

Chapter 25 You Can Only Be Mine

"Really? That's wonderful. I was afraid I'd upset you enough to start a hunger strike. In that case, I'd feel terribly guilty," Elyse said with a grin.

Jayden gave her an eye roll and responded, "You're not capable of that yet."

"Alright then, my dear hubby, would you care to join me for a candlelight dinner in the garden?" Elyse fluttered her eyelashes, mentioning, "Driscoll told me the chef has made loving steak for us."

"Ew! You manage to make that sound rather unattractive."

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Theo was in his living room, persistently trying to call Elyse, thinking she would have calmed down after a few days.

Despite dialing her number over and over, each attempt was cut short.

When he tried one last time, he realized he had been blocked.

Looking at her name on his phone, he was shocked that the woman who had once loved him so deeply could block him. Had Lanny persuaded her to marry him or not?

Containing his anger, Theo reached out to Lanny's number. He had provided him with numerous perks. If Elyse agreed to marry him, Lanny would benefit from all those resources and projects.

Theo was well aware of Lanny's character. Given enough money, Lanny would do anything, even exploit his own daughter.

Theo was certain that if he could keep Lanny under his influence, Elyse would return to him.

Once the call connected, Theo inquired patiently, "Mr. Lloyd, have you spoken with Elyse? Leaving her at the wedding wasn't my intention. I'm still prepared to marry her. Perhaps when she's feeling better, we could organize another ceremony."

He considered his approach polite and was certain that Lanny would not turn him down. He leisurely poured himself a glass of wine, anticipating that Elyse might reach out to him soon. Did she think blocking him would solve everything? He thought that was quite naive.

"Marry you?" Lanny scoffed over the phone. "You left her alone at the wedding. Isn't that disgrace enough for Elyse and my family? And now you want to repeat that?"

Theo choked on his red wine, taken aback by Lanny's harsh tone—this wasn't the reaction he had expected, given their previous conversations.

He coughed and pressed, "Mr. Lloyd, what are you implying? We had an agreement about the marriage. How can you just break your promise?"

"I broke my promise? I agreed to marry my daughter off to you, and you abandoned her at the wedding, subjecting her to humiliation and ridicule. I'm the one who should be seeking retribution!" Lanny retorted.

Fuming, Theo thought Lanny was really an ungrateful wretch.

Angered, he shot back, "If you're reneging on the marriage, you ought to return the resources we provided!"

"That's fine. They weren't of much value anyway," Lanny responded sharply.

Of course, Lanny's newfound boldness stemmed from Elyse having a wealthier husband now. Jayden was significantly richer than Theo, making him the obvious choice for anyone, Lanny included.

"Stop dreaming about marrying my daughter. You don't deserve her!" Lanny declared before decisively hanging up the phone.

Theo, scorned by a man he once looked down upon, was so furious. In his anger, he smashed his glass, sending shards scattering and red wine splashing everywhere.

He was shocked that Lanny had dared to berate him.

After all, he had been the one eager for benefits when Theo initially proposed marriage to his daughter. And now he was acting the part of a protective father?

In a rage, Theo kicked over the end table on his balcony, leaving it in disarray. "You want to leave me, Elyse? You can only be mine!" he shouted into the chaos.