

My Accidental Husband is a Billionaire !

776 Chapter 775

Ryan had no intention of playing any tricks.

After all, what was the point doing anything to a person on the brink of death?

But it was a shame about Gavin.

Though he was a distant cousin, Gavin had been taken in by the family at a young age due to his remarkable talent and the loss of his parents. Ryan genuinely felt a

brotherly bond with him.

If Selena had repaired her relationships with the Horton and Olsen families before her death, it would have been one thing.

But if those ties remained broken when she passed, Gavin would likely be unsettled. Maintaining a close relationship with the Olsons and Hortons wouldn't be suitable anymore, lest he feel neglected.

As these thoughts swirled in his mind, Ryan felt a twinge of regret.

It was almost quite enjoyable to go to that bar with "Keera" and Lewis to find Darien Britt!

That chaotic night had been a rare experience for someone like him, who had a unique position in life and wasn't suited to have too many friends.

Ryan lowered his gaze, gripping the beads on his wrist, and began to rotate them slowly.

The chill of self-restraint was palpable.

A man who had never craved much since childhood found himself oddly eager for the visit the next day.

Meanwhile, Selena walked ahead, clearly in a foul mood.

Gavin noticed and couldn't help but chuckle as he took her hand. "Are you mad? Ellie doesn't mean any harm. She's wanted a sister to play with since she was little, and I bet that Ms. Olsen fits her personality perfectly. Don't overthink it."

Selena yanked her hand away. "I'm her sister-in-law; I shouldn't be treated like an outsider!"

Gavin couldn't help but chuckle softly. "You're overreacting. That's not what she meant."

"How is it not? If your brother marries, does she really have the nerve to say those things to his wife in front of the family? Does she dare to disregard her feelings?"

Gavin fell silent, realizing she had a point.

Ellie wouldn't dare.

Ryan wasn't just the eldest son in the family; he was also the heir of the next generation.

His wife would undoubtedly come from a prestigious background, and anyone entering the family would have to be on their best behavior...

Truthfully, Gavin understood all of this.

He was, after all, just a distant relative. Even if Ellie affectionately called him "big brother," he was always aware of his place.

Ellie was the genuine heir of the family, while he was merely a playmate to her. He certainly appreciated her warmth and knew Ellie held a genuine fondness for him as a brother, but he couldn't forget his position in the grand scheme of things. Thus, Gavin remained unfazed about Ellie not sending Selena a pearl necklace. After hearing Selena's concerns and noticing his lack of reaction, he spoke up, "We're a family. If she looks down on you, she's looking down on me, too. I don't want anyone in this house to think less of you, Gavin. I don't want you to be disrespected."

Gavin laughed. "You're overthinking it. That's not happening."

"How can you say that?" Selena turned her head away, a bit frustrated. "They know perfectly well that I don't get along with the Olsens and Hortons, yet they still insist on collaborating... Now they want us to go pay a visit? It's like they're trying to make me back down and smooth things over between you and the Hortons."

Selena's eyes reddened slightly. "But why should I? This is all because of Lewis's schemes! My mom is in prison, my dad is dead, and now the Hortons are just following his orders. He's treating our family this way, and I have to show up smiling... Have you thought about how I feel?"

Gavin quickly comforted her, "Don't cry, don't cry. My brother isn't trying to hurt you. He just wants you to mend things with your family. Besides, you still have a younger brother, right?"

Selena retorted immediately, "My brother has been fooled by them. He doesn't even acknowledge Dad anymore. How could he possibly acknowledge me as his sister?" Gavin sighed. "But they are still family."

"They aren't my family; they're my enemies!"

Selena couldn't help but shout.

Gavin paused in surprise, then hesitantly suggested, "What if we don't go tomorrow? Ms. Olsen saved my brother and Ellie's lives; it's only right for them to express their

gratitude. If you don't want to go home, we can skip it...

"That's out of the question."

Selena interjected sharply, "We have to go!"

If they didn't go, how could she slip the poison into Gavin's drink and accelerate his colon cancer? How could she ruin the relationship between the Cobbs and the Hortons?

A flash of resentment crossed Selena's gaze!

She truly hated Lewis and "Keera". If it weren't for them, she and her mother would have long been part of the Horton family, enjoying the status of true heirs instead of being labeled as the illegitimate child!

If her father were still alive, he would have definitely given her Horton shares as part of her dowry...

She wouldn't be looked down upon in the Cobb family!

The more Selena thought about it, the angrier she became. The more intense her expression grew, but she quickly turned her gaze to Gavin. "If we don't go, how will you explain it to your brother? It's fine if I take the hit; at least you'll all be happy,

right?"

After saying this, Selena entered her room, glancing back at Gavin.

Sure enough, she saw a hint of guilt on his face.

That was enough for her.

As long as he felt guilty, when he succumbed to cancer tomorrow, he would help her

say a few good words... Even if he was dead, Ryan would still treat her kindly!

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At ten o'clock the next morning, the Cobb family set off for the Hortons'. By about eleven, they arrived at the Horton residence.

The security guard had already been informed, so when they arrived, their car was allowed to drive straight in, heading for the parking lot.

Lewis and the others were already waiting for them by the lot.

Ryan Cobb and Ellie Cobb looked around, taking in the surroundings.

This estate was one Lewis had bought when he came to Clance, and though it had only been half a year, it was already well-maintained.

There were elegant pavilions, and the garden was picturesque, making the place feel as though it had a deep history.

Gavin couldn't help but comment, "The greenery here is really well done. Looks like they've had professionals take care of it."

Hearing this, Selena suddenly felt a bit of pride swell inside her. She smiled and said, "Yes, my dad loved this kind of thing. The person who tends the plants has been working with him for years. He's very particular about it."

Gavin was surprised. "You had someone specifically to take care of the plants?"

Though the Cobb family was wealthy, they kept a low profile. Their household staff was minimal, and they certainly didn't hire someone for a single task. Even their plants were tended by a service that came by periodically.

Ryan was well aware of how other wealthy families operated, but Gavin had less exposure, so he found it a bit shocking.

Selena nodded. "When Grandma was still around, she loved this one creamy soup, and only one chef could make it the way she liked. So we kept him on just to make that dish for her once a week."

Gavin couldn't help but exclaim, "That's quite extravagant."

Selena, clearly proud, nodded again. "Yes, well, the Hortons have the means. Little things like this aren't even a drop in the bucket. Gavin, see that pond over there? It's filled with koi fish. Do you know how much those fish cost? One of them can go for tens of thousands."

Gavin was stunned. "That whole pond must be worth a fortune."

Selena smirked. "Not too much. Just over a million or so. And see that old tree? My uncle paid millions to have it brought here just to give the place a bit more character."

"Millions for a tree? That's ridiculous."

As they wandered off, Ellie rolled her eyes from where she stood. She jabbed Ryan in the side. "Hey, look at her, showing off like that. You'd think the Hortons were her real family. She's just trying to make herself look good in front of Gavin. Why doesn't she come try that with me? I'd shut her down so fast."

Ryan, twirling the prayer beads on his wrist, scolded her lightly. "Enough. Don't talk about people behind their backs."

Ellie stuck out her tongue before turning to Keira, whom she had been clinging to. "Keera, I brought you a pearl necklace. Let's wear them together!"

Keira smiled softly. "Thanks."

"Oh, come on, don't be so polite! After everything you did for me, I'd still be getting strung along by that jerk Darien if it weren't for you!" Ellie still felt a twinge of disbelief when she thought back on the last three years she'd wasted on that guy.

Darien hadn't left much of a mark on her heart, but it was like he had occupied a space, leaving it empty once he was gone.

Ellie shook her head to clear those thoughts. "Anyway, my favorite dish is fish. Are we having that for lunch?"

Keira glanced at the housekeeper. "Add fish to the lunch menu."

The housekeeper smiled and went off to relay the request to the kitchen.

Ryan couldn't help but interject, "Ms. Olsen, you don't have to indulge her so much."

Keira just smiled in response.

But Lewis was the one who replied, "It's no trouble at all. Adding a dish is nothing. My wife doesn't mind."

My wife.

Ryan paused for a moment, glancing at Lewis. "So, Mr. Horton, you and Ms. Olsen are already married? I thought it was just an engagement."

Lewis nodded. "Legally, we're already married."

"Wow!" Ellie exclaimed, her excitement bubbling over. "You've already tied the knot? When's the wedding?"

Lewis smiled, acknowledging her curiosity. "When the time comes, we'll make sure you and your brother get invitations."

They'd actually been married for three years already, ever since Oceanion. But Ellie didn't need to know that.

Ellie didn't care what her brother thought—she was just thrilled. "Can I be one of the bridesmaids?"

"What are you thinking?" Erin strode over, munching on pistachios. "I'm her cousin, so obviously I'll be the bridesmaid!"

Ellie shot back, "Who says you can only have one bridesmaid?"

Erin laughed. "Even so, you'd have to get in line. You've got Miss Allen and Miss Gill ahead of you! Oh, and don't forget, her sister-in-law is her best friend. If she weren't already married, you wouldn't stand a chance."

"You—"

Just as the two were about to start bickering like a pair of schoolkids, a group of people entered from the front door. The Olsen brothers had arrived.

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These days, there weren't many people living at the Horton house.

Jake and his mother had already moved out, leaving only Keira and Lewis as the current heads of the household, with Erin still hanging around. Neither Lewis nor Keira were the chatty type, and Erin, well, she was like a firecracker, always going off whenever she saw Ellie. So, to help with hosting the Cobb family today, Keira had given James a quick call to ask him to come over and lend a hand.

James didn't mind. He and Kate had been busy training at Freeman Sect anyway and didn't have much going on. But what Keira hadn't expected was that James would casually mention the whole thing in the family group chat, which then led to all the Olsen brothers immediately chiming in, eager to join the party too.

Charles, unsurprisingly, was the first to jump on the idea. After all, his girlfriend, Erin, was there.

Even Peter showed up, and he'd brought along Jenkins. As for Ellis and Mary, they didn't come—Mary was heavily pregnant now, and Keira didn't want to

risk her being around too many people, especially with the South family's shady reputation. No need to give them any excuses.

When the whole crew rolled in, Ellie pouted. "Keera, with all these people here, are you even gonna have time to hang out with me?"

Keira raised an eyebrow and smirked. "They're family. They're here to help me entertain you!"

Ellie's mood shifted instantly, lighting up. "That's awesome!"

Meanwhile, Erin was already long gone, having sprinted over to Charles's side. She offered him a handful of pistachios and was chattering away non-stop, leaving Ellie to watch the scene unfold with curiosity.

"Is that Charles? Erin's boyfriend?" Ellie asked.

Keira paused for a moment, then nodded. Charles seemed happy enough with the arrangement, and who was she to stop him?

Ellie, however, scrunched her nose. "Hmph, if I were feeling mischievous, I'd totally try to steal Charles away from her. Let's see how long she keeps trying to steal you from me then!"

Keira blinked, speechless.

These rich girls and their thought processes were something else entirely.

Once everyone had poured into the house, the place came alive with laughter and conversation. The Olsen brothers were natural entertainers, and before long, even the usually reserved Ryan found himself pulled into a game of cards with them.

Keira exchanged a look with Lewis, her lips curving into a satisfied smile.

Lewis chuckled quietly in response.

By the time Selena and Gavin returned to the living room after their little tour of the estate, the house was already buzzing. The men were playing cards, the women sipping tea and enjoying the atmosphere—it all felt so warm and lively.

Selena, however, seemed out of place. She shot a glance at the room and muttered under her breath, "Anyone who didn't know better would think this is the Olsen house, not the Horton's."

Her words brought an instant hush to the room. Everyone understood the jab behind her passive-aggressive comment.

Gavin gave her a gentle shake of the hand, silently pleading with her to stop, and Selena reluctantly lowered her gaze, falling quiet.

At that moment, Kate spoke up. "Who's she?" she asked, casting a glance at Selena.

"She's Gavin's wife," Erin explained, adding, "Oh, and also, the former Horton bastard."

Kate raised an eyebrow. "A bastard? Really? You wouldn't know it from the way she carries herself. I thought she was the eldest daughter."

Selena's face flushed with embarrassment at the dig. Kate had thrown her own words right back at her.

Her chest heaving with frustration, Selena looked at Gavin, her eyes watering as if she were about to say something, but Gavin was quicker, tugging her close. "Just let it go."

Selena bit her lip and lowered her head, sulking.

Seeing the tension, Gavin decided not to head over to the guys, instead sitting on a sofa with Selena, the two of them somewhat isolated from the rest of the group. Their entrance had cast a strange, uncomfortable vibe over the room.

Keira and Lewis shared another glance. Neither of them were the type to make a scene, and given Selena's illness, they certainly weren't going to make a fuss. There wasn't much point in picking a fight with someone who didn't have much time left.

Keira stood up with a soft smile. "I think it's about time we eat. What do you all say?"

"Yes! Finally!" Erin was the first to jump on the idea. "I've been smelling the food from the kitchen for ages now!"

Ellie shot her a knowing look. "Please, you probably already snuck in and grabbed a bite, didn't you?"

"Me? Never!" Erin wiped her greasy lips with a napkin, nodding earnestly. "I wouldn't dare!"

Ellie just stared at her in disbelief.

With everyone moving into the dining room, they took their seats around a large table that was set with a feast. Each person sat on either side of the long table, ready for the meal to begin.

But Selena was eyeing the food with something else on her mind. When no one was watching, she slipped into the kitchen, where everyone was busy preparing the last touches. Her gaze locked onto a pot of creamy stew simmering on the stove. Checking to make sure no one was looking, she pulled out a small packet of powder from her pocket and sprinkled it into the pot, stirring it in quickly before anyone noticed.

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"What are you doing here?"

Suddenly, Fiona appeared at the doorway, asking directly.

Selena jumped, her heart pounding. She turned to look at Fiona with a smile. "Oh, I was just seeing if there's anything I can help with."

Fiona walked over. "No need. You're a guest here now. Please, step out."

"No, no, really. I can help serve the dishes," Selena insisted. She grabbed a plate of greens and walked out, but before she could set it down on the table, Gavin came over, asking, "Didn't you say you weren't feeling well and went to the restroom? What are you doing here?"

Selena gave Keira a pitiful glance and sighed, "Ryan brought us here to try to fix things, didn't he? I said something earlier that upset Uncle Lewis and Aunt Keera. I thought if I did a bit more, maybe they'd see I'm not all bad."

Gavin paused, confused.

Selena continued, "I know I'm just an illegitimate child and no one really likes me. When Dad used to visit my mom, I had to be extra good, do more work, and act mature, hoping he'd notice me a bit more. I'm not upset. I just want everyone to be happy."

She placed the plate on the table.

Seeing her try so hard, Gavin felt a pang in his heart. As an orphan himself, growing up in the Cobb family, he also knew what it was like to live under someone else's roof, always walking on eggshells, hoping to avoid conflict. It wasn't a feeling he could forget easily.

Clenching his fists, he suddenly grabbed Selena's hand. "I was wrong. We don't have to stay. You shouldn't be putting up with this."

Selena had been aiming for Gavin to feel guilty, but if they left, how would she make sure he had the soup?

"No, it's fine," she quickly said. "I want to make things better. I'm really not upset."

Gavin frowned, "You don't need to suffer like this!"

Before Selena could respond, a few of the others noticed the tension.

James spoke up, "What's going on over there? Come on, it's time to sit down."

Selena patted Gavin's hand and led him to sit at the far end of the table, in the most isolated corner.

The long dining table was crowded, and conversations became chaotic. People had to raise their voices to be heard across the room. Gavin and Selena sat at the very end, far from everyone else.

Unfortunately, they were directly across from James and Kate, a pair known for their lack of tact. Kate leaned over, her curiosity piqued. "I heard your dad was killed by your mom and her lover? Is that true?"

Selena's face darkened.

Kate wasn't trying to embarrass her; she was just blunt and loved gossip. This time, she was genuinely curious.

Selena lowered her head. "It's a misunderstanding."

"A misunderstanding? I thought so. What kind of mistress would kill her own sugar daddy? That'd be the dumbest thing ever! People are spreading such crazy rumors these days," Kate said, shaking her head.

Her words made Selena's eyes well up with tears.

James chimed in, "Hey, don't cry. If it's a rumor, what's there to be upset about?"

Selena said nothing, but inside she was fuming. These two never knew when to stop!

Her hands trembled as she reached for her food. Whether it was from Fiona scaring her earlier or the anger these two provoked, she couldn't tell. Either way, she felt weak.

What Selena didn't realize was that her advanced cancer was taking a toll on her body, slowly draining her strength. Her arms had become frail and thin.

She managed to take a few bites of food, trying to ease the nausea.

Gavin noticed and immediately poured her a glass of water. "Are you okay?" Tearing up again, Selena looked at him. "I'm fine, just a bit overwhelmed... I did live here once, you know..."

Gavin sighed.

Selena's eyes flicked toward the soup. "You should have some of the soup."

"Alright."

Gavin lifted the lid and took a look inside.

Selena grabbed a spoon and sipped some herself. The fresh, milky broth tasted amazing, but what a shame... this delicious soup was destined to be Gavin's undoing.

With that thought, she took another sip.

Seeing her handle the soup without issue, Gavin felt reassured and took a few sips himself.

Up at the other end of the table, Keira and Lewis were sitting close, chatting quietly.

Keira asked, "I noticed you've installed a lot of new cameras around the house, even in the kitchen. What's up with that?"

Lewis shrugged. "With Lion back in Crera, you never know. I'm just being cautious."

Keira sighed, "Fair enough."

She couldn't help but think it was overkill. Who installs so many cameras in their own home?

Just as the thought crossed her mind, a retching sound came from the far end of the table.

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The room fell silent as all eyes turned to the far end of the table, where Selena was holding her hand over her mouth, looking nauseous.

Gavin leaned in, worried. "What's wrong?"

Selena shook her head, unsure herself.

Maybe it was the knowledge that the soup had been tampered with. After all, she knew what had been added.

One shouldn't have felt anything—unless one had colon cancer.

Confused, she glanced at Gavin. He'd had some of the soup, too. Shouldn't he be feeling it by now?

Maybe the effects just hadn't kicked in yet.

"I'm fine," she said with a forced smile. "You should have some more soup."

Gavin seemed reassured and went back to his meal.

Selena's condition had worsened, though the doctors had told her that cancer patients who remained unaware of their condition often lived longer—months, even years.

It was psychological, they'd said, but in the end, it was just a temporary comfort.

Gavin continued drinking his soup, his mind elsewhere, before absentmindedly reaching for some vegetables slathered in peanut sauce.

Meanwhile, Selena set her utensils down and turned to Gavin. "I'm going to propose a toast to my aunt and uncle."

Selena walked over to where Keira and Lewis were sitting.

Holding up a glass of champagne, she smiled warmly. "Aunt Keera, Uncle Lewis, I know I've been a little out of line in the past. I just want to apologize and ask for your understanding. This toast is for you."

She took a sip from her glass.

Keira exchanged a look with Lewis, and with a slight nod, she raised her glass and took a small sip in acknowledgment. It was more for Gavin's sake than anything else.

But Selena wasn't finished. "I know I've said some things that upset you earlier, Aunt Keera. That wasn't my intention. I just feel like the house is so empty these days. It got me thinking. I hope you don't take it the wrong way."

Keira didn't know what to say.

Why would she bring that up again?

Keira raised an eyebrow. "And?"

Selena smiled innocently. "I was just hoping you could ask Jake to stop by sometime. I'd like to talk to him and clear the air. I know there's been some misunderstandings between us, and since Jake listens to you more than anyone else, maybe you could help me mend things."

On the surface, Selena's words were harmless, but they carried a hidden weight.

Keira had history with Jake, and even though both of them had moved on, the complexities of their past were something everyone in the family was aware of.

Jake had distanced himself by not moving back home, mainly to avoid any awkwardness.

So for Selena to suggest that Jake was the one who listened to Keira the most?

She was clearly playing a dangerous game, indicating that "Keera" was actually Keira

Keira's eyes narrowed. Was Selena trying to provoke her? If so, she was doing a damn good job. Keira placed her glass on the table with a sharp thud. "I'm sorry, but I don't know Jake that well."

"How can that be?" Selena feigned surprise. "Weren't you both in the same college?"

"He used to hang on your every word. If anyone could convince him, it would be you. You want our family to get along, don't you?"

Keira thought, "What is this woman trying to pull?"

She gave a short laugh. "What are you talking about? I grew up in Clance. How could I have gone to college with Jake?"

Selena opened her mouth to say something more, but Lewis cut her off, his patience clearly wearing thin. "Selena, if you're not enjoying dinner, you can leave. No one here is stopping you."

Selena froze, caught off guard by Lewis' sudden bluntness.

Across the table, Ryan and Ellie shared a glance. They didn't know about Keira and Jake's history, but they could sense the tension in the room.

Ellie, who already didn't like Selena, saw this as her just desserts. She was stirring the pot, and it seemed like Keira and Lewis were done playing nice.

But Gavin? He was completely in the dark.

Selena's eyes were already red, her head bowed, looking pitiful and like she'd been wronged. She glanced at Lewis, as if wanting to speak but not knowing what to say, and finally murmured, "Uncle Lewis, I'm sorry. I didn't mean

anything by it. I just thought... since Jake and I are family, all of us are family, we shouldn't be like this, with everyone ignoring me..."

She dabbed at her tears. "I know I'm just the illegitimate child, but Dad's gone now, and Jake and I, we're still family, brother and sister by blood. I just said a few words, and if that bothered you, I won't say anything else..."

Lewis looked straight at her, feeling a surge of irritation.

If it weren't for the Cobb family backing her, he'd have gotten rid of this woman a long time ago.

Now, though, she was buzzing around him like a fly, and it grated on him. He cut her off, "Then just don't."

Selena froze, words catching in her throat.

Gavin got to his feet, walked over to Selena, and put his arm around her, shielding her from the awkward stares. "Uncle Lewis, Aunt Keera, did Selena say something wrong? All she wants is for everyone to be on good terms. Sure, she's a child born out of wedlock, but that's not her fault. Didn't your ex-wife grow up under similar circumstances, Uncle Lewis? Are we really judging people by their origins in this day and age?"

Gavin's outburst caught everyone by surprise. Keira and Lewis exchanged shocked glances, but before they could respond, Ryan spoke up, trying to diffuse the situation.

"Gavin, that's enough. This isn't the time."

But Gavin wasn't having it. He shot a look at Selena, his face hardening. "Selena, we don't need to stay here if no one's willing to treat you with respect. Let's go."

With that, he grabbed her hand and headed for the door, determination written all over his face.

Gavin was still loyal to his family, but he wasn't going to let Selena be humiliated like this.

As Selena allowed herself to be led out, the faintest smirk curled her lips. It was all going according to plan.

Gavin would be out of the picture soon, thanks to the poison, and once that happened, things would really start falling into place.

But just then, a sharp pain stabbed through her abdomen. Beads of sweat broke out on her forehead, and her smirk vanished, replaced with panic.

