

## Chapter 9 Canceling the Engagement

A hint of doubt appeared in Adrian's light gray eyes as he tried to sound Carina out, "Steve is going to marry Violet. Are you doing this to get back at him?"

Carina was stunned for a moment, a hint of bitterness appearing in her heart as she said frankly, "He doesn't love me anymore, so why would he care if I marry someone else? It's meaningless to take revenge against him by doing this."

She paused, looked at Adrian's attractive face, and felt embarrassed by her shrewd yet blunt plan.

"I... I need someone powerful to stand up for me. I don't want to be bullied anymore. Since you happen to be single, I wanted to give it a try."

With that, she stared at the oor, sighing within.

He would most likely reject her.

Those who wanted to marry Adrian could form a line that extended from San Francisco all the way to New York. Why would he marry her?

The great Adrian Lorenz was a business tycoon everyone wanted to suck up. Though she was technically the heiress of a wealthy family, she was no different from an orphan. She had no one to stand up for her and a ton of enemies. She was nothing but a burden.

Carina was aware this request was probably a pipe dream.

Just as she was about to bid farewell, Adrian suddenly said, "Okay. I'll marry you."

Carina slowly looked up, her mouth wide agape like an "O" shape. She couldn't believe it.

"Really? You're not kidding, are you?"

Adrian gazed at her, a gentle and charming smile on his face. Like the whisper of a lover, he said with a low voice, "I stand by every word I've said to you."

Carina's heart skipped a beat, absolutely smitten by his smile. At this moment, Adrian's image in her heart was comparable to an angel bathed in holy light.

"However, there's a condition."

Adrian paused brie y. "You know about my relationship with Steve. If you marry me, you'll technically become his aunt. Won't you nd it awkward when you see him?"

He looked at Carina. "If you can nd a way to resolve this awkwardness, I'll marry you."

"Deal!" Carina hastily agreed, afraid he might change his mind.

By the time she left and saw the sun, she was still overwhelmed by joy. Everything just felt so surreal.

She could marry Adrian! No one could ever bully her again! Stella or Violet would have to tuck their tails between their legs whenever they saw her! Even her parents and Steve would have to address her respectfully as "Mrs. Lorenz"!

This was awesome!

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On her way home, Carina got a call from Steve.

His tone was still as arrogant and infuriating as ever. "Carina, announce the cancellation of the engagement in one week. Adrian has agreed. No one can help you now."

He sneered, his tone lled with contempt as if he was showering Carina with his generous pity. "If you beg me, I'll consider inviting you to my wedding with Violet. At least we'll end on good terms."

He was absolutely certain that Carina would beg him like she always used to.

Carina found it both obnoxious and laughable. She wondered if she had been blind all these years to willingly let such an arrogant and foolishly overconfident man torture her.

"Steve, I said I don't want you anymore! I don't intend to befriend a b\*\*\*h, either! Why wait till next week? Let's cancel the engagement tomorrow! You got the balls for that?"

This was basically a tight slap on Steve's face. Subconsciously, he assumed Carina was playing games again.

"What games are you playing again?"

Carina refused to explain herself like she used to and instead provoked him. "Why are you hesitating? Don't have the balls for it?"

"Fine! Let's do it then!" Though Steve tried to sound tough, he was anything but. He felt like Carina had really changed. She no longer tried to get him back, and she sounded more confident, too.

Steve was a little apprehensive.

Meanwhile, Carina decided not to waste her time arguing with Steve and hung up. She returned home, picked out her most beautiful dress, and dug out the makeup products she hadn't used in a long time.

Tomorrow, she would steal the thunder from that despicable couple!

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The next day, the press conference was held at a hotel in the city center.

Donned in pure white formal clothes, Steve and Violet answered the questions from the reporters.

"Steve rarely sees Carina at all, and he's been so miserable he drinks himself to sleep every day. It's just so heartbreaking, and I can't help but want to be there for him." Violet wrapped her arms around Steve, looking at him with distress in her eyes. "Carina always asks him for money and gives him the silent treatment whenever she feels like it. She's so narcissistic that when she was young, she deliberately went missing to make the entire family go searching for her, all to get attention. She even beat her elder sister, but I still helped her..."

Violet was about to carry on and on when a loud bang interrupted her.

Carina pushed the door open and walked in. Suddenly, the entire room turned silent.

She wore a bright red dress, her blonde hair shining under the light like the sun, her emerald eyes gentle like the calm lake. She was practically dazzling like a goddess.

Even Steve couldn't take his eyes off of her until Violet pinched him.

Carina walked over to Violet, completely disregarding the fact that Violet ruined her engagement, and mocked her with a smile, "Help me? How? By seducing my husband with the money I gave you? Or by sleeping with my man in my house? Tell me, which part of what you are right now aren't from me?"

Violet's face paled, tears streaking down her face, looking pitiful as if she was slandered and humiliated.

Steve's heart ached at the sight of it. He quickly embraced Violet and yelled at Carina, "Carina, stop this nonsense right now!"

Looking at Steve, who was wearing the suit meant for their wedding, Carina felt like she didn't know him anymore.

When he was 16, he said, "Carina! I love you! I want to marry you!"

Now, Steve held his mistress in his arms, telling Carina to stop her nonsense.

Carina no longer recognized Steve, and she didn't want to be with him anymore.

Like a glass bottle, her heart had shattered, spilling all the love and hate within. She asked Steve softly, "I'm simply stating the facts. How's that nonsense?"

Suddenly, an elegant and ravishing grin appeared on her face, but her words only became sharper. "Fiancé mine, did you not cheat on me? Has Violet never spent a penny from me? Or did you not leave me on our wedding photoshoot to see your mistress?"

Steve's face ushered with rage. He couldn't believe Carina would say these things publicly.

"Carina! I'm going to..."

Carina didn't intend to let him nish. She hurled the wedding invitation at Steve's face, leaving a bloody wound on it.

"I hereby announce that the engagement between Steve and I is canceled. From this moment onward, we're nothing but strangers!"

Carina left without another word. Still in a daze, Steve stared at her back, completely oblivious to the pain on his face even though it was already bleeding. All he felt at this moment was a tightness in his chest that almost suffocated him.

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The incident went viral. Everyone knew that Carina had dumped Steve.

Carina's phone rang incessantly. The moment she picked up the call, her mother's harsh reprimand almost pierced her eardrums.

"Carina! What the hell have you done?! Get your ass back here and apologize to the Lorenz family!"

Carina was reminded of Violet, saying that she used to beat up her elder sister. Now, she knew where that rumor came from.

She felt that after so many years, she should at least turn that rumor into the truth and slap Stella in the face. Otherwise, she would've been framed for so many years for nothing.