

Chapter 31 A Slap

Mabel was in tears, her emotions raw, while Glenda tried to soothe her. "Sweetie, don't worry too much. Perhaps it's just fake news. The matter is currently under investigation. The police will uncover the truth."

However, her attempts to comfort Mabel only intensified her distress, causing her to cry even harder.

After changing her shoes and overhearing Mabel, Elyse realized that Jayden had indeed taken action.

On her way over, she had noticed a new trending topic—a list claiming several celebrities had partaken in an infamous orgy, engaging in scandalous acts and illicit transactions, with Mabel's name among them.

Mabel wasn't hugely famous, but she was well-liked, and the scandal caused many of her fans to unfollow her.

The punishment Jayden arranged wasn't overly harsh, yet for Mabel, it felt worse than a death blow.

Upon entering the living room, Elyse saw Mabel weeping on the sofa, Glenda doing her best to console her, and Lanny appeared silent and indifferent.

Lanny's reaction changed when he noticed her. He stood up in surprise. "Elyse, you're home? Why didn't you let me know you were coming? Did Mr. Owen come with you?" He then peered behind her.

"Jayden had to handle some matters, so he couldn't come," Elyse explained. "I came back because I needed to deal with something myself."

After a brief pause, she glanced at Mabel and asked with a faint smile, "What's wrong with her?"

Mabel, recalling the rumors she had spread about Elyse, averted her eyes guiltily.

However, she quickly convinced herself that Elyse couldn't possibly know it was her doing.

In a burst of irritation, she snapped, "Why did you come back? Are you here to laugh at me? Get out!"

Seeing Mabel's strong aversion, Glenda chimed in, "What are you doing here, Elyse? You're just making Mabel more upset. Just leave."

Elyse, unfazed by their harsh words, turned to Lanny with a faint smile and asked, "Dad, do you think I should leave too?"

"Don't mind them. I'm happy you came to visit," Lanny replied warmly.

"Then, let's have the maids prepare some desserts and drinks for us. We're having a family reunion, shouldn't we have a good talk?" Elyse suggested.

"Yes, you're right," Lanny agreed and promptly directed the maids to get desserts ready.

Mabel, frustrated by her dismissive attitude, exclaimed, "Elyse, can't you see I'm burning with anxiety right now? And you want to enjoy drinks and desserts?"

"Was it me who posted the list? Did I ask you to attend that party?" Elyse retorted sharply. "Mabel, you're not a child anymore. Adults need to take responsibility for their actions."

Stung by Elyse's words, Mabel grabbed a throw pillow and hurled it at her. Elyse caught it effortlessly.

"And you think you have the right to lecture me? Your cheating scandal is plastered all over the internet! Don't even show your face in front of me!" Mabel countered fiercely.

Glenda, seeing her agitation, spoke up with impatience. "Elyse, how could you speak to your sister like that?"

"Well, I certainly didn't come here for fun," replied Elyse.

She then walked up to Mabel and gave her a forceful slap across the face. "How dare you spread my information on the internet, you malicious woman!"

Mabel, holding her cheek in shock, hadn't anticipated such an action from Elyse. As she recovered, she screamed in anger and lunged at Elyse. Elyse dodged smoothly.

Missing her target, Mabel turned and shouted to Glenda with dissatisfaction, "Mom, Elyse just hit me!"