults? I left because I didn't want to live with Talon in the same house. Since he will be residing here, I made the decision to search elsewhere. I don't like Talon, but do I have to say it out loud? Is that what you're after?"

"You! You probably drove your mother to death! Today, I'm going to give you a lesson for your mother!"

Helen raised her hand to slap Penny. But Penny's gorgeous eyes shone coldly as she grabbed Helen's hand and slapped her back.

This slap caught everyone off guard and shattered years of carefully disguised peace.

Helen was stunned, covering her face in disbelief.

"As I said before, if you lay a hand on me again, I won't be polite to you anymore."

As soon as the words fell, Cason angrily shouted, "Penny!!"

He was so angry that his hand trembled.

He was the father, and Penny couldn't possibly fight back. But, even though she had expected this

outcome from the time he raised his hand, her heart ached unbearably.

But Cason never landed that slap. His hand lingered in the air for a long time. He looked at her with disappointment written all over his face.

"You used to be so sensible; how did you become like this?"

He embraced Helen to comfort her. But when had Helen ever been treated like this, especially by that woman's daughter?

Her chest trembling with pain, she screamed and tried to rush over.

"That's enough!"

Cason's tone was unusually stern. "Apologize to Helen. After all, she's your elder. Your behavior is unacceptable."

Penny turned to the real estate agent and said, "Sorry, please take me somewhere else."

"Penny Stuart!"

This was the first time Cason had erupted like this. He even called her full name, and his lips were slightly pale. When did his daughter stop listening to him?

"Father, my mother is already dead."

Penny stopped in her tracks, looking directly at her father.

"What gives Helen the right to repeatedly lay hands on me? You're concerned about Lana being alone

and in danger, but you're not concerned about what I've been through all these years. You keep

someone else's son by your side, yet you let your own daughter marry a stranger. Is it me or Helen who

is being unreasonable here?"

"What right does she have to teach me a lesson in place of my mother? Is she even qualified?"



## Chapter 69 That's Your Mother's Bad Luck

Chapter 69 That's Your Mother's Bad Luck

Cason's face turned pale, then green, then pale again. His lips trembled as he tried to say something

but stopped himself.

Helen was furious, grinding her teeth. "So this is how you've always seen our family, Penny! Would

your father have let Lana and me endure injustice if it hadn't been for you?

Lana's condition worsened

as a result! I think you are simply selfish."

"You wish to have your money to buy a house? That depends on whether I agree. Perhaps you don't

even know that your father has transferred 10% of the company's shares to me. I also have a say in

the business."

When Penny heard this, her eyes widened in disbelief.

Wasn't the 10% shares left to her by her mother?

She couldn't help but look at Cason, who deliberately avoided her gaze.

"Father, did you give that 10% shares to Helen from your own shares, or did you take the shares my

mother left for me and give them to her?"

Penny stared straight at her father, trying to read every subtle expression on his face.

Caught red-handed by his own daughter again, Cason felt embarrassed and explained, "I thought you

were still young. When you have children, I will naturally give you those shares, including mine. I won't

deduct anything from what your mother left for you."

With these words, everything should be clear.

Penny's hands on her side tightened slowly.

"So, Helen's shares are the ones left to me by my mother?"

"Yes, because it was complicated to transfer the shares at that time. The shareholders were causing

trouble, and if I transferred my shares, I might have given up control of the company. I own 40% of the

shares, and your mother owns 10%. As long as these shares do not fall into the hands of outsiders, it

makes no difference who owns them in our family, right?"

Penny closed her eyes slowly, feeling a bitter sensation at the tip of her nose.

That gentle and negotiable tone again.

If Cason had truly treated her badly, she could hate him openly.

But his bad treatment wasn't pure, and his goodness wasn't pure either, which made her

uncomfortable.

Seeing her unhappy expression, Cason hurriedly said, "If you mind, I will transfer the 10% shares to

you now..."

Penny smiled lightly and shook her head. "No, I just want Helen's shares. My mother was the one who helped you start the company from the ground up. She only came out to enjoy the benefits after your company had made strides. What gives her the right to take what belongs to my mother?"

Helen, who was standing nearby, couldn't contain her rage anymore. She had been unable to hold herself since Cason discussed transferring the 10% shares, and now she erupted.

"It's because your mother had bad luck and didn't get to enjoy it. Who is to blame for this? In the end, your father supported the company solely. He is free to give the shares to anyone he pleases. Now I am his legal wife. If you want your father to purchase you a villa, it's OK, but it has to be registered in my name."

"Enough." Cason pulled her back. "Helen, you should keep quiet."

He sighed deeply, trying to calm himself down. "Penny, your mother's death was an accident. All these years, I've been trying to make amends to you. I need to look after the company, but I only have so much energy. And Lana has been in the hospital the entire time. Helen has no bad intentions, and she



never intended to kick you out of the family. It was your decision to leave, and I attempted to stop you.

As for marrying Orlando, is that really such a hardship? Many women would love to marry him."

He paused and continued, "I'll deposit 30 million dollars into your bank account later so you can buy a

house. It was my mistake, but you must first apologize to Helen. She is, after all, your elder..."

"I won't apologize to her."

Cason couldn't handle losing face after being refuted repeatedly by his own daughter. "Then I won't

give you any money."

"You can get the money only if you apologize, Penny."

Penny smirked as she noticed his face turn chilly. "Well, Father, you're probably not going to get the

chance. I'm returning to our hometown. I planned a visit to my mother's grave with Philip. If you have

the time, you should also go see her."

Penny's tone was indifferent. She didn't want to waste more time here, so she turned to the real estate

agent who was standing nearby.

The agent, accidentally caught up in the family drama, felt awkward and quickly raised his hand. "Ms.

Stuart, besides this place, there are two other houses. Would you like to take a look?"

Penny gave a nod and began walking away. But then she heard Cason ask angrily, "You're still in

contact with Philip?"

## **Chapter 70 Niko Is Missing**

Chapter 70 Niko Is Missing

When Penny mentioned the person, Cason's anger was rekindled and his tone was dissatisfied. His

guilt towards Penny's mother lessened.

Penny no longer wanted to argue with him. "Philip did not commit any wrongdoing."

Cason's face darkened again. He desired to express his opinion, but he resisted and expressed his

disappointment towards his daughter with a strained expression.

Penny and the agent got into the car directly, ignoring the gaze behind them.

The agent drove in front, noticing that Penny looked displeased and quickly changed the subject.

"This house is in a good location, and the surrounding amenities are complete. A three-minute walk will

bring you to a large underground shopping center. In addition, the setting is peaceful, and the schools

from kindergarten to high school are excellent. But I have even better houses available, albeit at a

higher price."

Penny wasn't in the mood to think about the price right now. She no longer wanted to be harsh on

herself. So what if it was a little pricey?

Finally, the agent took her to an upscale residential area.

It was called an upscale residential area because the housing prices here were indeed very expensive,

with better locations and better amenities than the previous one.

But it was called a small upscale residential area because every two years there would be news about

the legal wife catching the mistress.

So in the eyes of many people, those who lived here were indeed wealthy, not because they were

personally rich, but because it was a place where the rich hid their mistresses.

Naturally, Penny didn't care about these comments. She fell in love with the environment inside the

community at first sight.

"Ms. Stuart, the selling price of this house is 14 million dollars. The owner spent 7 million just on the

decoration. Because the owner was in a hurry to go abroad to take care of her children, she is selling it

at the price of a basic house. Such a price for this property is hard to come by."

Penny also took a look at the decoration. It was the style she liked. And the house faced the atrium with

a beautiful view. The building was a duplex with a total of five floors, and this unit was on the top floor.

The other unit shared the common area was occupied by a young girl.

Penny really liked it. Even though she knew the agent's words might be exaggerated, she readily paid

a deposit of several million dollars. The remaining amount would be supplemented once her flat was

sold.

"Okay, when Ms. Stuart completes the down payment, I'll give you the keys directly."

After signing a simple contract with the agent, Penny returned to Hills Villa.

As soon as she walked in, she noticed Anika getting ready to leave. Anika looked relieved as she saw

her return, as if she had found a savior.

"Ms. Stuart, Niko is missing."

Penny's heart skipped a beat. "How could he be missing?"

A tinge of guilt appeared on Anika's face. "It's all my fault. I was busy tidying up Niko's big room and

didn't notice it chasing after your car. I just checked the surveillance video and found that it followed

your car and left."

Niko used to stick to her and would even chase after her car.

But Penny was in a hurry this morning to meet with the agent, so she didn't pay attention to Niko. Now,

she deeply regretted it.

"I'll go out and look for Niko. Anika, don't worry. If Niko comes back, give me a call."

Anika was anxious, but she was of a certain age, and even if she went out, she probably wouldn't be

able to tell the difference between Niko and other dogs.

Penny couldn't rest. She drove along the same route she took in the morning, retracing her steps.

"Orlando, the higher-ups personally called Rex about this project. Because Rex served in the military

before, the government offered this plan. We can modify it at any time, and the government will provide

all the manpower resources. If the tourist attraction really gets established, the Fletcher Group will have

expanded into the tourism sector."

Zane followed behind Orlando, speaking with a respectful tone.

Orlando stopped in his tracks. "Which companies competed for this project before?"

Palm International, Delight, and Double World. Palm International invested 2 billion dollars and

temporarily outshined the other two."

"To what extent is the government willing to support?"

"The higher-ups have made it clear that if the tourist attraction can be built, then any public activity

venues built by the company in charge will be provided with land directly by the government."

This was a huge cake. With the government providing land, it meant saving billions of dollars in costs.

No wonder Palm International was willing to offer a high price for developing a tourist attraction in a

small county.

"Tomorrow, come with me to visit the site in person."

Zane nodded. Just as he was about to open the car door for Orlando, a fluffy white figure suddenly

appeared and tried to jump into the car in a familiar manner.

Only then did he realize it was a dog.

His expression instantly changed. Orlando was allergic to dog hair.

Whose dog was this?