

Chapter Sixty-One

A few seconds after Mr. Barlow entered his office, Rome, Catherine, and Jeff walked into the room, and Rome shut the door.

Once Mr. Barlow sat behind his desk, he picked up his phone and made a call.

“You can tell them to come in.” Mr. Barlow said before ending the call.

A few minutes later, the office door opened, and a bunch of middle-aged-looking fellows entered the room.

At first, they looked angry, but when their gazes rested on Rome, a look of fear crossed their faces.

At that moment, Rome took Catherine's hand in his as he fixed his eyes on them.

Although he didn't utter a word, they all assumed he was trying to tell them

something.

With AAA4 forced smile on his lips, Mr. Barlow stood to his feet and walked over to the clients.

“I got told that you guys have some pressing issues to discuss with me, but you all should sit down first.” Mr. Barlow calmly intoned.

The chairman of Pivotal Company, Mr. Washington, gazed away from Rome and focused on Mr. Barlow.

Then he frowned and said, “We are not here to sit! We came to get our contract with your grandson canceled.”

When Jeff heard those words, reality struck him, and he began to feel a bit afraid.

“I know that I made a mistake, and I spent days in prison, paying the price for my actions, and I can swear to you all that I am a changed man,” Jeff said,

gazing at the faces of his clients.

Frowning at Jeff, the CEO of Greenhouse Company cleared his throat and said, “Are those words supposed to mean something!”

“Yes, they are.”

“You literally paid people to burn down the warehouse that had Mr. Richmond project materials in it, and you want us to continue to trust you!”

After his remarks, the CEO of Greenhouse Company looked at Rome, and when Rome smirked, he felt more motivated to speak.

“Hanson was your client, and you did such a terrible thing to him! You don't expect the rest of us to keep working with you after your heinous act.” The CEO of Greenhouse Company lashed out.

Harry, the chairman of AllPro Inc, nodded slightly and said, “If Richmond

can turn over his project to DreamTeam rival company, that shows how angry he was with you!”

“What? DBA INC. is the ones who got Hason’s project?” Mr. Barlow said out loud even though those words were meant to get said in his head.

Then he glared at Jeff and his rage only seemed to intensify along with his fear of losing the clients.

But he faked a smile and said, “I’m sure we can all work this out. You guys have been working with DreamTeam for a long time, so don’t let one bad decision ruin the good times.”

The Chairman of Gateway Company, Mr. Frost frowned at Mr. Barlow and aggressively intoned, “I think Hanson was smart to allow DBA INC. to handle his project, and maybe that’s what we should do.”

After his statement, he unintentionally

gazed at Rome and Catherine.

When Rome gave him a cold stare, he quickly gazed back at Mr. Barlow and hastily intoned, “My projects will remain with DreamTeam. But I can't work with Jeff.”

Afterward, Mr. Frost stared back at Rome, and When he faintly smiled, Mr. Frost felt his rapid heartbeat slowly going back to normal.

‘He’s truly his father's son. Without uttering a word, he can still send a chill down your spine.’ Mr. Frost thought.

Following his lead, the other clients started saying exactly what he had said.

“What! You guys can't do this to me. Please let's talk this over. Give me your suggestions, any demands, and I will meet them! Just don't cancel the contracts.” Jeff said, striving not to express anger, even though he was infuriated.

“We are not canceling the contracts. We just don't want to work with you any longer.” Harry boldly stated.

Giving in to his anger, Jeff hardened his face and shouted, “If you can't work with me, then who the hell do you all want to handle your projects!”

“Catherine?” The CEO of Greenhouse mumbled as he eyed Rome.

When he saw a faint smile surfaced on Rome's lip, he faced Mr. Barlow and Jeff and boldly intoned, “We want Miss Catherine to take over our projects.”

After his remark, the other clients started uttering the same thing, and Jeff finally reached the height of his anger.

Not taking a moment to calm down, he scowled and lashed out, “You guys didn't want to work with her before! That's how you all became my clients, s

o what has changed?!”

A wave of anger swept through Catherine as she stared her cousin directly in the eyes and straightforwardly said, “I work to get every one of the projects that you and the others so firmly claimed as yours.”

Then she sadly smiled and uttered, “But every time I'm about to get the contracts, something goes wrong, and the project ends up with you guys. Why is that?”

“What are you assuming!”

“Answer the question, Jeff?”

Narrowing his eyes at his cousin, Jeff rudely intoned, “Blame it on fate!”

With Catherine's eyes fixed on his, she softly smiled and said, “Well, then this exact moment is the handy work of fate.”

As Mr. Frost glanced at Rome, he cleared his throat and thought, 'I guess it's because of fate since you were able to marry a man who made this exact moment happen.'

Knowing the exact scams and tricks they did in the past to rip Catherine off her clients, Jeff finally concluded that Catherine was the one behind what was going on.

With such a thought on his mind, he glared at her and lashed out, "Spare me such nonsense! This is not fate! You were the one behind...!"

I agree with you guys' demand. We can start the paperwork today to get Jeff's name off the contracts and put Catherine's name there." Mr. Barlow abruptly said.

Then he smiled honestly as his eyes beam with joy, knowing that his company wasn't going to lose millions o

f dollars.

“Grandfather, this is not...!” Jeff angrily mumbled.

But when Mr. Barlow threw him a hard look, he knew not to make things worse by speaking his mind, so he shut up.

“We are okay with that, right?” Harry asked, gazing at the others.

When they nodded, he faced Mr. Barlow and said, “We are satisfied with your decision.”

Afterward, they turned to leave, and Maxwell, the chairman of Regency Company, unintentionally faced Rome.

When he and Rome’s eyes met, he swallowed hard, and out of nervousness, he suddenly bowed.

The whole room fell silent as everyone stared at him in shock.

‘What have I done?’ Maxwell thought,

feeling afraid to lift his head and stare at Rome. ¹

 Comments

 Vote (16.7K) [?]

Chapter Sixty-Two

As Rome stared at Maxwell, bowing to him, he sighed and said, “My wife must be really famous for the chairman of Regency Company to bow to her.”

When Maxwell heard those words, he lifted his head, laughed nervously, and said, “Miss Catherine has gained such a title in Mr. Ford project, and it seems only fitting to bow in respect to her.”

Then he looked at the others, and none of them hesitated to bow to Catherine and Rome.

Then they all left the office, and Mr. Barlow gazed in adoration at his granddaughter and thought, ‘Catherine must really have potential to make these top-notch pay such hard respect to her. I should get her more engaged in the company.’

Finally, after being silent for a while, Jeff turned to his Mr. Barlow and said, “Grandfather, please give me a third chance. I can convince the clients to keep their projects under me.”

With a frown on his face, Mr. Barlow looked at his grandson and said, “This is work hour. We will discuss this matter at home.”

In a fit of rage, Jeff stormed out of his grandfather's office, and he slammed the door shut behind him.

“Grandfather, Rome, and I would like to take our leave.” Catherine humbly intoned.

Staring at his granddaughter, Mr. Barlow smiled and said, “Of course, you guys can leave.”

After Catherine and Rome left and headed back to her office, he looked her in the eyes and thought, ‘I'm going to

give you everything you deserve and more.'

Later that day, when the evening time arrived, everyone was home, and by nine, they had all come into the dining room for supper because Madam Rosey requested it.

After they were all seated at the table, Mr. Barlow kept silent and allowed the family to have their meals in peace.

Then when they got done, he gazed at everyone's faces and said, "It's with a heavy heart that I'm announcing that Jeff's name has gotten taken off the top inheritor list."

"Honey, are you sure about this?"

Madam Rosey mumbled, feeling pity for Anthony, the favorite of all her children.

Hardening his face, Mr. Barlow gazed at his wife and said, "Yes, he has proved himself unworthy and fit for such a

position.”

From her husband’s expression, Madam Rosey knew not to say anything else, knowing that she couldn't change his mind.

“Grandfather, you can't do this to me!” Jeff lashed out.

“Of course I can, and I just did! The next time you plan on making stupid life decisions, know there are consequences attach to your actions!” Mr. Barlow harshly intoned.

Letting his anger get the best of him, Jeff stood to his feet, grabbed his glass, and threw it at the wall.

‘The only one who should suffer a consequence is Catherine, for making a fool out of me! But, an eye for an eye, and she will get her payment soon!’ Jeff thought as he glared at Catherine.

Then he stormed out of the dining

room Without uttering a word to no one.

“Father, this is unacceptable! Jeff can not get cut off from the inheritance list over matters like these!” William said with a harsh tone.

“This family has lost millions of dollars because of your son! I think my decision is fair!” Mr. Barlow stated.

“Chloe and Charles messed up all the time! But only my son gets removed from the family inheritance, and you call that fair!”

A frown crossed Elijah's face as he looked at his brother and said, “Keep my daughter's name out of this!”

Even though Chloe uttered no words, she scowled at her uncle, feeling annoyed that he was trying to ruin her too.

But she wasn't the only one annoyed by Anthony's remark.

His brother, William, threw him an icy look and coldly uttered, “Your son sabotaged himself! Don't drag my child into this!”

Feeling angry and helpless, Anthony looked back at Mr. Barlow and said, “Father, you have to revoke your statement!”

“Not even your son's clients trust him with their projects! Do you think when those words get out, someone new would want to sign a project over to him?” Mr. Barlow lashed out.

It shocked Elijah when he heard those words. But then excitement ceased his heart when he realized that Jeff's clients had left him, and he could convince them to sign with his daughter, which would boost her chances of becoming the family top inheritor.

“So the clients have canceled their

contracts with Jeff?” Elijah asked, hoping that his father's answer would be, “Yes.”

“Of course.” Mr. Barlow mumbled.

Then he paused for a second to take a sip of his tea.

‘Yes!’ Elijah thought, smiling to himself.

After setting his teacup down, Mr. Barlow looked at his son and said, “But we were lucky to get it back through Catherine.”

The room instantly became silent, and when Rome gazed at Elijah, Anthony, and William's faces, he frowned at the look of hate in their eyes.

‘I'm not afraid to drag you three from the top to the bottom if you guys even think about going against my wife!’ Rome thought in annoyance.

It took a while. Then Anthony snapped out of his thoughts and aggressively said, “So Catherine is the reason my son lost his place as the family inheritor!”

“It's not my daughter's fault that your son's chance got ruined! Put the blame on your son because only he deserves it!” Edward lashed out at him.

Both men stared coldly at each other, and the tension in the room grew more intense.

Reality finally hit Richard, Chloe, and Charles that Jeff's spot was vacant, and with the same thought on their mind, they gazed at their grandfather and said in unison, “So, who's at the top of the list?”

“Not the three of you for sure.” Mr. Barlow subconsciously mumbled before getting a hold of his tongue.

Another silence took over the room, and this time around, even a pin drop could make a noise because of how quiet the dining hall had become.

“So it's Catherine,” Chloe finally mumbled as she gave her cousin an icy stare.

Unable to take back the words he had said, Mr. Barlow sighed and said, “Yes. Among you four, she looks the most promising. But the decision is not final yet. However, for now, she is our first choice.”

Excitement was the only emotion Catherine felt at first. But when she lifted her head, fear ceased her heart when she saw the deadly way her cousins were looking at her.

In a hast, she fixed her gaze on Rome for comfort. Then he softly smiled at her.

“Congratulations, wife. You deserve it.” Rome mumbled, widening his smile.

Instantly, Catherine became much calmer as she grinned at him.

“You must be excited that your wife might one day own great wealth, and you will be by her side like a leech to feed off her!” Charles rudely intoned, feeling like he was about to explode from the anger roaming inside of him.

Then he scowled and thought, ‘But a day like that will never come for you and her, and I will make sure of that.’

‘In my eyes, the Barlows' entire wealth is nothing but spare change. But then again, ignorant people like yourself are known for spilling out garbage.’ Rome thought as he narrowed his eyes at Charles.

A look of dissatisfaction swept across William's face as he looked at his father

and said, “But Catherine is the youngest. I don't think she is fit for such a title.”

“Okay, let's let the matter go. It's not our final decision yet.” Madam Rosey said with a sigh.

‘But it's going to be. I will make sure of that.’ Rome thought.

After a few seconds had passed, Madam Rosey stood to her feet and mumbled, “I'm heading to bed. I have a meeting with Mrs. Johnson tomorrow.”

After hearing her grandmother's words, Chloe frowned at first. Then she realized that since the Johnson family was richer than hers, she could benefit from them to get to the top of the list, and suddenly, her frown shifted to a smile.

Within a few minutes, Mr. Barlow and his wife left the room and the other family members started to leave one

after the other.

When it was just her husband and her in the dining room, Catherine smiled widely, and Rome could see pure joy in his wife's eyes.

Unexpectedly to Rome, Catherine leaned towards him and rested her lips against his, and gently kissed him.

“Ready for bed?” Catherine mumbled.

“You go ahead. I will catch up with you in a sec.” Rome said as his fingers caressed her cheek.

Nodding happily, Catherine left the dining room, and Rome headed out of the Barlow mansion.

Then he pulled out his phone from his pocket and made a call.

“Blaze, I need you to keep tabs on every single one of the Barlows, including my wife, because of her safety. The others,

I need you to inform me on their every move.” Rome said as he stared at the front door of the mansion.

“Yes, boss.” Blaze's voice echoed into his ear.

Once he had ended the call, Rome approached the front door, and suddenly, it opened, and Jeff walked out.

“You are in my way.” Rome boldly intoned.

“And your wife is in my way! If you want to be a good little husband, then I will advise you to tell her to step aside.” Jeff said as he stabbed his finger on Rome's chest.

Without holding back his anger, Rome grabbed Jeff's finger and twisted it, staring at the pain in his eyes.

“Touch me again like this, and the next time, I will break it.” Rome coldly intoned as he let go of Jeff's finger.

Then he walked past him and entered the mansion, shutting the door.

“Your wife hasn't even become the top inheritor of this family, and you have started putting up an attitude. Let's see if you will still have the same energy after I ruined her.” Jeff mumbled in anger.

 Comments

 Vote (16.7K) 

Chapter Sixty-Three

The week went by naturally, and on the following Saturday, the Barlow household was quite busy that morning.

The maids had cleaned every inch of the mansion and prepared several dishes.

On Sunday an announcement was made at breakfast by Madam Barlow that Chloe's soon-to-be husband, Dash Johnson, and his family were visiting the mansion.

That morning Catherine and Rome stayed in their room and had their breakfast in bed.

“Should we head out and go somewhere fun?” Catherine asked as she stared at Rome.

“Why? Do you want to go somewhere fun?” Rome asked after noticing that she looked hesitant when she said

those words.

It grew silent between them. Then Catherine said, “Well, not really. But I don't want my family to pick on you because Chloe's fiance is rich and you...”

“I know my status in this house, but you don't have to get in trouble with your grandparents to protect my feelings.” Rome calmly intoned.

“But...”

“No, but. We are staying home and will attend the feast that your grandmother is about to host, okay?”

“Okay, let's do it.”

By ten o'clock, Rome and Catherine heard a soft knock on their door.

Feeling hesitant to answer it, Catherine left the bed, walked over to the door, and opened it.

“Good morning Miss. Catherine, The

Johnsons are here, and Madam Rosey requests you and your husband's presence downstairs, in the dining room." The head maid, Susanna humbly said.

"Thanks, sus. Please tell my grandma that we will soon be down." Catherine replied.

Then she waited for Susanna to leave before shutting the door.

Feeling nervous, she rested against its wooden frame, gazed at Rome, and mumbled, "It's not too late to change our minds and go somewhere fun?"

"Calm down, wife. I'm capable of handling your family... criticism." Rome said with a faint smile.

After getting dressed, Catherine and Rome came downstairs and headed into the living room.

When they arrived into the room, Rome

gazed at an average height fellow with brown wavy hair.

“This must be the lovely last granddaughter of the Barlow family,” Dash said, walking over to Catherine.

Then he extended his hand to her and Catherine shook it.

“I got you some gifts,” Dash uttered with a smile.

Swaying his gaze towards Rome, he smirked and said, “Who are you?”

“Oh, this is my husband, Rome,” Catherine uttered with a friendly smile.

Chuckling faintly, Dash gazed at her and mockingly intoned, “Oh, my bad! I thought he was a servant of the household. But in my defense, he dresses like one.”

“What?” Catherine mumbled in annoyance.

At this point, she felt mad because she knew he was just trying to humiliate Rome because her husband was dressed in expensive brands clothes that they bought together.

“I'm sorry, I didn't mean to offend you by speaking the truth,” Dash said, smiling faintly at her.

“You don't have to apologize. Rome is just the family's useless live-in son-in-law. So, it's not wrong to assume him as a servant because he and they are on the same level.” Chloe said out loud.

Last Friday, when Dash came into the country, she had visited his house and degraded Rome to him, and since Dash was a jerk, he took her words as a means to disrespect Rome.

“I don't appreciate your tone with my husband!” Catherine straightforwardly said as she scowled at him.

Not wanting to offend her rich son-in-law, Madam Barlow looked at Catherine and calmly said, "This is nothing to get worked out about. It was an honest mistake, and Dash apologized."

"No, he didn't. Instead, he was even ruder towards my husband." Catherine boldly stated.

When Mr. Barlow saw the annoyed look on Mr. and Mrs. Johnson's faces, he gazed at his granddaughter and said, "Catherine, you are the one being rude here, and since Dash was respectful enough to apologize, you should do the same."

"She's not going to do that." Rome coldly intoned with a frown.

Deciding that she had heard enough, Mrs. Johnson glared at Catherine and Rome. Then she stared at Madam Rosey and aggressively intoned, "My son hasn't married into your family and

he's getting disrespected by a 'nobody' and your granddaughter!"

The fact that the Johnsons didn't know his identity made Rome realize that they weren't that big of a deal in the business world.

"Rome, you caused this mess by walking in here without dressing properly, so you should apologize." Edward angrily uttered.

"That's not happening either," Rome said with a cold expression.

The only reason he took insults from the Barlows was because of Catherine. But he wasn't planning on doing that now if it meant she was going to lose face in front of three nobodies.

Looking away from Edward, Rome gave Dash an icy stare, and he felt a bit anxious just by gazing into Rome's eyes.

'I thought Chloe said he was just a loser.

Why does he have such a dominant presence?’ Dash thought as he stared down at the floor.

After a few seconds had gone by, he lifted his head, smirked, and said, “There's no need for everyone to get tense.”

Then he walked over to the packages on the table, took a huge bag, and approached Catherine.

“We started off on the wrong foot. But can we start over? Please accept this as a peace offering.” Dash said, forcing a smile on his lips.

“I don't want it,” Catherine uttered, crossing her arms as she coldly stared at him.

“It's the latest bag in season.”

“I'm not accepting that.”

A feeling of annoyance took over Dash

because he came today with the intention of making himself look good in front of the Barlows as a way to show off, but Catherine was ruining that for him.

“Can we move past the hard feelings?” Dash asked, striving to keep smiling as he hand over the bag to Catherine.

“My wife doesn't want your cheap gift!” Rome calmly intoned, taking the bag from him, and then he threw it on the floor.

In a fit of rage, Dash picked up the bag and rudely said, “Cheap! You can never afford to buy your wife something this expensive!”

“Catherine, get a grip on your husband!” Madam Rosey lashed out.

Without saying a word to her grandmother, Catherine gazed at Rome and smiled.

“This is not acceptable!” Mrs. Johnson shouted as she stood to her feet.

“Please, don't let my good-for-nothing son-in-law ruin your mood. How about we all move to the dining room?”

Madam Rosey pleadingly said, waking up from the couch.

Then she threw Rome a dirty look before looking back at Mrs. Johnson.

“We are not going to sit here and allow our son to get humiliated by someone beneath his status!” Mrs. Johnson shouted in a fit of anger.

But her husband gave her a warning look as he stared at her and said, “Honey, don't be difficult. We should join the Barlows at the table since they have put in work to prepare food for us.”

The anger in Mrs. Johnson's eyes faded as she stared at Madam Rosey and said,

“Please lead the way to the dining hall.”

After almost everyone had left the room, it was just Chloe, Catherine, and Rome in the living room.

“Just because you ruined your chance of marrying into a wealthy family by getting hatched with this loafer, you don't get to spoil my chance of marrying a rich man.” Chloe harshly said before walking out of the room.

Looking at her husband, Catherine sadly smiled and asked, “Should we just leave this lame gathering?”

As Rome was about to answer, Edward entered the living room and said, “Catherine, you need to join the family at the table. Now that you are the first on the top inheritor list, you need to work even harder to please your grandparents.”

Then he coldly stared at Rome and said, “Stop causing problems for my

daughter! You can't help her. So if you love her, don't harm her.”

Afterward, he grabbed Catherine's wrist and pulled her along with him.

Being respectful, Catherine obediently followed her father, but she kept looking back at Rome.

After standing alone in the living room for a while, Rome headed into the dining hall, and when he entered, he heard Dash boastfully say, “I have done a few businesses with Mr. Ford and met him a couple of times.”

Madam Rosey looked impressed as she gazed at him and said, “That's so amazing.”

It was taking all Rome's willpower for him not to laugh.

Then, at that moment, his ringtone echoed in the room, and everyone glared at him, except for Catherine.

Ignoring the dirty looks from them, Rome took his phone out of his pocket and answered the call.

“It's the weekend. Care to join your old man to his house. I got a surprise for you.” Mr. Ford's voice echoed into his ear.

“I'm on my way,” Rome mumbled.

 Comments

 Vote (16.7K) 

Chapter Sixty-Four

After ending the call with his father, Rome walked over to Catherine. Then he leaned towards her ear, and whispered, "I got to leave. Will you be okay here?"

Smiling faintly, she looked him in his eyes and slightly nodded her head.

After staring at her for a moment, Rome stood up straight and left the dining room.

A few minutes later, he reached the spot where he and Mr. Orlando usually meets up.

A green Bugatti was parked on the side of the road, and he walked over to it, opened the passenger door, and got in.

"Good morning, young master." Mr. Orlando said as he gazed at him.

“Morning,” Rome mumbled, putting on his seat belt.

After he got done, Mr. Orlando put the car in gear and drove off.

“Do you know what surprise my father has for me?” Rome mumbled as he focused on the windshield.

“I'm sorry, young master, but I don't.” Mr. Orlando said, eyeing Rome for a second before focusing on the road.

A few minutes later, they arrived at Mr. Ford's mansion, and Mr. Orlando brought the vehicle to a stop.

Afterward, Rome got down from the car and headed inside.

“Good morning, young master.” The other butler, Joe, said as he slightly bowed.

“Where is my father?” Rome asked while he took off his coat and handed it

to Joe.

“He's in the dining hall.”

“Thanks.”

It took a few minutes for Rome to get to the dining hall because of how big the house was.

When he finally did, he gazed at his father, and a smile appeared on Mr. Ford's lips after he lifted his head and saw his son.

“Morning, father.” Rome humbly said as he approached the table.

Then he took a seat and asked, “What's the surprise that you speak of?”

“Have breakfast with your old man first.” Mr. Ford said as he pressed the bell on the table.

It took only a few minutes for the maids to enter the dining hall.

Then they started crowding the table with various dishes.

After the maids got done, they left the dining hall, and it was just Rome and Mr. Ford again.

“Go ahead and eat.” Mr. Ford said as he picked up his silverware from the table.

Nodding slightly, Rome got a hold of his fork and knife and began to eat.

Breakfast went on in silence, and it took a while.

When Mr. Ford was finally filled, he stared at Rome and saw that he was done too.

“Take a walk with me.” Mr. Ford said as he stood from the chair.

Without uttering a word, Rome got up and followed his father out of the dining room.

After walking for a few minutes, they arrived at the study, and Mr. Ford opened the door and headed inside.

A second later, Rome followed him in and shut the door behind him.

Then he gazed at the elderly-looking man, and asked, "Who is this?"

"This is lawyer Lincoln." Mr. Ford said as he sat down on the couch.

"A lawyer? What for?"

"To process the papers of turning over all my assets from me to you."

Shock took over Rome's expression, and a few minutes passed before he could pull himself together.

"Dad, you are still capable of running things," Rome said.

"I know, and you owning my wealth is not going to change that. But I want to

set the record straight.” Mr. Ford calmly uttered.

“Dad,” Rome mumbled, feeling a bit hesitant.

“Sit down, son, and sign the papers.”

“Okay.”

After pausing for a second, Rome took a seat on the couch and stared at the papers on the table.

“Here,” Mr. Ford calmly intoned, handing the pen over to him.

It took a moment before Rome accepted the pen. Then he gazed at the lawyer.

“Please sign here, here, and here,” Lincoln said, pointing at the signature lines on the papers.

Swaying his gaze from the Lawyer, Rome stared at his father.

“After you sign these papers, your

wealth is going to be unlimited as mine because you will now own everything that I own. My bank accounts are yours. Also, my businesses and everything I have to my name will be yours.” Mr. Ford said with a smile.

“Are you sure about turning over such a power to me?” Rome mumbled, gazing at his father.

“Yes, it's my honor to do it! I never thought I would get a chance to do this, and now that fate has given me a second chance, I want to do it sooner, then later.”

“Okay. I promise to not abuse such power.”

“I know you won't.”

Taking in a deep breath, Rome stared at the documents. Then he leaned over and signed his signature on all of them.

“You are now as powerful as me, and

not because of my name.” Mr. Ford uttered with pride in his eyes.

“I should take my leave.” Lawyer Lincoln said as he stood to his feet.

After gathering all the papers, he left the study and gently shut the door behind him.

“Do you know the Johnsons?” Rome asked out of curiosity.

“The who?” Mr. Ford asked.

“The Johnsons. They have a son named Dash Johnson.”

“That name doesn't ring a bell.”

A smirk appeared on Rome's lips, and he grew even more curious about why Dash would lie about knowing his father.

“Why did you ask?” Mr. Ford inquired.

“Their son claims to have done a few

businesses with you in the past,” Rome said as he gazed at his father’s confused expression.

“I do business with influential people, and if I had worked with this Dash Johnson, I think I would remember.”

“How intriguing.”

Withdrawing his focus from his father, Rome took out his phone from his pocket and made a call.

“I need you guys to dig into the Johnson family, especially their son named Dash Johnson. Do not leave any information out.” Rome said.


“Yes, boss.” Scar’s voice echoed from the phone speakers.

After ending the call, Rome smirked and thought, ‘Let’s see what kind of skeletons we will find in my dear future brother-in-law’s closet.’



Rever  Author

" I have a intense margin headache because of writing and school works, so I'm taken a two days break to rest and recover. During that time, the will be no update of chapters. I'm sorry to all my readers, and I hope you guys can understand. More chapters will get update on the third of September. Thanks for the understanding. "

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 Comments

 Vote (16.7K) 

Chapter Sixty-Five

After the first light of a new day beamed into the room, Catherine brushed her hand on Rome's side of the bed, and when she didn't feel him, she slowly raised her eyelids, and sleepy stared at his board back.

“Is everything okay? Why are you up so early?” Catherine asked, yawning as she squeezed her eyelids.

When Rome turned around, he faintly smiled and said, “Morning, wife. I need to take this call. I will be with you in a second.”

After his remark, Rome gazed back at his phone, and the moment he answered the call, he had Blaze say, “Boss, we have done our investigation on the Johnson family, and we have the results.”

“Hold on. I'm on my way.” Rome said.

After ending the call, he turned and gazed at Catherine who had been staring at him during the entire call.

“I got to go,” Rome uttered.

“I heard,” Catherine mumbled.

Seeing the look of disappointment in her eyes, he hesitated for a moment, knowing that she had a day off today and would have to spend the day at home without him.

“It's the last day of the month. How about a dinner date after my work is over?” Rome said with a half-smile.

“Yes! Umm... I mean, yes.” Catherine said as her eyes beam with excitement.

Then she stared away from Rome for a while to try and calm her fast-beating heart before looking at him and asking, “Our usual spot?”

“I was thinking somewhere different,” Rome replied, already having the perfect place in mind.

A look of confusion settled on Catherine's face as she gazed at Rome. Then she smiled and said, “Somewhere different? Like where?”

“MajorLeague Restaurant,” Rome mumbled.

It grew quiet as Catherine stared at him, squinting her eyes.

Judging from the way Catherine looked at him when he said those words, Rome knew exactly what she was thinking.

“You can't afford that place? It's crazy expensive. Even my grandparents are mindful of visiting it.” Catherine said out loud as she stared at him in disbelief.

“I will be home by six.” Rome calmly

intoned, striving not to chuckle.

“This is serious. How can you afford such a place?”

“I did nothing illegal.”

“Then how?”

As he gazed into her eyes, he knew that even if he blurted out that he was filthy rich, and he could afford such a place because of his wealth, Catherine wouldn't believe him.

So Rome sighed and said, “I did some work for the owner of the restaurant. He was so amazed by the results that he rewarded me with a one-night dinner on the house, and said that I can bring a plus one.”

The stress on Catherine's face suddenly relaxed, and her lips curved into a smile.

“So, will you be my plus for tonight?”

Rome gently intoned.

“Yes,” Catherine mumbled.

A while later, Catherine and Rome walked into the dining room, and a frown surfaced on Catherine's face when she saw Dash.

Madam Rosey was so focused on making sure that her grand-son-in-law had food on his plate that she didn't even care to answer when Catherine and Rome greeted the family.

After sitting down at the table, Catherine gazed at Madam Rosey and said, “Grandma, can Rome and I be excused from tonight's dinner?”

“Why?” Madam Rosey asked without looking at her granddaughter.

“I and Rome have a dinner date?”

“If you are going to spend the family money on him, then forget ab...”

“Rome wants to take me out.”

Everyone at the table stared at Catherine before swaying the gaze on Rome. Then Jeff burst into laughter, and it wasn't long before Charles and Richard joined him.

“Where could he possibly take you that serves better food than what you will have here for dinner?” Madam Rosey asked, finally looking up at Catherine with a frown on her face.

“I bit it somewhere shabby and cheap,” Chloe said out loud.

Without holding back, Dash loudly chuckled as he stared at Rome.

“It's MajorLeague Restaurant!” Catherine blurted out in anger.

The room instantly fell silent, and no one spoke for almost a minute.

A look of nervousness settled on Dash's face as he looked at Rome.

“Major... League Restaurant?” Madam Rosey asked as she stared wide-eyed at Rome.

A frown flickered across Edward’s face as he stared at Rome and asked, “How could you afford such a place?!”

“With hard work.” Rome boldly stated.

“A man like you, your hard work should afford you food at a fast-food truck, not at the most prestigious restaurant in the country!”

“Why not?”

Not knowing what to say, Edward kept silent and looked away from Rome.

The others were so shocked that no one had anything to say to Rome at that moment.

Feeling pleased with the silence in the room, Rome gazed at Catherine and gently intoned, “Be ready by five,

okay?”

“Okay,”

A few minutes after Rome left the house, he met up with Mr. Orlando.

Once he got into the car, Mr. Orlando put the car in gear and drove off with Rome in the backseat and K in the front passenger seat.

It took a while, but they finally arrived at the Casino, and Mr. Orlando brought the car to a stop.

The moment Rome got down from the car, he saw that Brook, Blaze, and Scar were waiting for him at the front of the building.

“Good morning, boss!” The three of them said in unison when Rome got closer.

“Morning,” Rome said before marching past them with K by his side.

In a hurry, Brook, Scar, and Blaze followed Rome, keeping close behind him.

After they got into the private, Blaze walked over to the cabinet, opened it, and took out a file.

Then he waited for Rome to sit down before laying the file on the table before him.

“Every information we gather about the Johnson family is in there, boss,” Brook said as he gazed at Rome.

With his eyes fixed solely on the folder, Rome opened it. Then he read through it in silence, paying attention to every single detail.

Afterward, he closed the file, leaned back on the couch, and smiled to himself.

“I can just hear Madam Rosey

screaming in devastation. Hah, this is going to cause a serious commotion in the Barlow household.” Rome mumbled as he rested his legs on the table, crossing one over the other.

With concern in his eyes, Brook asked, “So are we going to warn them?”

Without having a second thought, Rome smirked and slyly intoned, “Yes, but after my dear sister-in-law gets married. This is my wedding gift to her as a reward for her behavior towards my wife and me.” ¹

 Comments

 Vote (16.7K) [?]

Chapter Sixty-Six

At six o'clock, Rome arrived at the Barlow mansion, and as he was about to head upstairs, he froze.

Then his lips curved in a smile as he adorably stared at his wife walking down the stairs, dressed in an elegant black sleeveless dress, and he couldn't take his eyes off her.

Suddenly, his expression hardened, and his eyes grew cold when he saw Chloe a few steps behind his wife.

When Catherine heard the sound of her cousin's heels, she stopped and turned around to stare at Chloe.

Without saying a word to Catherine, Chloe walked past her and headed downstairs.

Then she rolled her eyes at Rome and rudely intoned, "What are you looking a

t, uh? I know that I'm beautiful..."

"Who said that?" Rome coldly uttered as he gave her an icy stare.

"What!"

"Who said that you were beautiful? I don't see the beauty you speak of."

Even though Catherine tried not to laugh, she couldn't help but giggle.

Speechless from anger, Chloe narrowed her eyes at her cousin as she walked past her and approached Rome.

Taking Catherine's hands in his, Rome smiled with his eyes and said, "You look stunning!"

"Do I?" Catherine mumbled, feeling uncertain about his compliment.

For hours, she was in a dilemma about what to wear, and even after she decided on the dress, she was still doubtful about how she looked in it.

“Umm, my wife is absolutely gorgeous!” Rome firmly said.

“Gross,” Chloe mumbled, frowning as she stared at Catherine and Rome.

Then her gaze rested on the necklace on Catherine's neck, and her eyes widened.

“Is that a diamond locket? Not just any kind of necklace, but a piece of jewelry from the Golden Stone collection?”

Chloe mumbled out loud as she walked over to her cousin.

After taking a closer look at the necklace, she scowled and asked, “When did you buy this?”

“Rome got it for me,” Catherine mumbled, rubbing her fingertip on the locket.

“How could he afford something this fancy and expensive!”

“Oh, it's not real. Rome got it for

twenty bucks.”

“I can swear, it looks like the real thing.”

After wandering in her thoughts for a moment, Chloe smirked and said, “There's no way it can be the real thing since he's filthy poor. It makes more sense that it's the fake one than the real necklace.”

Saying no words to Chloe, Rome looked at Catherine and mumbled, “Are you ready to leave?”

“Yes,” Catherine happily intoned.

As they turned to leave, the front door opened and Dash walked in, heading towards them.

However, Rome led Catherine past him as they both ignored his presence.

“Let's go,” Dash said when he was a step away from Chloe.

The frown on her face deepened into a scowl as she looked into Dash's eyes and asked, "How do I look?"

"Good,"

"I spent hours on my looks, and this is all I get!"

"Do you want to leave or not? I won't mind if you don't want to go since tonight was your idea."

Without replying to Dash's comment, Chloe walked past him, heading for the front door.

Then Dash sighed heavily before following her.

A few minutes later, Rome and Catherine were driving to the restaurant. Then she looked in the side mirror and saw Dash's car, driving behind them.

"She's unbelievable," Catherine

mumbled, resting back in her seat.

When Rome saw Dash's car in the side mirror, he smirked, not caring about them.

After a few more minutes had gone by, Rome finally drove the vehicle into the parking lot of the MajorLeague Restaurant.

When he brought the car to a stop, he got down, walked over to the other door, and opened it for Catherine.

After she got down, she held onto his arm, and he escorted her into the building.

The moment the hostess saw Rome, she hastily stood to her feet and greeted Catherine and him after they reached the counter.

At that moment, Chloe and Dash entered the restaurant, and she left him behind and hastily approached the

counter.

“Hey!” Chloe rudely said, looking at the hostess.

“Pardon me, but I'm involve with guests at this moment, so can you go to the guy over there?” The hostess respectfully uttered as she pointed to the host seated a few distances away from her.

A look of annoyance settled on Chloe's face as she said, “No! I want you to serve me!”

The hostess looked at her mad eyes and calmly uttered, “I am busy, ma'am.”

“Attend to her first.” Rome casually said.

At that moment, Dash reached them, and he stood behind Chloe with a nervous look on his face.

“Miss, what can I do for you?” The

hostess asked, feeling a bit annoyed as she focused on Chloe.

“My fiance and I want to book the table that they have.” Chloe boldly said.

"It's not a table, but a private room."

"I don't care. We want it."

At this moment, the hostess had had enough of her arrogance. Yet she remained humble and said, “But it's already reserved for this couple.”

“I don't care. My fiance and I have the money to afford it, and that's what we want! Isn't the customer supposed to always be right, and their needs are supposed to come first?” Chloe lashed out.

At this point, the rise in Chloe's tone began to draw people's attention to the counter.

“But this couple are also customers

too.” The hostess said.

“Let them have our reservation,” Rome uttered with a calm expression.

Both Catherine and the hostess gave him an are-you-serious look.

But Rome looked relaxed as he said, “Give them it.”

“O-kay...” The hostess mumbled.

Then she turned to Chloe and Dash and said, “Who's paying?”

“My fiance,” Chloe boastfully intoned.

Hesitating for a moment, Dash gazed at her. Then he looked at the hostess, pulled out his card, and asked, “What room did they book?”

“The gem private room.” The hostess said.

Upon hearing those words, Dash froze, holding tightly to his credit card.

People that heard what the hostess said looked shocked because they knew that that room could only get reserved by extremely wealthy people, and not anyone can have access to such a room.

Even Catherine was a bit shocked that the gem room was reserve for her and Rome. But she knew how he got such a room, so she wasn't too bothered.

“Make the payment,” Chloe said, looking nervously at Dash after waiting for him to do so for almost two minutes.

“Let's go. Your cousin and her husband have already booked the room.” Dash hastily uttered.

Then he shoved his credit card back into his pocket and frowned at her.

“Don't embarrass me,” Chloe whispered as she watched others staring at her with judgmental eyes as they mumbled to each other.

But Dash turned away from her and started walking away, heading for the door.

“Get back here!” Chloe screamed, hurrying after him with her head bowed.

Staring after them, Rome’s smirked and thought, 'Your wedding gift will be a worse humiliation than this. But you deserve it because of your arrogance.'


Then he turned to Catherine and asked, “Shall we?”

“Yes,” Catherine said, still wondering about what just happened.



Rever  Author

"
I don't have classes today, so I will be writing more chapters after this and updating it today. For those complaining about the price of the chapters, I'm sorry, I don't have control over the pricing of them. Also, for my readers concern about the length of this book, I don't plan on making it a long novel, and I am hoping to conclude it this month, if everything goes according to my plans.
"

 30

 Comments

 Vote (16.7K) 

Chapter Sixty-Seven

By eleven o'clock, Catherine and Rome arrived home, and she was all smiles as she got out of the car.

When Rome got down from the vehicle and approached her, Catherine took his left hand and rested it on her waist. Then she did the same with his right.

Wrapped in the comfort of his arms, she tiptoed to meet his lips, and with her heart beating wildly, she passionately kissed him.

Afterward, Catherine whispered into his ear, "Thank you for an amazing night."

As he gazed into her gentle eyes, he replied with a soft smile, feeling amazed by how much his heart was pounding just by the sight of her.

A few minutes later, Catherine and

Rome entered the house, and they both were in such a good mood that it felt like nothing could ruin their joy.

But as they walked past the living room, Madam Rosey's voice echoed into the hallway, "Catherine, Rome, come in here."

The smile on Catherine's lips slowly faded, and Rome's expression grew cold as both of them walked into the room.

The entire family was present, and Chloe was in tears.

Although the question crossed Catherine's mind, she really didn't want to know why her cousin was sharing crocodile tears, so she remained quiet.

"Do you know why your cousin is crying?" Elijah lashed out.

"Why would my wife know why your

daughter is crying?” Rome boldly asked.

If it was any other time, he would have let them walk over him, but tonight, he and Catherine were in a pretty good mood, and the fact that her family was ruining that for them had him feeling enraged.

“How daring has your husband become! It's like he has forgotten who he is in this family!” Elijah angrily intoned.

Not wanting to hear another word from any of her family members, Catherine stared at Rome and said, “Let's go to bed.”

But her words and action triggered Mr. Barlow's anger, and he slapped his hand on the couch arm and shouted, “Stop right there! You are the granddaughter of this family, and you will behave as such!”

“Am I?” Catherine asked, turning

around to face her grandfather.

“What?”

“Everyone of you treats me like an outsider, so, am I your granddaughter?”

In a fit of rage, Edward stood to his feet and lashed out, “Stop speaking nonsense and don't talk back to your grandfather!”

“Nonsense? Is it nonsense that all my cousins get better treatment than me! Why am I always being the one scolded! Why do I have to be humiliated by you guys all the time!” Catherine said with tears trailing down her face.

The room grew silent, and no one spoke as they all stared at her.

Then Madam Rosey frowned and said, “Don't you play the innocent card. Chloe said...”

“Chloe says something, and you believe

it. What about what I have to say, or how about asking me to explain my side before assuming, uh, grandma?"

Catherine asked, feeling so consumed by rage that she wasn't holding in her feelings anymore.

"But you humiliated your cousin at the restaurant. Am I not allowed to get angry at my own granddaughter when she does wrong!" Madam Rosey pitifully said.

"Look what you've done! You have made mother sad!" Anthony shouted in anger.

Ignoring her uncle's remark, Catherine stared at Chloe and asked, "I humiliated you? How? Can you please tell everyone how in the world I brought shame to you!"

Silence followed her remark as the others' gaze fell on Chloe.

When she got home and made herself

pitiful in front of her family by crying and telling them lies, she didn't expect that Catherine would gain the courage to speak up for herself.

Now that her cousin did, Chloe didn't know what to say or do, so she burst into tears and continued crying while sniffing aggressively.

Although Charles, Jeff, and Richard knew she was clearly faking it, they decided to take her side than Catherine because knowing that she was higher than all of them fuelled their rage.

“Does Chloe have a reason to lie to you?” Charles coldly asked.

“Does she not? Do any of you ever have a reason when it comes to bullying my wife and sabotaging her work! Or have you forgotten? Should I remind you?” Rome straightforwardly said.

Pausing for a moment, Charles realized that he couldn't answer those questions

because it might bring up old stories that will make their grandparents mad with them.

When he didn't reply, Jeff and Richard followed his lead and remained silent, not wanting to get involved in a fight that wasn't theirs.

“After sobbing, can you please tell me how I humiliated you?” Catherine said, feeling bolder now that she knew her husband got her back.

Everyone focused got drawn back to Chloe again and she knew that she couldn't keep up the fake crying anymore.

“I don't want to marry Dash! If Rome can afford to take Catherine to the gem private room at MajorLeague Restaurant, and he can't, then what's the use of marrying him!” Chloe cried out.

Realizing what she had said, everyone's

attention swayed back to Catherine and Rome.

“The gem room? How? Your grandfather and I can't even get a reservation for that room!” Madam Rosey lashed out.

When he understood what his wife was saying, he scowled at Catherine and said, “Did you lie about Rome being the one to take you out. Instead, you were the one who took him out?”

“Even if she did, how did she get to book such a room?” William asked in dismay.

Feeling more enrage, Mr. Barlow clenched his fist and shouted, “Are you wasting your connection with Mr. Ford and our family wealth on this loser!”

As Rome listened to their nonsense remarks, he decided that he had heard enough and said, “I am the one using my connection to spoil my wife!”

“What?” Edward asked.

“This dinner was a gift from the owner of the MajorLeague restaurant because he was satisfied with the work that I did for him.”

“So, you nor my daughter didn't pay for anything?”

“Yes. Everything we ate and drank tonight was on the restaurant!”

Suddenly, it became silent. Then Madam Rosey sighed and uttered, “That makes sense. So you are just a freeloader, and you are not ashamed of making my granddaughter like you.”

Afterward, she looked at Chloe and said, “How dare you threaten to not marry such a good and wealthy man because of your cousin's so-called husband's lowlife scheme.”

“I'm sorry, grandmother. I was stupid t

o compare someone like Dash with Rome.” Chloe said with a sly smile.

“Don't ever say something stupid like that again, especially in front of Dash, knowing that you guys will soon get wed in two months from now.”

“Don't worry, grandma. I'm marrying Dash.”

With coldness in his eyes, Rome stared at Chloe and thought, ‘Good. That's exactly what I wanted to hear.’

Afterward, he took Catherine's hand and led her out of the living room.

‘For making my wife cry, the entire family will suffer twice the humiliation they caused us tonight!’ Rome thought as he headed upstairs with Catherine following closely behind him.

 Comments

 Vote (16.7K) 

Chapter Sixty-Eight

Every effort that Madam Rosey didn't make for Catherine and Rome's wedding, she was making them for Chloe and Dash.

So several days before Chloe's big day, she planned a welcome party, inviting the top-notch in the business and the wealthiest of the wealthy with the hope that this dining night would boast their family reputations.

Those that she invited were people that she wanted so desperately to attend the wedding, and the welcome party was meant to see who all planned to come to the wedding ceremony which was a few days ahead.

Early the morning of the welcome party, Rome raised his lashes as the sunlight shone in his face, and he saw Catherine pacing back and forth.

When she noticed that he was awake, she took a moment to calm down and asked, “Did you order our clothes for tonight?”

Since she had been busy with the company and work, Rome offered to take the burden off her and be the one to purchase their clothing for the party.

At first, Catherine was hesitant, yet she gave in and handed her credit card to him to make the purchases.

But now that it was the morning of the party and their clothes had not been delivered was kinda freaking her out.

“Yes, I did,” Rome mumbled as he sat up.

“But it's not here yet.” Catherine doubtfully mumbled.

“It will...”

“We should go and get a backup set of

clothes just in case...”

“Trust me, wife. Okay?”

There was a brief pause. Then Catherine sighed and said, “Okay, trust you.”

Although she said those words and meant it, when five o'clock came and their clothes had not arrived, Catherine was really panicking.

However, she strived her best to not turn that panic into anger and get into an argument with Rome.

By five-thirty, the other family left, and the only ones who cared to check up on her and Rome were her parents.

When Edward and his wife reached Catherine's door, he knocked on the door.

After a few seconds had passed, Catherine came out and stared at her father, then her mother.

“We are about to leave. Are you and Rome coming?” Edward asked, seeing that his daughter wasn't dressed yet.

“Yeah, we are.”

“Good. I know that there is a lot of tension in this house, but it's good for our family if we show a united front in public.”

“I know, dad. That's why we are going to be there.”

“Okay. See you at the party then.”

After waiting for her parents to leave, Catherine walked back into the room and saw that Rome was on the phone.

“Okay,” Rome said before ending the call.

Then he turned to Catherine, smiled, and said, “Our things will be here in the next five minutes.”

Immediately the stress on Catherine's face faded, and she felt glad that she trusted him a bit longer and didn't react based on her emotions.

Exactly seven minutes later, the maids knocked on their room door, and when Catherine opened it, she stared in shock at the number of bags in the maids' hands.

When she stared back at Rome, he smirked and thought, 'The money on your credit card was untouched. I used mine instead.'

Finally, at seven o'clock, Rome drove the car into the parking lot of Dynamite Hotel and made a stop in an empty parking space.

In the hall of the hotel, the musicals were playing, and all the guests that Madam Rosey invited were present. ①

The fact that they all showed up had

shocked her and the other family members. But Madam Rosey assumed that they came because of the Johnsons.

However, none of the guests were really interacting with the family that much, and the party looked kind of dull.

But the entire atmosphere in the room suddenly changed when the doors opened, and Rome walked with Catherine beside him, holding on to his arm.

From her dress to her jewelry and shoes were all custom made and one of a kind, and the guests who knew Rome's true identity couldn't help but stare in amazement.

The entire focus of the party swayed towards him and Catherine, and that was exactly what he intended when he spent millions of dollars to purchase her wife's clothes, shoes, and jewelry.

Tonight he wasn't planning on giving

the Barlows a chance to mock his wife. Instead, he wanted her to give her the respect a daughter-in-law of the Ford family deserves.

“Is that Catherine and Rome?” Richard mumbled as he stared at his cousin and her husband in disbelief.

“Yes,” Jeff said with hate in his eyes.

“She looks like a freaking billionaire’s wife.”

“It’s crazy how much money she’s willing to waste to give her husband a reputable reputation in the public eye.”

Feeling annoyed, Richard sighed and said, “He’s a poor bastard, and she’s going to the extreme to make him look like he’s not. It’s stupid.”

“I know. That’s why we can’t allow her to become the family’s top inheritor because she’s going to waste our wealth on that fool.” Jeff coldly uttered.

“These days it feels like luck is always on her side. Is it even possible to bring her back to the bottom of the list again?”

“What goes up, can also come down, and I will make sure to bring her back to the dirty. But revenge is a dish served cold, so I will let the perfect moment present itself.”

A frown crossed Chloe's face as she stared at Catherine and Rome getting greeted by the guests.

“Just because she got a contract with Mr. Ford, she is being treated like someone special. Today is my day and she's stealing my spotlight.” Chloe mumbled, feeling in rage.

A sly smile surfaced on Charles' lips when he overheard his cousin's words. Then he lost the smirk, gazed at her, and asked, “Are you going to sit back and allow her to ruin your big

moment?”

“Not if I got something to do about it!”

“Good, because it seems like the only two people that matter tonight are Catherine and her so-called husband.”

“Well, that's about to change.”

When the Governor of a state and his wife greeted Catherine and Rome, Mr. Barlow's mouth slightly opened as he watched.

The fact that they were the ones that walked up to Catherine and Rome to greet them left him astonished.

“How famous do you think our granddaughter's connection with Mr. Ford's project had made her?” Mr. Barlow asked as he looked at his wife.

“I don't know.” Madam Rosey absentmindedly mumbled since she wasn't paying attention to where her

husband was looking.

Instead, she had her focused on Mr. and Mrs. Johnson as she wondered if they were having a good time because impressing her rich in-laws was what mattered to her at that moment.

“I feel like Catherine is getting really powerful in the business world. Since she and Rome arrived, they have been greeted by very influential people.” Mr. Barlow mumbled.

“What?” Madam Rosey asked, finally focusing her attention on where her husband was staring.

Then her jaw dropped when she saw an elegant woman chatting with Catherine.

“Isn't that the wife of Jose Major, the owner of Kayak, a multi-million dollar company?” Madam Rosey asked.

“Yes,” Mr. Barlow answered with his sight still focused on his granddaughter.

“Why does she look humble when talking with Catherine?”

“I don't know, but what I see tonight is that Catherine isn't being treated like a simple person, and I think it's has something to do with her project with Mr. Ford.”

“You think?”

“If that's not the case, then what other reason could give her such a powerful presence?”

 Comments

 Vote (16.7K) 

Chapter Sixty-Nine

For a while, Catherine and Rome spent their time interacting with guests that approached them because Catherine wasn't really excited to go over to her family, and Rome knew that.

So he stood by her side and allowed her to be the one to have conversations with people that came up to them even though he knew that they wanted to pay their respects to him.

The news about Mr. Ford turning over everything he owned to Rome had spread like wildfire in the upper cycle.

Others now respected him not because he was Mr. Ford's heir, but because he was Rome Ford, the richest man in the entire country and beyond.

Also, knowing how much Rome meant to his father only added fear to the

respect they all had for him, and the only reason all these influential people turned out for the party was that they knew he was going to be there.

As Catherine was having small talk with another guest, she unintentionally looked her father in the eye, and he looked disappointed as he stared at her.

Suddenly a sense of guilt took over her, and she felt bad that this event was hosted by her family, and she had been keeping away from them for half of the night.

So she looked up at Rome to get his attention, and when he finally focused on her, she mumbled, “Should we go over to congratulate Chloe and Dash?”

Without replying, Rome looked to where her family was standing, and after reading their faces, he wanted his wife nowhere near them.

But he could see that Catherine really

wanted to, so he gave in to her desire and said, "Sure."

Since she had gotten her husband's approval, Catherine asked the guest to excuse them, and she and Rome walked over to her family.

As she approached Chloe, she could tell that the atmosphere around her cousin was hostile, and yet she continued walking until she was just two steps away from Chloe.

Even though all Catherine got from her was a dirty look, she still smiled and said, "Congratulations to you and Dash."

But the hate in Chloe's eyes only shifted to rage, and she raised her hand, swinging it towards Catherine.

But Rome grabbed her wrist before her slap could land on his wife's face and coldly intoned, "Watch yourself!"

The chatting noise, music, and sound of instruments stopped and the hall became quiet immediately.

Seeing that people's attention was now drawn to her, Chloe burst into tears and cried out, "You are hurting me!"

At this point, Rome was irritated because his grip on her wrist wasn't even tight.

Immediately, he released her hand, but that didn't stop Chloe's performance and her tears.

A sense of annoyance coursed through Catherine since she could clearly see that her cousin was faking it to make Rome look bad, and she couldn't help but blame herself that this all happened because she walked over to her.

Swaying his attention away from the man he was talking with, Dash stared at Chloe.

Then he sighed, turned away from the fellow, and walk over to Chloe.

When he came closer to her, she gazed at him, loudly cried, and pitifully stared at her wrist before saying, “My wrist hurt.”

Wanting to make himself look good, Dash threw a punch at Rome, only to get his wrist trapped in Rome’s grip.

“How dare you assault my fiance?” Dash lashed out while struggling to break free from Rome’s hand.

“I would never lay a hand on a woman, but I'm not afraid to break a man's jaw, so you either control yourself and calm down, or you can visit the ER tonight.” Rome coldly uttered as he gave him an icy stare.

Fear clouded Dash's eyes when he looked at Rome's face and saw that he wasn't kidding.

Although Catherine had not seen this side of her husband until tonight, she remembered his childhood photos and wasn't shocked, but she was amazed by him.

The rest of the Barlow family approached Chloe, Dash, Rome, and Catherine, and Rome's behavior was shocking to them except Jeff since he had experienced this side of Rome.

“Let go of my son.” Mrs. Johnson cried as she walked over to them.

Ignoring her, Rome looked Dash dead in his eyes and calmly asked, “What is it going to be? The ER, or you behaved yourself?”

After staring at Chloe, Dash eyed at the others, gazing at him. Then he looked back at Rome and mumbled, “I'm calm. Let go of me.”

A look of hesitation crossed Rome's

face, and he wasn't willing to let go until Catherine pulled the edge of his coat and looked at him.

When Rome met her eyes, he took a deep breath and released his grip on Dash's wrist.

Seeing that Rome wasn't paying attention to him, Dash tried to redeem himself by sending another punch.

But Rome was fast enough to block it. Then without holding back, he viciously slapped Dash, causing him to lose his balance and take two unstable steps back.

For a moment, Dash blankly stared at Rome as the taste of blood settled on his tongue.

Then he tightened his fists and lashed out, "You are going to pay for this!"

"Be thankful to my wife that I restrained myself from punching you.

But test me again, and you would be escorted out of here in an ambulance.” Rome casually said.

It took a few minutes for everyone to get over their shock about what had just happened, and what Rome said.

“How dare you hit my child. Not even his father or I have laid a hand on him.” Mrs. Johnson cried out.

Keeping his silence, Rome frowned at her before looking the other way.

In a fit of rage, Mrs. Johnson scowled at Madam Rosey and shouted, “Do something about your rebel son-in-law or this marriage is over!”

Staring at Rome, Madam Rosey frowned and yelled, “Get out!”

“He leaves, I leave.” Catherine firmly said.

As she stared at her cousin, Chloe rolled

her eyes and said, “Who cares! You can get out with your flop!”

A look of fear settled on some of the guest’s faces as they watched and mumbled to each other.

Ignoring Chloe’s remark, Rome gazed at Catherine and asked, “Do you still want to go to the wedding?”

“No, not anymore,” Catherine said with hurt in her eyes.

A faint smirk curved on Rome’s lip as he stared at Chloe and the rest of the Barlow family.

“My wife and I are not attending the wedding!” Rome declared.

Then he took Catherine’s hand in his and led her out of the hall.

Within a matter of seconds, important guests started leaving one after the other, and the hall became half-empty i

n just five minutes.

“This is all Catherine's fault! She only came to ruin my party!” Chloe mumbled in anger.

But when she saw Madam Barlow glaring at her, she immediately stopped her act.

“I'm hoping that tonight won't change you guys' minds about the wedding.” Madam Barlow said as she stared at Mrs. Johnson's angry expression.

But as she was about to express her rage into words, Mr. Johnson eyed her, and she quickly kept silent.

Then he looked away from his wife, smiled at Madam Barlow, and said, “Of course. The wedding is still on.” ①

Seventy

Time moved at a natural pace, and it was finally the day of Chloe's wedding.

That morning, a loud banged on the door caused Catherine to jump out of her sleep.

Then she looked at Rome, and at that moment his eyelids rose and their eyes locked.

“Catherine!” Edward's voice echoed from outside the room.

Knowing that it was her father at the door, Catherine was about to rush out of the bed when Rome grabbed her wrist, causing her to stop and look at him.

“Do you still feel the same way that you felt at the party?” Rome asked with his eyes fixed on hers.

Although she was confused for a

moment, Catherine finally understood the question, and she answered, "Yes, I don't want to go to the wedding."

"Good. Then let me answer the door." Rome calmly said.

Nodding slightly, Catherine smiled and mumbled, "Okay,"

Afterward, Rome left the bed and walked to the door. Then he opened it and gazed at Edward.

"Good morning, father-in-law?" Rome casually said while staring into his angry eyes.

"Where is my daughter?" Edward roughly intoned, ignoring his greeting.

"She's asleep. Is there a problem?"

"Yes, there is! Today is her cousin's wedding. She is supposed to be with her family and not in bed, especially not with you!"

With a carefree expression, Rome sighed and said, “My wife doesn't want to go to the wedding and as her husband, I support her decision. So yeah, she's staying home with me.”

“You rascal! Catherine was humble before she met you, and now she has become a totally different person!” Edward lashed out.

“Nah, she's the same Catherine, but she is finally being true to her emotions and not keeping it all inside.”

“I don't care what you say, but you are wrong for Catherine!”

“No one is more right for your daughter than me. You should keep that in mind.”

Frowning at Rome, Edward tried looking over his shoulder as he screamed, “Catherine! Get dressed and let's go!”

“I apologize for this father-in-law, but I have to close the door,” Rome mumbled.

After his remark, he slightly bowed before slowly closing the door in Edward’s face.

Then he turned around, gazed at Catherine, and asked, “Are you okay?”

“I couldn't be anymore better,” Catherine said with a faint smile.

A few minutes later, everyone left the mansion, and Rome and Catherine were the only ones in the family who were still at home.

“Do you want to get out of here and get something to eat?” Rome asked as he wore his sweatshirt.

“Yes,” Catherine said in excitement.

Right at that instant, Rome’s phone buzzed, so he forgot about wearing his

sock, walked over to the bed, and picked it up.

The moment he answered the call, he heard Brook say, “Boss, we have eyes and ears in the wedding venue.”

“Good. Keep me updated.” Rome said, and then he ended the call.

When he dropped the phone back on the bed, he noticed Catherine staring at him, and he smiled at her before focusing on wearing his sock.

The ten limousines arrived at the wedding venue and they came to a stop. Then the doors opened and the Barlow family got out and headed into the hotel.

The ballroom of the hotel was being used for the ceremony, but the family members headed to their various rooms to get prepared for the wedding, which was scheduled to start in a few hours.

A while later, Catherine and Rome arrived at a nice cafe and headed inside the building.

Once they took their seat, a waiter approached them to take their orders.

When Catherine had given her order, Rome's phone buzzed, and he picked it up.

After opening his inbox, Rome silently read, "Boss, guests have started arriving. Should we act now?"

"Not until Dash and Chloe are a legally wedded couple." Rome texted back before laying his phone back on the table.

Then he looked at the waiter and said, "I will have a plain black coffee."

Finally, after getting dressed, Madam Rosey and her husband left their hotel room and came downstairs, heading in

the direction of the ballroom.

When they arrived, Edward and Dana slightly bowed and said in unison, “Welcome, mother and father.”

Staring away from her husband, Madam Rosey gazed at her son and asked, “Has any influential guest arrived?”

“Not many people have shown up yet. But I'm certain they will come.”

Edward said, feeling doubtful about his every word since there were only a few minutes left for the ceremony to start.

“If they don't show up, it's all your daughter's fault. Most of those guests seemed welcoming to Catherine, and Chloe had to misbehave on her.” Mr. Barlow said in annoyance.

“Honey,” Madam Rosey mumbled.

“What? Are we supposed to pretend like we are blind and we didn't see half of

the guests leave after she and Rome walked out!”

“I know, but they could have left because of the barbaric act Rome displayed.”

Without talking, Mr. Barlow cleared his throat and walked into the hall and then Madam Rosey followed him.

After a few more minutes had gone by, it was time for the wedding ceremony to begin, and Mr. Barlow looked around the hall and saw a half of the seats empty, and those chairs were reserved for the dignitaries and business tycoons.

“I can't believe none of them show up,” Madam Rosey mumbled with a frown.

“A lavish wedding with such small attendees. What a waste of money.” Mr. Barlow said, feeling enraged in his spirit.

“Now, I regret inviting the press. This i

s so humiliating.”

“It can't get worse than this, and we have to make sure that it doesn't.”

The half-fill mug sat before Rome, but he had not taken a sip of his coffee for a while since he was more focused on Catherine.

His index finger slowly rubbed against his bottom lip as he kept his eyes on her, watching her bite into her donut.

Suddenly, the buzz from his phone drew his attention off her, and he focused on its screen.

“The bride and the groom have entered the hall.” Scar's message said.

Looking away from his phone, Rome fixed his eyes back on Catherine, and when she looked at him, he smiled.

‘I'm glad you are not there to get mixed up with the mess that is about to

happen.’ Rome thought as he leaned towards Catherine and slowly wiped the donut powder off her lips.

A few minutes into the wedding ceremony, the pastor finally asked, “Chloe Barlow, do you take Dash Johnson as your lawful wedded husband?”

Although Chloe wasn't excited about the turnout of people at her wedding, she still faked a smile and said, “I do.”

After the pastor had posed the question to Dash and he said, “I Do,” they were both pronounced husband and wife.

Once Scar saw Dash kissing Chloe, he looked down at his phone screen and texted, “They are now a married couple.”

When Rome received the text, he didn't hesitate to message back, “Release the information.”

It took a matter of minutes after Scar received the order from Rome for every reporters' phone in the hall to start buzzing.

“It has begun.” Rome read in silence as he stared at his message box.

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