Bring Your A Game, Mr Chapter 61

Chapter 61 Edgy?

"Are you done with your food?" Alexander asked.

Elise patted her tummy and replied contentedly, "Yes I am."

After having heard this, he called for the waiter and made payment with the digital wallet on his phone.

As they walked out of the restaurant, she was in such good spirits after the full meal that she couldn't help humming a tune.

She was absent-minded as she hummed, but he was able to immediately pick up on the melody and recognized it. Then, he deliberately asked, "I didn't know you liked H, too."

Elise froze before the tune she had been singing died down. She rubbed her head sheepishly and answered, "Well, yeah, I guess I kind of like her." Then, she sneaked a sideways glance at him. "Do you like her, too? You recognized the tune immediately."

Alexander made a noise of affirmation. "Her music is really well-made, and—" He suddenly broke off and he looked like he just remembered something as he reeled in what he had been about to say. After a pause, he continued, "And she's edgy."

Edgy? Is H an edgy person? A small smile tugged on her lips as she answered, "Come on, drop me off at school. I need to work on a couple more questions this afternoon."

After checking the time, he replied, "Very well. Get in the car, then."

He then dropped her off at school and she exited after uttering her thanks. However, she didn't notice there was a camera in the distance snapping photos of her as soon as she stepped out of the vehicle.

Elise had only just walked through the school entrance when Alexander heard a knock on his car window.

"Hi there..." Amanda began to greet him boldly, but she trailed off and found herself staring at him in awe the moment her eyes fell upon his chiseled face. What a gorgeous man!

"Is there something I can help you with?" he asked in an icy drawl.

This pulled her from her daze and she flashed what she believed was a charming smile as she explained, "Hi. You see, I'm a friend of Elise's—actually, I'm her roommate. We stay in the same dorm."

Alexander told her bluntly that he wasn't interested and made to close the window, but Amanda was unexpectedly relentless as she tapped on his window. "Hey, don't go yet. I'm not done speaking!"

"What is it?"

She had wanted to bait him into a conversation about Elise being a sugar baby so she could record it as evidence, but she completely forgot about this plan at the sight of his handsome face. Then, she hastily asked, "Could I get your number?"

He eyed her impassively. "I don't have my phone with me."

"That's fine," she pestered stubbornly. "Surely you know your own number by heart."

Upon the sight of Amanda, he was well aware of the type of woman she was. He would never have entertained her had she not claimed to be Elise's classmate; he had no interest in women like her who had desperation etched onto their features. That being said...

"181XXXXX," Alexander swiftly dictated a series of numbers, which Amanda hurriedly keyed into her phone.

"Thanks. I'll call you later." She waved him goodbye and without further delay, he started the car engines and drove away.

Presently, Amanda stared at the number on her phone with glee. Who could have thought that a man as good looking as him would take Elise for a sugar baby? She grew wistful at this. If only he'd take me for a sugar baby, too. I wouldn't even mind paying for my own stuff if it means I get to have him.

"Miss Hudson, do you still want the photos from earlier?"

It was only then that she snapped out of her thoughts. "Yes. Have those e-mailed to me and I'll wire you the payment."

"Very well, Miss Hudson."

The man who had taken the photos sent them to Amanda. She browsed through the shots perfunctorily and was pleased to see that Elise was clearly captured in her action of leaving the flashy car. Although Alexander's face was also in the shots, Amanda figured that she would do well in blurring his face, seeing as he could become hers one day. After having done all this, she registered a fake account and posted Elise's photos onto all the high school gossip forums.

"I'll make sure everyone sees your true colors this time, Elise," she mumbled.

Meanwhile, Elise had been garnering fame in school ever since the Mathematics Olympiad and Chinese Week. Her photos had found their way onto a certain social media platform, and her peers were close to becoming her devotees whenever school tests were around the corner.

Thus, it came as no surprise that a post with Elise's name captioned in bold would spread like wildfire among all the prominent high schools, though the celebrity in question was utterly clueless about it.

Riley had been the first to discover this post and she immediately called Samantha on the phone. "Sam, go on Reddit right now! Someone has uploaded Elise's photo."

Samantha hurried to log on to Reddit and her eyes immediately fell on the number one-trending post.

The bold caption which read, 'Erudite Elise Caught Moonlighting as Sugar Baby—Pictures Included' and the series of photos which followed were enough to stir up a controversy, even though most of the readers had no idea what was going on. There was no narrative attached, but that didn't stop the gossips from having a field day as they bombarded the comments section with exclamations and mean opinions.

The person in charge of the platform apparently decided that there was nothing wrong with a good drama once in a while, which explained why the post was right at the top of the listing.

After having seen the post, Samantha spat out furiously, "Which son-of-a-b*tch did this?"

Riley, on the other hand, instantly thought of Amanda. "Could it be Amanda? It has to be, don't you think? That b*tch has always been picking on Elise for no reason!"

Now that her blood boiled at an all-time high, Samantha snapped, "What the hell does Amanda think she's doing? She's crossed the line this time! Come on, let's hunt her down and make her delete the post right now!"

The air seemed to crackle as Samantha and Riley stormed out to look for Amanda and make her take down the post. While this was happening, Mikayla was in class when she came across the post on Reddit. As she was seized with rage, she abruptly pushed her chair back and stood up while seething, "Damn it, how dare this a*shole try to give our Elise a bad name?"

As soon as she said this, a hush descended upon the classroom and the Math teacher was especially affronted as he barked, "Miss Mikayla, just what do you think you're doing?"

Now that she was close to throwing a tantrum, Mikayla explained angrily, "Someone is trying to tarnish Elise's reputation, sir. I can't just be calm about it!"

At the mention of Elise, the Math teacher's expression softened. He walked up to Mikayla's desk and asked, "What is it?"

Mikayla paused and slowly kept her phone. "Nothing, sir. You may resume with class."

An irritated look passed over the man's face once more, but he didn't want to disrupt the rest of the class, so he responded, "See me in my office after this."

Without another word, he returned to the lectern and went on with the lesson.

Although class had resumed, she was already far too distracted as she joined the comments section beneath the post, typing away furiously on her phone.

Her username was Mika, and she commented, 'What the hell are all of you talking about? Accusing someone of being a sugar baby is defamation, so take care that you don't get thrown into prison soon! The car belongs to Alexander, as in Alexander Griffith. Elise happens to be a relative of theirs and she lives with them, so all of you better shut your pieholes. As for the person who made this post without fact-checking, you should watch your back; you could get sued for ruining someone's reputation like this!'

Mikayla was still simmering with anger when Danny, who sat in front of her, turned around and asked, "Hey, what happened to Elise?"

When Mikayla saw that it was Danny who had asked, she hesitated. After a pause, she decided to tell him everything.

Upon learning that Elise was becoming the victim of cyber-bullying, he bristled and instantly texted his friends. They rallied in support of Elise as they flooded the comments section, with Danny taking the lead as he typed, 'I'm Danny Griffith. The person who made this post must have been bored out of their minds to look for trouble like this. All these photos are a clear infringement of portrait rights; I can smell a lawsuit coming. You should take the post down before you find yourself biting off more than you can chew!'

One of Danny's friends whose username was Riversnake commented, 'Guess the person who made this post has nothing better to do than fabricate stories. Everyone in Eden High knows that the four Griffith boys are giving Elise a ride to and from school every day. The sugar baby trope is a complete lie! Take down the post right now; offending the Griffiths will only make your life in Athesea hell from now on.'

Another friend of Danny's by the username of CryingCresentMoon added, 'To the unassuming audience who all live for drama, I suggest you all ignore this post. As it turns out, the person who made it is just desperate for entertainment and has resorted to deceiving everyone.'

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Chapter 62 He's Not My Boyfriend

When Amanda went on Reddit once more, she was baffled to see the majority of the comments were directing abuse toward her instead of Elise. "What the hell is going on?" she asked in bewilderment.

After clicking into the post she had made, she scanned the comments anxiously and a grimace began to work itself onto her features when she arrived at the end of the comments section. I can't believe Elise actually has connections with the Griffiths of Athesea! And the four Griffith boys give her a ride to and from school every day, too!

"That's impossible!" Amanda hissed through gritted teeth. She had always thought of Elise as some bumpkin from a below-average family, but boy, she was wrong. Clearly, Elise had the Griffiths to back her up. Does this mean that the guy from earlier was the legendary Alexander Griffith?

As realization dawned upon her, Amanda quickly found the number that Alexander had given before she hit the call button. She was hoping that she could conduct some damage control before things went out of hand. However, she didn't expect a female voice to speak up on the other line when the call went through. "Hi, this is the Athesea Psychiatric Hospital. How may I help you?"

When she heard this, color drained from her face and she bitterly registered the fact that he had given her the number for the psychiatric hospital instead.

A furious Samantha and Riley found Amanda at this moment and they shouted her name, "Amanda!"

"This must be your doing!" Samantha snapped and snatched Amanda's phone without another word.

"What the hell, Samantha?" Amanda shrieked. "Give me back my phone!"

Samantha ignored her and instead tapped on the phone screen. Several clicks later, she found the content she was searching for and concluded mutinously, "Yeah, she's the one behind all this."

Upon hearing this, Riley grew outraged and immediately dragged Amanda with her. When Riley found Elise, she declared seethingly, "Elise, this b*tch has been making up lies about you on Reddit. I have half the urge to punch her lights out!"

Elise was clueless about the incident until Samantha had sent her the link to the infuriating post. After having perused the photos and the caption, Elise asked Amanda stoically, "You did this?"

Amanda pressed her lips into a grim line, obviously reticent.

Rather than forcing an admission from Amanda, Elise grabbed the girl's phone and changed the password. After that, she tossed the device to Riley and added, "Have fun with her account."

Riley chuckled deviously. Not missing a beat, she quickly logged into the account and made the post private before she impersonated Amanda to upload a statement admitting all the accusations directed toward her. As if adding more insult to Amanda's injury, she also signed off the statement with Amanda's full name.

Needless to say, Riley was seized with great satisfaction at the end of such a feat. Amanda's name immediately started trending on Reddit and the torrential abuse that followed was highlighted by an exposé on her past scandal on plastic-surgery.

At the sight of the scathing remarks that flooded the comments section, Riley switched off the phone with a grin. Amanda, on the other hand, was stumped as she leaned into the chair, looking as if all life had been drained out of her.

"Amanda, I think it'd be better if you asked to leave this dorm," Samantha pointed out bluntly. It was more of a command than a suggestion, and she didn't sound like she was offering Amanda a chance to negotiate.

As she gritted her teeth, Amanda refused to say anything.

Riley then broke the tense silence and drawled, "Well, if you're so shy, maybe I could help you to ask instead."

With that, she took out her phone and gave her father a call. "Hey, Dad, you know how there's an Amanda Hudson staying in our dorm right now? She wants to switch to another dorm. Do you think you can make the arrangements?"

Mr. Bolton didn't spare any doubt as he readily agreed to his daughter's request. "There's still a vacant bed in Dorm 504. She can move over immediately."

"Okay, I'll relay this to her," Riley quipped with a smile and hung up the call. Then, she turned to address Amanda haughtily, "There's still an empty bed in Dorm 504. See yourself out."

Bitter resentment filled Amanda, but now that she was backed into a corner, she knew she had no choice other than to pack her things and move into Dorm 504 next door.

Presently, as the door fell shut after Amanda's departure, Riley and Samantha high-fived each other with glee. "The evil witch has been defeated!"

Elise gazed at them and smiled, having been moved by the way they stood up for her earlier. She went over and clapped one hand on each girl's shoulder before she said lightheartedly, "Dinner's on me tonight. Take it as my show of thanks to the both of you being my knights in shining armor."

Samantha and Riley exchanged a bemused glance, then cackled. "Since you offered, don't blame us for tearing a hole through your wallet."

Elise replied good-naturedly, "Bring it on. You guys can order anything you want."

The three of them beamed at each other and it was the first time she had ever felt lucky to have friends.

They dined out that evening and it was the free period when they went back to school. Similar to what happened last week, Mr. Bolton handed them another set of test questions to work on.

Amanda was noticeably absent from free period after what had happened earlier that afternoon, but no one asked about her, given how busy they were with the test.

"Hey, Elise, what was your answer for the last multiple choice question?" Samantha asked as soon as the free period was over while holding Elise's arm with renewed desperation.

Elise thought about it for a moment before she responded, "I chose B."

Samantha grew upset at this. "I got it wrong again."

"That's alright," Elise comforted as she ruffled the other girl's hair affectionately. "I'll help you work on it when we're back in the dorm."

The trio were conversing with one another while heading back to the dormitory when someone called out, "Hey, Elise, there's someone at the school entrance asking for you."

As such, Samantha and Riley accompanied Elise over to the school entrance. They immediately saw Alexander standing in the distance and Riley tugged Elise's sleeve as she asked, "Elise, isn't this the hot guy who picked you up earlier? Be honest, is he your boyfriend?"

Samantha was keen to know the answer as well. "Yeah, Elise, let us in on the secret to bagging handsome men!"

Elise, however, resisted the urge to cringe as she explained hastily, "No, you've got it all wrong. He isn't my boyfriend."

Samantha and Riley's eyes brightened and they said in unison, "Then, he's mine."

As Elise gaped at her friends, she was a little astonished by the looks of interest on their faces and asked solemnly, "Are you guys serious about this?"

They nodded once in response and a smile played on her lips as she turned to look at Alexander, then shouted, "Hey, Alexander! There are a couple of girls here who are into you!"

The awkwardness that ensued right after was suffocating and while his eyes darkened dangerously, Samantha and Riley exchanged a panicked glance. Each could tell what the other was thinking: The joke is getting out of hand!

Samantha was the first to be defensive. "No, no, Young Master Alex! There's been a mistake; I am completely not into you."

Riley jumped on the bandwagon as well. "Yeah, I'm not into you either. That would be ridiculous."

Elise was rendered speechless by them, but before she could react, Alexander had walked up to her and held the take-out carrier bag toward her. She glanced at it and took it before she mumbled hurriedly, "Thanks."

However, the word had barely rolled off her tongue before he turned on his heels to leave.

Samantha and Riley saw this and skittered over to her. Then, they asked in hushed tones, "Is he always been so cold and distant?"

"My goodness, he's like a walking iceberg."

Elise stared at the take-out carrier bag in her hands mutely. For some reason, she felt as if Alexander was upset, even though he had uttered not a single word.

She looked up and watched the car drive further away. As she pursed her lips, she thought, Nah, you're being melodramatic.

"Wow, what did he get for you?" Riley asked curiously, pulling Elise from her thoughts. Elise gave the contents of the bag a fleeting look and saw all the dishes she had had with him for lunch.

After she retracted her gaze, she announced, "Come on, let's go back to the dorm and feast!"

The three girls paid no mind to Alexander's tense and non-verbal interaction with Elise and headed back to the dormitory while laughing as they went.