

Chapter 156 Let's Get Engaged

"I did." Rupert looked at Annabel, who looked amazed. "I made every crane myself. Do you like it?"

Annabel did like it, but...

Frowning, she couldn't help but ask, "Rupert, how much time do you have on your hands?"

Rupert rubbed the spot between his brows, pretending to be aggrieved. "Didn't you say that you wanted romance?"

Romance? She had just mentioned it in passing. Did he really take it seriously?

There was a trace of helplessness in her beautiful eyes. "It's so old-fashioned."

"Old-fashioned?" Rupert smiled. "It doesn't matter if you don't like paper cranes. There are other things."

"Other things?" Hearing this, Annabel was stunned. What else was Rupert up to?

Rupert stood up and walked over to her. He reached for her hand and said, "Come with me."

He led her to the window and pointed out. "Look over there."

"What am I looking at?" Squinting out the window, Annabel saw nothing but darkness. "I don't see any—"


Before she could finish her sentence, thousands of candles suddenly lit up on the beach, forming the outline of two hearts being shot by Cupid's arrow.

The candlelight swayed in the wind, changing into different colors. It looked extremely beautiful, like a light show.

Suddenly, the candles went dark, and then they lit up again. This time, however, it spelled out three words. "Annabel, marry me!"

As Annabel stared blankly out the window, Rupert wrapped his arms around her slender waist and said with a smile, "What do you think? Romantic enough for you?"

His deep voice pulled Annabel back to her senses. "It's even more old-fashioned..."

"Oh, don't worry. I still have another trick—" As Rupert spoke, he pointed at the sky. 

Annabel stopped him helplessly. "Wait! Enough! Stop!"

But it was too late. Countless beautiful fireworks bloomed in the night sky, illuminating the black sea.

Before Annabel understood what was going on, Rupert suddenly got down on one knee and pulled out a red, heart-shaped box from his pocket. "Annabel, this is for you."

His eyes were like the vast sea, drowning Annabel.

"Rupert, you can get up first." Forcing a smile, Annabel pulled him up.

For an arrogant man like Rupert to come up with so many romantic gestures, it just proved how sincere he was.

And Annabel was extremely touched by this.

A sweet feeling spread all over her heart.

But she still refused to marry him so soon. She just never thought she'd get married so early.

After thinking for a while, she said seriously, "Rupert, your proposal passed the exam with flying colors. But I never thought I'd get married so early."

"Why not?" Rupert frowned slightly. "Wasn't this romantic enough?" ⓘ

Annabel pursed her lips. "It's not about romance. We only met a little over a month ago. We don't know each other that well yet. I don't want to rush this."

In Annabel's eyes, since they loved each other, they should cultivate their relationship first. When the time came, they would naturally put marriage on the agenda.

But she had just agreed to be in a relationship with him a few days ago. She didn't want to get married so soon.

"I see..." Bowing his head, Rupert drew close to her ear. "Since you don't want to get married so soon, I won't force you. But we can at least get engaged."

His warm breath tickled her ear, making her face turn red.

Before she could say anything, Rupert suddenly grabbed her hand.

A tinge of coolness came from her finger. Looking down in a daze, she saw that Rupert had slipped the beautiful ring onto her ring finger in the blink of an eye.

"What?" Still dazed, Annabel looked at the dazzling ring on her finger in awe.

A huge and brilliant diamond dominated the ring, captivating anyone who laid their eyes on it.

"This is a family heirloom. My grandfather asked me to give it to my wife, so now, I'm giving it to you." Smiling at her dotingly, Rupert reached out and wrapped his arms around her, pulling her close to him.

Annabel leaned against Rupert's chest, her heart racing.

After thinking about it for a while, she finally nodded. "Okay. Let's get engaged first."

In fact, they were technically already engaged, thanks to their grandfathers' arrangement. But that was just an oral agreement between the two elders. At that time, Annabel and Rupert didn't even

know each other.

Now, they were engaged because out of their own free will.

Seeing that the woman in his arms agreed to his proposal, Rupert beamed. "Annabel, I'm willing to wait until the day you are ready to marry me, no matter how long it takes."

"Then be prepared to wait a long time," Annabel muttered, her cheeks turning as red as a tomato.

"Well, just don't make me wait too long." With a smile, he lowered his head and gently pressed his lips against hers.

The following day was the weekend, so Rupert took Annabel to visit Bruce.

"Mr. Benton, Miss Hewitt," Jaxen, the butler, opened the door and greeted them respectfully.

Expressionless, Rupert asked, "Where's my grandfather?"

"He's in the study." Jaxen led them to the study and knocked on the door politely. "Sir, Rupert and Annabel are here."

"Come in, please." Bruce's voice sounded from the study.

Rupert pushed the door open and saw Bruce practicing calligraphy on his desk. "Grandpa," he greeted.

Bruce put down his brush and said warmly, "Rupert, Anna, you're here."

Seeing that Bruce looked much better than before, Annabel smiled. "Bruce, how have you been?"

"You're still calling me Bruce?" Bruce pretended to be aggrieved. "You should call me Grandpa."

Grandpa...

Annabel glancing at Rupert, who was standing next to her. Rupert nodded and said, "Grandpa's right."

Under Bruce's expectant gaze, Annabel's lips parted slightly. "Grandpa,"

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 +120 Points at most

she said softly.

"Good girl!" Bruce clapped, his eyes twinkling. Then, he asked a question out of the blue. "Rupert, when are you going to marry Anna?"

Marry?


Well, it seemed that the Benton family were very impatient when it came to marriage.

Annabel held her hands up hurriedly before Rupert could say anything. "We don't plan on getting married anytime soon."

"What? Why not?" Bruce frowned.

Before he could ask any more question, Rupert's magnetic voice interrupted him. "Grandpa, I'll get engaged to Annabel first."



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"Getting engaged? I see!" Bruce laughed heartily. Then, he turned to the butler and said, "Jaxen, go and fetch the calendar for me, will you?"

Putting on his glasses, Bruce started leafing through the calendar. After studying it carefully for a few minutes, he looked up at Rupert and Annabel and announced, "The eighteenth of this month is a lucky day. You can hold your engagement ceremony then."

"The eighteenth? Isn't that too soon?" Annabel exclaimed. Today was already the tenth, which meant that they only had eight days left to prepare. It was too hasty!

She didn't even have enough time to design a dress for herself.

Rupert reached for Annabel's hand and said calmly, "Not at all. Don't worry. I'll give you the grandest engagement ceremony. All you have to do is show up."

Bruce nodded with satisfaction. "It's settled then."

Annabel's eyes darted between the two men in bewilderment.

She hadn't even agreed yet. How could this matter be settled?

The men of the Benton family were so bossy!

"Grandpa, I'll keep an eye on Cody," Rupert suddenly said, his eyes turning cold. "Finley has located the captain. After the jet crashed, he was rescued by a foreign ship. Unfortunately, he was injured in the fall, and he has lost all recollection of the day of the jet crash."

"I see." Frowning, Bruce stroked his beard. "Get the best doctor to treat him."

"I've already arranged it." Rupert narrowed his eyes. "Grandpa, if Cody

could drug you and attempt to murder me, then he likely had something to do with my father's death."

Bruce's eyebrows shot up in shock. Then, his expression darkened. "Be sure not to alert him before finding concrete evidence. I don't want it to be Cody."

After all, Cody was his adopted son. And Cody's father had sacrificed himself to save him.

That was why Bruce adopted Cody in the first place.

Bruce didn't want to believe that Cody was capable of such heinous acts.

"I know, Grandpa," Rupert replied gravely.

Soon, the news that Rupert and Annabel were getting engaged spread like wildfire. It didn't take long before it became the most trending topic on the Internet.

Many people left enthusiastic comments on the thread.

"Rupert and Annabel are getting married? That's awesome!"

"They are a perfect match. I hope they'll be happy together!"

"My celebrity crush is marrying someone else. I'm so jealous! Just kidding. I'm happy for them!"

On the other hand, there were also many haters that wanted to drag Annabel through the mud.

"That bumpkin doesn't deserve a man like Rupert!"

"Annabel's such a slut. She dated two men at the same time. Rupert, don't be fooled!"

In the CEO's office of Benton Group

Sitting in his chair, Rupert was browsing through the comments on the thread. When he saw those hateful comments, he frowned.

He called Finley in and ordered, "Delete all the negative comments about Annabel."


"Yes, sir." Finley nodded respectfully.

In the dressing room of Charming Bar, the lights were flickering, making the atmosphere a little eerie.

A young girl in a white dress was staring at the photo of Rupert and Annabel on her phone expressionlessly.

"Angel, why haven't you put on your makeup yet? The show will begin in half an hour!" Alice, Angel's friend, reminded her of the time.

In the bar, all the performers used nicknames.

Angel's real name was Candace Cooper. 

Candace looked up at Alice indifferently. "Okay."

"What are you looking at anyway?" Alice walked over curiously to look at her screen.


Seeing the news about Rupert and Annabel's engagement ceremony, Alice's eyes flashed with envy. "Angel, I didn't know you were also following the news about Rupert and Annabel. I heard that they're getting engaged and that they're going to throw a huge engagement ceremony."

"So what?" Candace snorted coldly.

Alice sighed with admiration. "I bet Annabel's the happiest woman in the world. I mean, she's marrying Rupert Benton!"

Candace's eyes flashed dangerously. "We'll see about that."

"Huh? What did you say?" Wondering if she had misheard, Alice looked at her friend in surprise.

Candace smiled and said cryptically, "You'll know when the time comes." 

In a twinkling of an eye, it was the eighteenth—the day of the engagement ceremony.

Rupert got up early. He knocked on the door to Annabel's room and asked, "Annabel, are you up?"

"Yes!" Annabel said, walking over to open the door. "You're up early."


"Today's a special day, remember?" Rupert said with a wink. A gentle smile tugged at the corners of his mouth.

Annabel combed her hair with her fingers and yawned. "I know. But it's only six o'clock in the morning. It's too early."

The woman in front of him still looked sleepy. Eyelids heavy and long hair hanging over her shoulders loosely, she looked particularly cute.


Rupert couldn't help but wrap his arms around her waist and pull her to him.

Before Annabel could react, her lips were sealed in a passionate kiss from Rupert.

"Okay, okay!" Annabel pushed the man away and pouted. After thinking for a while, she said, "I won't go to work today. I'll rest at home this morning, then I'll go to the salon with Anika in the afternoon." 


"I'll go with you," Rupert said immediately, pecking her on the forehead.

Why was he so clingy?

Blushing, Annabel gently pushed him away. "No, thanks. I just go with Anika. Don't you have work today?" 

"But I want to be with you," Rupert said stubbornly, pursing his lips.

On such a grand day, he didn't want to be away from his beloved fiancée for even a second.

"How about this? I'll call you after I'm done at the salon, and you can pick me up then. Go to the office first. I'll see you later," Annabel said, shooing him away. 

She knew that Rupert was a workaholic. Benton Group was still suffering the aftermath of the incident with Cody, so he needed to put more time and energy into smoothing things over at the company.

Seeing that Annabel wasn't going to budge, Rupert quickly kissed her on the cheek and whispered, "Up to you, honey."

"Hey, don't call me that!" This title made her feel flustered.

Seeing that Annabel's cheeks were as red as a tomato, Rupert smiled happily.

"Okay, I'll get going first. Remember to call me as soon as you want me to pick you up," Rupert reminded her.

Today, he was determined to make his beloved woman the happiest woman on earth. Everyone would see just how wonderful his fiancée was.

To say he was looking forward to the engagement ceremony tonight was an understatement.

