

## Chapter 37 Value Their Relationship

---

Rebekah gritted her teeth, seething with a desire to retaliate against Elyse.

She always prided herself on her genteel demeanor in front of Freddy, but today, she felt her facade crumble, tarnishing her image irreparably.

"Rebekah, promise this won't happen again," Freddy interjected.

"Sure, I promise," she muttered, refraining from further defense. Secretly, she harbored resentment towards Elyse for tarnishing her impression in Freddy's eyes.

Elyse caught the venomous glare Rebekah shot her way, prompting her to stay vigilant in the future.

Just then, Freddy changed the subject. "By the way, did you receive Lizzie Robinson's wedding invitation? She's tying the knot with a wealthy businessman and wants to host a pre-wedding dinner for us, her old classmates."

Elyse was taken aback. She fished out her phone. "I changed my number and missed it."

Suddenly, Rebekah burst into laughter, understanding why Elyse had changed her number.

Though she remained unaware of how Elyse managed to erase the online chatter and prove her innocence overnight, the damage to her reputation was done. Everyone knew of her failed relationship.

"No worries. I'll add you to the group chat. You can join me at the dinner tonight," Freddy offered.

"Can I tag along too? I'd like to attend," Rebekah asked, leaning in.

"What's your plan for our high school reunion?" Freddy inquired, puzzled by her intentions. "You hardly know anyone there. I'll have to look out for you once we're there."

Rebekah, rebuffed so directly, couldn't contain her composure any longer. "I have other matters to attend to," she retorted before hurrying away.

Elyse arched an eyebrow. "That was quite the blatant refusal, wasn't it?"

"If I hadn't been so direct, she might have mistaken it for encouragement," Freddy sighed helplessly.

He'd repeatedly told Rebekah he wasn't interested, but she persistently pursued him, causing him no small amount of distress.

"I'm off to Ms. Hopkins' office now. I'll give you my response later," Elyse informed him.

Freddy was perplexed. "Why not give your answer now? Do you need to get permission from someone?"

After a moment's thought, Elyse removed the necklace adorning her neck and showed him the wedding ring on it. "I'm married. I need to inform my husband about my dinner plans." If she didn't inform Jayden, he might become upset once more.

Freddy grew anxious. "Did you marry on a whim? If you have no feelings for him, there's no need to treat him like a real husband."

Elyse nodded. "Yes, it was a spur-of-the-moment decision. But we have a good relationship and might grow into a genuine couple."

"Really? You're quite fortunate," Freddy remarked, though a hint of sadness flickered in his eyes, carefully concealed from Elyse's notice.

Even Elyse herself couldn't believe the turn of events with Jayden.

She tucked away the necklace and stated, "I consider myself incredibly fortunate. Therefore, I want to value our relationship."

Freddy struggled to find the right words, feeling somewhat out of place. He ended up holding back his thoughts.

Unaware of Freddy's inner turmoil, Elyse messaged Jayden, asking if she could skip dinner at home.

Jayden's response was unexpected. "Are you my servant? Do you need my approval?"

Feeling a bit embarrassed, Elyse recalled how Theo used to control her social interactions and outings.

She didn't dare to delve into explanations and simply turned to Freddy, saying, "Give me a call after work tonight. I'll join you."

"Sure thing," Freddy responded with a nod.

"I'll be waiting for Ms. Hopkins in her office."

An hour later, Wanda wrapped up her meeting.

"Ms. Hopkins, is my punishment lifted? Can I return to practicing with everyone?" Elyse inquired eagerly.

Wanda took a sip from her mug, then replied, "I've put in the request. However, it may take a day or two for the higher-ups to officially lift your punishment. Keep an eye out for the notification at home over the next few days."

Relieved, Elyse sighed. "That's wonderful, Ms. Hopkins. I can't wait to get back. Thank you."

Wanda offered a bitter smile. "It's odd. It seems every time you're competing for the tour, there's trouble. Why's that?"

"Apologies. That's not my intention," Elyse replied, feeling a bit sheepish.

Wanda sighed, gently patting her head in encouragement. "But you're talented. Sometimes, great talent faces many hurdles before triumph."

Her words lifted Elyse's spirits. "I won't give up!"

With a supportive pat on her back, Wanda urged, "Well, don't linger here. I've got work to do. You head home and await further notice."

"Thank you. I'm off then." Exiting the office, she made her way to the

Chapter 37 Value Their Relationship  
staff lounge to await Freddy.

 +120 Points at most

After his shift, Freddy arrived promptly with his bag slung over his shoulder.

Observing the pair walking together, Rebekah lingered at the lounge door, her tone laced with curiosity. "Leaving now, are we?"

Elyse shot back, "Why aren't you heading out after your shift? Planning to camp here overnight?"

## Chapter 38 The Classmate Reunion

Elyse rolled her eyes at Rebekah and departed with Freddy. They hailed a taxi and headed to the restaurant.

Upon their arrival, they entered the bustling hall and encountered Lizzie and several classmates. They immediately launched into lively conversation.

Lizzie quickly broached a topic she had read about online. "I saw something on the internet a few days back. Were you really left at the altar? How dreadful for you, Elyse! How did you end up as the jilted bride?"

Elyse looked intently at Lizzie. Their relationship had been strained in high school, as Lizzie often sidelined Elyse and sometimes resorted to bullying.

Nonetheless, Elyse had dismissed these actions as trivial and chose to attend the reunion, only to find Lizzie unchanged after all these years.

"I heard that story and assumed it was another person who shared your name. It's shocking to realize it was actually you."

"There's something you may not be aware of. Elyse clarified everything in a video she posted later. She appeared quite distressed."

"Poor Elyse, indeed. After her phone number got out, everyone bombarded her with calls. Reading those comments was horrifying."

Overhearing another classmate, Lizzie hypocritically took Elyse's hand and spoke. "It must have been exhausting for you, attempting to marry into wealth and then hastily choosing someone else to maintain appearances. But no worries, it's all in the past now."

A curious onlooker heard Lizzie's comments and inquired, "Was Elyse really looking for a wealthy husband? And did she end up marrying

someone else? What happened? How come I wasn't aware of this? Could you give me more details?"

Lizzie blinked and turned to Elyse, feigning innocence. "Elyse, everyone seems curious. May I share your story with them?"

Elyse didn't respond to Lizzie. She preferred to remain silent about the matter.

The wedding had been a humiliating ordeal, marred by betrayal—it was a nightmare for her. Clearly, Lizzie aimed to embarrass her by bringing it up.

Just as Elyse was about to object, Freddy intervened, "Don't gossip. It's been a terrible ordeal for Elyse. Why exacerbate her pain?"

Lizzie looked at Elyse and questioned, "Is it really that terrible for you? You seem fine, as if nothing happened. Were you just pretending to be devastated in the video to gain everyone's sympathy?"

Elyse responded with a cold smile, "You seem quite pleased with my misfortune."

Lizzie feigned confusion. "How can I be pleased?"

"You always compared yourself to me back in school," Elyse retorted. "Now, I haven't married a wealthy man and you're about to get married. Aren't you pleased and proud?"

Lizzie remained silent. Elyse was right. She did feel pleased, but she couldn't admit that openly; it would reflect poorly on her.

She replied, "Don't be so harsh. I only brought it up because everyone was curious. Since you're uncomfortable, I won't mention it again." She addressed her classmates, "Please, let's not dwell on gossip. It will only upset Elyse."

Noticing the tension, the others ceased their inquiries and followed Lizzie to another room.

Freddy looked at Elyse with concern. "Are you okay?"

"I'm fine," Elyse replied, shaking her head.

Suddenly, her phone began to vibrate incessantly. She checked it and saw ongoing messages in her classmates' group chat.

"I'm so curious. Who is the guy that left Elyse? Wasn't he supposed to be wealthy? Lizzie, do fill us in when Elyse isn't here."

"Me too. I'm eager to hear more of this gossip."

With feigned innocence, Lizzie responded, "You might look up Theo Ward. His family is incredibly wealthy. Though Elyse's family has some wealth, they're not on the level of the Wards."

"Damn, it was Theo Ward! My cousin will start working for the Ward family's enterprise after graduation. Imagine the connections if Elyse had married into the Ward family."

"Get real. She's not going to be part of the Ward family. Also, I heard she ended up marrying someone disabled, though I'm not sure if that's true."

"I guess it's not true. She probably just found someone at the last minute to keep up appearances. They might have just pretended to get married. Who will be willing to marry someone with a disability?"

The group found this line of reasoning plausible.

Freddy saw the messages. He checked his phone and his expression darkened. "I'm sorry. They seemed to be unaware you are in the group chat."

Elyse shook her head. "I understand. Everyone is curious about my marriage, but while it's just gossip for them, for me, it's a part of my past I'd rather not revisit."

After a moment, she smiled again and pulled out the ring on her necklace. "Look, I'm actually married. My husband is a wonderful person. So, I have no reason to be sad."

Freddy nodded and led her back to the room. As they entered, the atmosphere felt off. Elyse noticed some classmates had expressions like they were watching a drama unfold.

She quietly took a seat. Soon after, someone broke the silence. "Elyse, since you didn't marry Theo, maybe you can consider Jacob Duffy?"