

Chapter 163 Cancelled Engagement

Annabel alighted the taxi and headed straight to the stage at the center of the reception hall. Her pretty face was as cold as ice.

With every step she took, her feet thumped the red carpet.

"Anna, why are you alone?" Where is Rupert? Isn't he with you?" Bruce stood up, walked up to Annabel and asked with concern.

Annabel paused briefly and turned to him. "He won't come."

"What?" Bruce was shocked.

Did he just hear her right?

Why wouldn't Rupert come?

Could it be that something had happened to him?

While Bruce was still lost in thoughts, Annabel walked forward resolutely.

The guests whispered among themselves. They felt that there was something wrong with Annabel.

"What is going on?"

"Where is Rupert?"

"Why is the bride here but the groom isn't?"


"Has he changed his mind?"

All eyes were on Annabel as she climbed up a small flight of stairs.

The emcee was still making some preparations. Seeing Annabel, he

walked over. "Miss Hewitt, it is not yet time. Why not go and rest for a bit?"

Annabel paid no attention to what he said. She took the microphone from his hand.

When the guests saw her on the stage, the hall became very quiet. She cleared her throat and took a deep breath before saying, "Tonight's engagement ceremony has been cancelled!" 

Annabel's announcement was like a thunderbolt out of a clear sky. The crowd couldn't believe their ears. After all, it was too sudden.

The guests struggled with coming to terms with the situation at hand. They kept talking among themselves, with their gazes fixed on Annabel.

"Is this some kind of sick joke? What does she mean?"

"She got dumped, don't you think so?"

"I couldn't agree with you more. Rupert should marry somebody more his equal."

Annabel couldn't care less about the guests' remarks.

The excitement on Heather's face couldn't be hidden. She looked at Bella and asked, "Is it just me or is Annabel crazy?"

Bella shrugged. "Who knows? Maybe Rupert found out her true colors and changed his mind in the nick of time."

"You are right." Heather nodded in agreement. "Indeed, Rupert finally saw the tramp for who she really was."

"Didn't I tell you that he was just having fun with her? He never had the intention of settling down with her. It's only a matter of time before you become his wife." Bella kept telling her what she wanted to hear.

Heather was overjoyed, to say the least.

In no time, journalists were all over Annabel.

The news about Annabel cancelling her engagement to the CEO of Benton Group would go viral soon.

"Miss Hewitt, was it your idea to call this off?"

"Is Mr. Benton aware of what has just happened? Do you mind shedding some light on the reason behind this decision?"

"What went wrong between you and him?"

They kept asking her one question after another.


At some point, Annabel smiled and said, "Sorry, I don't accept interviews. The ceremony is cancelled. You can leave now."

When Rupert arrived at the door of Imgrund Hotel's reception hall, he saw that things were topsy-turvy.

His eyes went straight to Annabel, the woman he loved deeply. She was wearing the red dress he personally selected, which made her enthrallingly tall and charming.


He couldn't help but be drawn to her. She had a mesmerizing effect on him.

But her words broke his heart. "Tonight's engagement ceremony has been cancelled!"

She decided to make such a harsh announcement without a second thought. 

She just cancelled their engagement without letting him know.

Why?

Rupert couldn't wrap his head around what was going on. 


To give Annabel nothing but the best, he reached out to the finest event planners to get everything set within eight days.

They put every little detail into consideration, to ensure that she got exactly what she wanted.

Rupert had been looking forward to the engagement, hoping he and Annabel would receive everyone's blessing.

That wasn't all. He planned to give her a surprise gift he made just for


her, in front of everyone. He was bent on making her the happiest woman in the world.

Just to be here, he left Candy and drove incredibly fast! Actually, he sped past two red lights to see her. 

This wasn't happening to him!

How could Annabel call off the engagement in such a manner?

What did he do to deserve such a treatment?

Maybe if she gave him a hint in advance, he wouldn't be this hurt. 

"Mr. Benton is here!" someone shouted.

People turned their heads to see Rupert standing at the door of the banquet hall.

In a few seconds, reporters scrambled to him, with their microphones in hands.

"Mr. Benton, are you aware that Miss Hewitt suddenly called off the engagement ceremony?"

"Please tell us..."

One of the reporters was yet to finish his words when Rupert looked at him fiercely and said, "Get out!"

His imposing persona sent chills running down the reporters' spines, such that none of them dared to say anything.

With a long face, Rupert walked toward Annabel.

When Annabel saw him approaching, her heart skipped a beat. But she furrowed her brow and looked into his eyes fearlessly.

Did he leave Candy to be here?

Was he angry because she cancelled the engagement without his consent?

Now, everyone knew that she dumped him, not the other way around.

Could that be why he was so upset?

He should see this as a favor and be happy.

She had made things easy for him. He and Candy could now be together legally.

At least, her actions helped him save face. He didn't have to bear the infamy of betrayal.

So why was Rupert furious?

With every step he took as he walked toward her, the sarcastic smile on her face became wider.

Soon, Rupert was right in front of Annabel.

"You..." Annabel was about to say something when his strong hand grabbed her wrist. Rupert pulled her to the lounge behind the stage and pressed her against the wall.

"Let go of me, Rupert!" Annabel struggled to break free of him, but it was to no avail.

His thin lips were pursed into a line. From the look in his eyes, Annabel could tell that fierce anger seethed within him.

It took some time for him to get a grip on himself. Then he asked in a hoarse voice, "Annabel, why?"