

Be Yours 101

Chapter 101 Incompatible

Alec was silent for a long time. Just as Jenny thought he was about to get angry again, he said, "I'll pick you up for the birthday party tomorrow."

"You don't have to do that." When Jenny's rejection was met with Alec's murderous gaze, she explained, Max invited me to the party first."

In other words, Alec was too late. Jenny noted the violent heaving of Alec's chest, and she guessed that he was on the verge of lashing out in rage.

After remaining silent for so long that Jenny thought he would never speak again, Alec suddenly said, "Alright then, I'll wait for you at the venue."

Jenny didn't try to provoke him further. After all, offending him would do her no good. She just wanted to set clear boundaries with him.

As she reached for another skewer, she asked, "Won't you be with Yvonne?"

"Who said that?" Alec immediately retorted. "We grew up together, so we're just close friends."

He had never liked anyone in the past, which was why he allowed himself to get so close to Yvonne. Everyone thought they would end up together, and even Alec himself thought that way too. He didn't feel anything about it as he had no expectations for love and marriage for the longest time. Therefore, he had no qualms about marrying Yvonne.

It didn't matter to him who he married. After all, he was familiar with Yvonne, and the Dickmans could help the Faustus to a certain extent. However, it all changed when he met Jenny.

"Since you grew up together, aren't you two childhood sweethearts?" Jenny asked, giggling. She continued to tease him, saying, "Why don't you guys just get together?"

"I don't like her." After meeting Jenny, he knew what it meant to like someone.

Jenny shrugged, not believing him. "Aren't you going to eat?" she asked, noticing that Alec hadn't touched the food.

"It's unhygienic," he replied, shaking his head before adding, "Since you have stomach issues, you should eat less of such things."

Jenny, however, wasn't bothered by his words. She quipped, "So you see, we're incompatible. We have nothing in common. Even our lifestyles are different."

Alec fell silent.

"Think about it carefully. Perhaps you don't truly like me. Maybe you just like the chase and the challenge. because I've always been a little mean and rude to you?"

Jenny thought that the possibility of that being the reality of the situation was very high. As soon as she was done talking, Alec braved himself, picked up several skewers, and started to eat.

Dumfounded, Jenny watched him and chided, "You don't have to force yourself to eat that. I was making an example. Eating this doesn't change anything."

"Hey, it tastes really good. No wonder it's your favorite," Alec announced, disregarding whatever Jenny had said.

She didn't bother to say more as she figured he would give up on her sooner or later.

After the meal, they headed back to Perry Residence together. When Jenny was about to enter her home,

Alec asked, "Does this mean our previous misunderstandings have been resolved?"

"I guess," Jenny replied, nodding. "But that doesn't mean I like you."

"It's okay. There's still time. As long as you don't hate me, there are plenty of opportunities."

Alec was delighted with the situation. Jenny, on the other hand, figured he was out of his mind. With that, she closed the door behind her.

Alec smiled to himself as he headed to his place. He turned on the lights, revealing the black walls of his living room, which resembled a suffocating prison. Alec, however, didn't feel that way.

Pouring himself a glass of red wine, he was in a great mood as he stood before the floor-to-ceiling window. A tinge of warmth spread in his heart as he watched the brightly lit streets outside.

Chapter 102 No Thanks!

The next day, Jenny was woken up by Max's phone call.

"What time is it? Why are you disturbing my sleep?" she answered, her tone gruff and unpleasant. It surprised Max, but he quickly recovered. "Did you not sleep well last night?"

She had a hard time sleeping last night as the image of Alec's face plagued her mind. As a result, she didn't sleep a wink for the first time.

"Is something wrong?" Jenny took a deep breath to steady her emotions.

"Aren't you going to attend Mr. Faust's birthday party today? That's why I'm calling. I'm going to bring you to a stylist this morning," Max said. He felt a little hurt as Jenny was the first woman he had treated so well. Unfortunately for him, Jenny didn't care at all.

Jenny slapped her forehead. Barely keeping her anger in check, she replied, "If I remember correctly, the birthday party will only begin at night. Why must I go to the stylist so early in the morning? Is your brain still asleep?"

"Don't girls usually spend all day at the stylist?" he asked.

"I don't know how long it usually takes for others, but I'm quick," Jenny answered. "Don't worry about it. I'll take care of it myself."

"In that case... Why don't you grab breakfast now?"

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Max was already in the lobby of Perry Residence, and he was rather unsatisfied that he couldn't see her.

"No thanks!" With that, Jenny hung up the phone before falling back on her bed to sleep.

Downstairs, Max felt a little down as he stared at his phone. It was rare for him to offer his companionship to a woman during her styling sessions. How could she reject him so mercilessly?

He wondered why he was wasting time on someone who wouldn't appreciate his efforts. Wouldn't it be better if he agreed to Alec's terms to cement his position in the Pearson family?

As soon as that thought entered his mind, he spotted Alec, and his expression fell. Even if he were at death's door, he would never ask Alec to help!

Spotting Max, Alec's mood plummeted too.

"I never knew you were such a hardworking person," he said.

"Well, when it comes to girls, surely I must work harder" Max answered, grinning.

"Unfortunately, not all things can be achieved through hard work alone," Alec retorted.

In his opinion, even if Alec was not Jenny's type, Max certainly wasn't either.

Max responded with a smile, disregarding Alec's sarcastic remark, saying, "In any case, Jenny is my date for tonight while a certain someone will be alone."

"That's not right," he added, shaking his head again. "I heard that Miss Dickman is interested in you. Perhaps you two could get together."

When Alec's face darkened, Max grinned wider. "Hey heard that the Dickmans played a role in Jenny's kidnapping. I think she might hate them. Alec, if you join me to bring the Dickmans to bankruptcy, Jenny might begin to admire you."

The Dickmans had the same status as the Pearsons in Parrington. Both families were not on par with the Fausts, but they had a good standing nonetheless. If Max managed to destroy the Dickmans and acquire their assets, the Pearsons would ascend the food chain.

However, Alec merely looked at Max as if he were a fool, saying, "The Fausts and the Dickmans are close friends. Why do you think I'll ever agree?"

"So you won't agree?" Max spread his hands, looking indifferent. "It's alright. That's fine. I'm not the one that Jenny hates anyway. Given her character, I figure she won't forgive the Dickmans any time soon."

After musing in thought for a while, he continued, "I heard that Gilbert is Jenny's eldest brother. Say, if I propose to join forces with him to deal with the Dickmans, will Jenny agree?"

Chapter 103 How Dare He!

Although Alec stayed quiet, his ugly expression said it all. Based on his understanding of Jenny, she would agree. In fact, she would likely be very involved with the plan.

“See you tonight, Mr. Faust. I hope you won’t inform the Dickmans.”

Waving at him, Max entered his car. Alec watched as Max’s flamboyant red sports car rolled out of sight. Then, he turned to look at Jenny’s floor before he left.

Jenny slept until noon, making up for the sleep she had lost the previous night. Once she got up from bed, she checked her phone. Morgan had sent her a text, asking her if she wanted to attend Old Mr. Faust’s party together with her.

After replying to her, Jenny read the texts from other people. Stephanie had sent her one, saying that she didn’t have time to attend the party and hoped Jenny would send her wishes to the old man well for her.

It seemed that Stephanie had become very busy now that she had started working for her family after they almost went bankrupt. She was truly deserving of her title as the Walkers’ heir. Max also texted her, telling her that he would pick her up at 6.00 pm.

After reading all the texts, she went to wash up before leisurely making lunch for herself. After lunch, it was still hours before 6 pm. Instead of laying around idly, she searched for news related to the Dickman Group.

As she had said, she was not a forgiving person, and she would not let Steven off the hook so easily after he drugged her. Even though she couldn’t bring him down instantly, she could do it little by little. In any case, she couldn’t sit still and do nothing.

A listed company’s finances were most prone to problems. Therefore, Jenny decided to launch her attack by targeting that. She was reading seriously when her phone rang.

“Gilbert!” Jenny shouted with a smile the moment she answered the call.

“Are you free tonight? Would you accompany me to a birthday party?” Gilbert asked.

Jenny knew that the birthday party was likely Old Mr. Faust’s. Hence, she replied, “If you want me to accompany you to Mr. Faust’s birthday party, then I won’t be able to do that.”

“Why?”

“I’ve already promised someone else that,” she replied without specifying who it was.

Knowing her brother’s character, he would tell her to reconsider and stay away from Max if he knew she was going with him. She decided she would hide it from Gilbert just this once so he wouldn’t worry.

Hearing her answer, Gilbert didn’t pursue further. “Okay, then I’ll ask Zack to accompany me.”

“Yeah, he should attend more events like this. Otherwise, he might become a homebody.”

She didn’t know if it was because people in his line of work liked staying at home, but, anyway, Zack did.

Suddenly, Gilbert got back to business, "The situation with the Dickmans is more complicated, so it's hard to get started."

Gilbert had not stayed idle. Aside from running his usual business, he also had to mobilize forces to investigate the Dickmans. Unfortunately, there was no progress.

"It's okay. Take your time." She was not discouraged. It would not be so easy to bring down a big family, so she was mentally prepared for such a situation.

"However, Steven has done many bad things. Should we start with him? Maybe we can send him to prison for a few years?" Gilbert suggested. He hated Steven so much for attempting to prey on his sister. How

dare he!

After giving it some thought, Jenny refused the idea. "It won't be difficult to send him to prison, but if his family still stands, he'll be fine. Instead, it will make them warier, which would not be good for us."

If the Dickmans became vigilant, it would be even more difficult for them to find their weak spots.

Chapter 104 She Hates Me

Jenny and Gilbert talked on the phone for a long time. After discussing how to attack the Dickmans, they ended the call.

In the blink of an eye, it was already 4.00 pm, and there were only two hours left before Jenny had to leave for the birthday party at 6.00 pm. She rose from the sofa and headed to the closet, where she dressed herself.

The birthday party was held at Empire State Hotel, which was the most luxurious hotel in Parrington. Nonetheless, it was a small feat for the Fausts to book the entire hotel.

As the organizer of the party, Alec arrived at the hotel early to oversee the preparations. After all, it was his grandfather's 70th birthday, so of course he had to help out.

"Please go and rest, sir. I'll watch over the preparation," Warren said, seeing him busy himself all day.

However, Alec didn't leave. "Where's Grandpa?"

"He's resting upstairs. Do you want to meet him there?"

After a moment of thought, Alec nodded. "I'll check on him. I'll leave the preparations to you."

"Sure, don't worry about the preparations."

Immediately, Alec left the hall and took the elevator upstairs to the room. In the room, Old Mr. Faust was enjoying a cup of tea leisurely. Alec entered, pushing the door open, and he turned to look in the direction of the sound.

"Are you done with the work downstairs?" he asked.

"Well, it's almost done," Alec replied. "Warren is overseeing the rest. I promise you'll be proud of it."

Alec didn't understand why his grandfather was throwing such a big birthday party this time. In the past, it had always been a meal with a few of his family members.

Smiling and nodding, Old Mr. Faust said, "Well, don't just stand there. Go and pick Jenny up."

"Grandpa..." Alec was troubled.

Old Mr. Faust was immediately upset. He scolded Alec, saying, "You said you were willing to try, you brat. Be a little more proactive. Do you think Jenny will wait for you forever?"

"That's not what I meant." Alec sighed before he said, "Even if I'm willing to try, she won't give me a chance."

That caught his grandfather by surprise. He stared at Alec for a long time before saying, "Have you two met?"

"Yes." Alec nodded.

"How did Jenny seem?"

After a moment of silence, Alec reluctantly admitted, "She seems to hate me very much."

Although they seemed to have resolved their misunderstandings last night, Alec knew that Jenny still didn't like him. She was only less obvious about it.

Old Mr. Faust fell silent, his expression cloudy. If Jenny really hated his brat of a grandson, that would be a bad thing. He was about to speak again when he noticed a strange expression on his grandson's face, which gave him a feeling that something was wrong.

"So you told me you're willing to try because you've met Jenny? Do you regret the divorce now?" He wanted to laugh, thinking that Alec deserved it. However, considering that Alec was his grandson, he decided to keep his thoughts to himself to spare his pride.

Although Alec didn't reply, his silence answered everything.

With a sigh, Old Mr. Faust asked, "You wouldn't believe me when I told you that Jenny is a good girl. Don't you regret it now?"

"Grandpa, do you know a lot about her?" Alec asked suddenly. He felt that his grandfather might not know much about Jenny. At least, he didn't seem to be aware of her secret identity.

After a moment of thought, Old Mr. Faust replied, "I'm friends with her grandfather. Her family moved to the countryside in the past, so Jenny grew up there. But don't you look down on Jenny because of this. Although she grew up in the countryside, she is every bit as good as these wealthy ladies in Parrington."

He had rambled a little too much for fear Alec might look down on Jenny for growing up in a rural area. Little did he know that Alec couldn't care less about that.

Chapter 105 Destined for Greatness

"Did she really grow up in the countryside?"

Her secret identities as the internationally renowned Dr. Walter and Mr. Birkett's secret mentee were enough to prove that she was not a simple person.

Old Mr. Faust was a little puzzled by Alec's question. "What do you mean by that?"

Alec decided to tell his grandfather about Jenny's two secret identities. After all, his grandfather would find out after the party, so it was better to tell him beforehand so he could be prepared. However, Old Mr. Faust was not as surprised as he had imagined he would be. Instead, he sullenly drifted away into his thoughts.

A long time passed before Old Mr. Faust finally said, "Jenny... is destined for greatness."

He realized that the old guy didn't lie to him. Jenny's genes were a guarantee that she would be no extraordinary person. After all, people from that family were always talented.

"Grandpa, why am I sensing that you are trying to imply something?" Alec was not an idiot. His grandfather's indifference to his revelations suggested that he had expected them. An indication that he was hiding something about Jenny from him.

Old Mr. Faust sighed before he answered, "These are not things you should think about now. You should focus on getting Jenny to accept you again."

"Grandpa-"

"Alright, time to get busy." He interrupted Alec and waved him away. "I don't want anything to go wrong tonight."

Hence, Alec had no choice but to leave. Although he nodded at his grandfather, he was murmuring internally. Was the agreement of the two old men the only reason his grandfather insisted he married Jenny?

At 6.00 pm, Max arrived at the lobby of Jenny's apartment. He sported a dark gray suit, which was much more modest than his usual flashy tendencies.

When Jenny spotted him, she couldn't help raising her eyebrows. "I didn't know you would take this party so seriously."

Max didn't answer, his eyes following Jenny until she reached him.

She was wearing a long, plain dress. The nicely tailored dress highlighted her curves, not in a vulgar, glaring manner, but rather, it made her look regal and untouchable.

Jenny waved her hand before Max's eyes. "Hello, Earth to Max."

"Sorry, you're too beautiful today." Even if Max didn't like Jenny, he couldn't help but be fascinated by her.

Jenny covered her mouth and snickered. She returned his compliment, saying, "You're not too bad yourself."

Max opened the car door for her and gestured for her to enter. "Please get in the car, miss. Let your humble servant be your driver today."

In the car, Jenny apologized to him. "You're not upset that I didn't wear the dress you prepared for me today, are you?"

She felt that the dress he sent didn't suit her, so she chose not to wear it.

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Max, who was behind the wheel, smiled nonchalantly. You made the right call. In fact, I didn't know what suited you, so I ended up choosing that dress. This long dress looks much better on you. Where did you get it? I would like to visit that place in the future."

Jenny smiled to herself as she knew he couldn't buy it, "I made it myself."

"You made it yourself?" Max was surprised.

"Well, I made it when I was free."

During the two years of her marriage with Alec, she was really bored, so she started to learn to make clothes. Little did she know she had such a talent.

"When will you make one for me?" he asked, grinning.

Jenny shook her head and said, "I haven't learned how to tailor men's clothing, so I'm afraid I can't promise you anything."

"It's okay. I'm not in a hurry. You can take your time to study men's clothing," he said, not giving up. If he wore the clothes made by Jenny, Alec would die of anger.

"We'll see!" Jenny didn't refuse him, nor did she agree to him. After all, her tailoring skills could potentially be a moneymaking avenue in the future.

Chapter 106 I Don't Want Trouble

The car crawled on the road. A short silence later, Max said, "I assume you already knew that Steven Dickman had something to do with your abduction."

"Yes." She nodded and gave him a confused look. He chuckled wryly and asked nonchalantly, "Are you going to let this slip?"

She raised a brow questioningly and waited for him to speak again.

"The Dickmans are very influential in Parrington. Gilbert's power alone isn't enough to get rid of them," he explained.

"So?" She smiled as though she could anticipate his next words, but he wasn't bothered by it. He offered, "I can help."

She chuckled and stared at him before quickly looking away. "Helping me? Haven't you been eyeing them, waiting to acquire them just to expand your influence?"

After all, the fight for clients and resources was a zero-sum game for the families. Jenny found it easy to read his mind.

“You could say so.” Max didn’t deny her assumption. Indeed, he wanted to acquire Dickman LLC to strengthen his influence for the time when he needed to face off against Alec. However, he couldn’t make a move on the Dickmans if Jenny was against it.

She did not give him an immediate answer. “I need time to think about it.”

“That’s fine. There’s no rush,” he said with a smile and didn’t seem worried she might be against his idea. If she wanted revenge against the Dickmans without wasting time, she would naturally agree to work with him.

Their conversation ended there. Soon, the car came to a stop at the entrance of the hotel. There were only bodyguards at the entrance whose task was to check the identity of the guests. Reporters were nowhere to be seen because this was a private event.

When Jenny and Max showed up at the event hall, they instantly became the center of attraction. Most people at the event knew Max, but only a few who attended the previous charity dinner recognized Jenny. The few people who knew her were surprised to find the last mentee of Mr. Birkett with Max, and the two seemed close. Everyone started guessing if she was Max’s new girlfriend.

Alec stared at the two as he fought to suppress his rage as the host. He walked up and said to Jenny, Grandpa’s happy you could make it. He’s in the waiting room. I’ll bring you there.” He completely ignored Max, who was standing beside her.

“Mr. Faust, Jenny’s my plus one. It isn’t too nice of you to take her away from me, is it?” Max laughed at a volume that attracted stares. Alec held back his anger and smiled. “Mr. Pearson, you’re reading too much into it. I’m doing this as a host.”

Max snickered in silence, his eyes full of distrust. Jenny ignored their quiet competition and replied, “It’s fine. I’ll stay here. The dinner should be starting soon.”

Alec did not force her. He nodded and turned around to leave. “Make yourself at home. Ask for me if you need anything.”

“Oh, Mr. Faust,” Max interjected. “Don’t you worry. She’ll ask for me if she needs anything. She won’t trouble you tonight.”

Alec merely gave Max a frosty look while silently contemplating throwing him out. He thought, “What an annoying presence.”

After Alec left, Jenny shifted her gaze to Max. “I’m here for his grandpa’s birthday, and I genuinely wish the old gentleman well. I don’t want trouble. Got it?”

Zachary Faust was good to her, and the last thing she wanted was to taint his birthday event. Meanwhile, Max was a ticking time bomb that would go off at any time.

Chapter 107 I Know the Limits

Jenny seemed to be warning him that she would not go easy with him if he crossed a boundary, even if they were close. Max nodded with a smile and whispered, "Don't worry. I know the limits."

His only goal was to irk Alec, and he would not do anything that would bring her trouble. Their close proximity made her uneasy, and she glared at him. After that, she walked to a corner and sat down in a quiet area to rest.

"Jenny." Morgan came up to her with a smile and handed her a glass of champagne. Jenny nodded as a show of thanks and asked, "Where are your parents? Why aren't you with them?"

"Look, they're over there. I think they're discussing some partnership." Morgan pouted unhappily. Jenny was more chill about the situation and comforted her with a smile, "This might be a birthday dinner for the Fausts, but for others, it is an opportunity to widen their network. It shows that your parents are working hard to take advantage of all opportunities."

"I know." Of course, Morgan knew the reason behind her parents' actions, but she still found it hard to accept the reality. She had always been proud of her amazing parents, but she felt a little bitter when she witnessed how humble they behaved when discussing potential partnerships.

Jenny seemed to have read her mind and patted her on the shoulder. "Don't feel bad about it. They have to lower themselves here so they can lift their head high out there."

"Jenny, I like the way you think." Morgan felt better after being comforted by her. The two chatted away, but their jaws almost dropped when they saw more people crowding the event hall. The Fausts must have invited a lot of guests to this event.

"Jenny, look at Miss Dickman. She's going over to Alec again." Morgan looked in a certain direction while gesturing at Jenny to look over, ready to gossip. Yvonne was dressed in a red evening gown with a long train, which showcased her perfect curves. She and Alec looked like a great match when they stood side by side.

Jenny thought they looked great, as both were quite attractive, but Morgan held a different opinion. She whispered, "Jenny, do you know that Alec is married?"

Jenny was taken aback and flashed her an astonished smile.

"Heh heh, I bet you don't know." Morgan thought that Jenny was surprised to hear the news, but Jenny was simply shocked that Morgan knew about her marriage to Alec. She could only hope that the news of the marriage wasn't leaked.

"I heard that Mr. Faust arranged a marriage for Alec. Miss Dickman was mad when she heard about it. Had Mr. Faust not interfered, she would have been his bride. She was angry about the flash marriage and went abroad, but she came home recently."

Jenny fell into deep thoughts while listening to Morgan. Morgan added with a smile, "I think that Alec doesn't like Miss Dickman at all. Her love for him is unrequited."

"Oh? But didn't you say that she almost married him?" Jenny asked, taking a sip of the champagne. "That's what people said. But who knows what happened." Morgan smirked and said, "I believe Alec has no feelings for her. He even looked at her with less emotion than when he stared at you."

Jenny was a little dumbfounded. Morgan quickly added, "That's just an example. What I'm trying to say is that Alec definitely doesn't like Miss Dickman. As for the talks of marriage between them, I guess that was just an arranged marriage."

Chapter 108 All They Have Is Money

Jenny begged to differ. In her opinion, it was uncharacteristic of Alec to give up love for an arranged marriage. He must have had feelings for Yvonne, but whether or not he loved her was a secret only he knew. Anyway, Jenny didn't bother to reveal her thoughts to Morgan since they were just assumptions.

They stopped talking when the event started. Old Mr. Faust appeared in the hall and was receiving well wishes from the guests, but Jenny and Morgan were not in a hurry to meet him. Morgan marveled, "The Fausts are truly the elite family of Parrington. No one could beat them when it comes to the scale of their events.."

"Why? Are you envious?" Jenny chuckled and said, "Tell your parents to keep it up. Maybe you could enjoy all these riches someday."

"That's impossible." Morgan was sensible. "Jenny, when are we giving out the presents?" She noticed that everyone was giving Old Mr. Faust his birthday presents, both to wish him personally and to get acquainted. The Goldings also planned to do so.

When the crowd around Old Mr. Faust dispersed, Jenny suggested, "Let's go now."

"Okay." Morgan nodded with a smile and walked beside her. She always followed Jenny around because Jenny gave her a sense of comfort and security.

The two ladies attracted attention when they showed up, especially Jenny. Everyone was curious about her after knowing she was Max's plus one.

"Grandpa, I wish you a very happy birthday. May health and happiness be with you," Yvonne spoke. Standing beside Alec, she handed Zachary Faust a birthday gift. The old man accepted it cheerfully and beamed at her warmly. "I'm just happy to have you here. You don't even need to bring a gift-we're family!"

"How could I not bring you a gift? You are grandpa to me," Yvonne purred and added, "And one should bring gifts to one's grandpa!"

Zachary laughed heartily and opened the gift box to reveal a lovely amethyst figurine. Someone around him gasped, "It is an amethyst figurine! That's very generous of Miss Dickman."

"Right. It looks expensive," someone chimed in. A smile appeared on Yvonne's lips as she cast a gleeful glance at Jenny. However, Jenny was unbothered. Most people couldn't tell from looking. Only she knew that Zachary Faust had no interest in amethyst.

Still, the old man kept his thoughts to himself and stowed the gift away with a smile. "Yvonne, that's very thoughtful of you. I love it."

“Good to hear!” Yvonne said. Morgan looked around and saw no one coming forward to present their gifts. She glanced at Jenny and received a slight nod. Taking the hint, she walked up to Zachary.

“Sir, I am Morgan, the daughter of Jamie Golding. I wish you good health and long life.” She gave her well wishes and handed him a gift.

After his long retirement from the business world, Zachary had almost no recollection of the Goldings. Moreover, the Goldings weren’t that influential in Parrington. He gestured at Warren to accept the gift and thanked Morgan personally, “That’s very nice of your family.”

His attitude toward Morgan was the opposite of how he treated Yvonne, but Morgan wasn’t offended, for she understood that the Goldings did not have the stature to command respect at such a grand event. Someone started murmuring, “The Goldings? Aren’t they the new money from the restaurant industry?”

“Yes. All they have is money. There’s no grace or sophistication.” Another snickered with a mocking tone,

annoying presence.”

After Alec left, Jenny shifted her gaze to Max. “I’m here for his grandpa’s birthday, and I genuinely wish the old gentleman well. I don’t want trouble. Got it?”

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Chapter 109 What Was Going On?

Jenny’s expression hardened as her eyes scanned the two guests who had gossiped about the Goldings.. Before she could speak, she heard Old Mr. Faust scoffing. He reprimanded them, “Everyone here is my guest. I appreciate their presence at my birthday event regardless of their background. To me, they are equal. If I hear someone speak ill of the others again, I will not play nice!”

In that instant, a hush fell over the hall. No one dared to say another word. Yvonne stood forward to lighten the atmosphere. “Grandpa, why don’t you check out Miss Golding’s gift? She must have put in a lot of effort to pick it.”

When Zachary turned his eyes on her, she hurriedly explained, “I ran into her when I was picking your gift! A friend of Miss Golding said she knew what you’d like. And I’m pretty curious about that.” Then, she looked at Jenny. “Miss Walter, isn’t that true? You claimed that you knew what Grandpa would like.”

Jenny was forced to step forward. She smiled and ignored Yvonne’s provocation. “We’ll know when he opens the gift.”

Zachary was surprised by the revelation and cast a gentle look at Jenny. “Did you help the Goldings to pick a gift?”

“Yes,” She nodded. Now, even Morgan’s parents were anxious. If Zachary disliked Morgan’s gift, not only would their family fail to pleasure him, they might even offend him.

"I do have to take a look." Zachary reached out to get the gift from Warren. When he opened the box, everyone leaned in to look at the item inside. They started guffawing and howling when they found out that Morgan had bought Old Mr. Faust a paintbrush.

"It's a paintbrush. How... special." Yvonne held back her laughter and gave a sarcastic remark dressed as a compliment. Zachary slowly took out the paintbrush and examined it on his palm. He looked at Jenny. Did you get this from Mr. Lawson?"

"Yes." Jenny nodded. He flashed Morgan a smile and nodded approvingly. "Great. And you are Morgan Golding. Is that right?"

"I am." Morgan nodded, but she was nervous.

"I love your gift. It's the best gift I have received so far," he praised her. Before Morgan could even react to that, he looked at Alec and reminded him, "Do keep in touch with the Goldings. We need to show them our appreciation after they gave us such a nice gift."

"Sure." Alec nodded. Meanwhile, all the guests were shocked beyond words. What was going on? They couldn't understand why a paintbrush ended up as Old Mr. Faust's favorite gift instead of the expensive amethyst figurine from Yvonne Dickman.

More shocking was Old Mr. Faust's attitude, who, after retiring from business, proactively requested for the first time that Alec gets in touch with the Goldings. Everyone understood what that meant.

Now, the guests had a different opinion of the Goldings, for they understood that the family would soar to greater heights after tonight's event.

Yvonne was similarly taken aback. She could not fathom why Old Mr. Faust would prefer the paintbrush that was levels below her amethyst figurine.

When Zachary put away the paintbrush, he smiled at Jenny. "Jenny, you got me excited about your gift."

If she had made a great choice on behalf of the Goldings, she must have selected something better as her gift to Zachary, which raised his anticipation.

The guests were perplexed by how Old Mr. Faust addressed Jenny. They wondered if the two were close. Yvonne also gave Alec a baffled look. She felt that she had missed out on some details. What was the problem?

Chapter 110 No Wonder She Didn't Fall For You

"I hope you don't mind." Jenny took out the mid-sized gift she had prepared, which appeared rather average at first glance. Zachary didn't ask Warren to accept it nor take it himself. Instead, he shot a look at Alec. "Why are you still standing there? Get over now. Don't leave her holding on to that box."

Everyone's jaw dropped to the floor, and Jenny was dumbfounded. Alec thought his grandpa didn't have to be this obvious in matchmaking. He walked up to Jenny, took the gift box, and whispered, "Thank you."

"Why thank me? This is for Grandpa, not for you," Jenny said to him without a care about his feelings. Het didn't mind it too, because he was accustomed to her slight.

Zachary opened the box without hesitation when it was handed to him. There was a lapis lazuli stone in the box, to everyone's shock.

Someone started gossiping, "Did she not have enough money for a better gift? Is that why she bought that old thing?"

"I don't think so! She's Mr. Birkett's last mentee, after all."

"Well, mentees are usually poor, aren't they?"

The guests were waiting for Old Mr. Faust's outburst and Jenny's humiliation after she had the nerve to give him an old lapis lazuli stone. Yvonne thought the same as well. Morgan's paintbrush was laughable, but it was at least brand new. She never thought that Jenny would take it up a notch by giving Zachary an old item that looked like it came from a roadside stall. She could not hold back and chided Jenny, "Miss Walter, it's Grandpa's birthday today. Isn't it impolite to buy him a second-hand item?"

"Yes. She has no respect for Mr. Faust at all," someone from the crowd added. She was a friend of Yvonne who had been secretly annoyed at Jenny.

Jenny glanced at the two women and sighed. Birds of a feather flock together. That was an apt description for Yvonne and her friends. It was one thing to be ignorant, but stealing the limelight was a completely classless act.

Jenny's silence was akin to an admission, which delighted them. Morgan appeared worried that Jenny would anger the Faustus, but she suddenly recalled the words of the store staff. In fact, Morgan's paintbrush was a gift with purchase, and the minimum purchase limit was ten million. Jenny must have bought something valuable for Old Mr. Faust. However, Morgan could not be sure if Jenny had bought that inkstone on the same day they went gift shopping.

"Alec, Miss Walter's action..."

"Shut up!" He cut Yvonne off, feeling irritated by her noisiness. She seemed to have lost her manners after coming home from abroad. Her expression crumbled, but she bit her lips and stayed quiet no matter how indignant she felt.

Her friends instantly backed her up. "Mr. Faust, was Yvonne wrong? Jenny Walter must have bought that gift for your grandfather on purpose."

"Yeah! I would even think that she is cursing him behind his back. She must've bought it with malice."

The air was tense from all the accusations. If Alec did not condemn Jenny's gift, everyone would start to paint him as a bad grandson. His expression soured under the pressure. Even though he did not know the value of the lapis lazuli stone, he was confident in Jenny's taste.

With bated breaths, everyone waited for Zachary's outburst, but the old man was deeply attracted by the inkstone and ignored the commotion around him. Alec stared helplessly at his grandpa, who was now

obsessing over an inkstone without a care about the situation. He wondered, "Shouldn't Grandpa speak up for Dr. Walter at least?"

Feeling Alec's gaze, Zachary shot his grandson a displeased look. "Look, you can't even protect your woman. That's why Jenny didn't fall for you."

His words dropped a bomb on Yvonne and the rest of the guests. Jenny was left speechless as well.