

Chapter 63

"What?" Zia asked in shock. "Say that again."

"We are getting married on Wednesday, and I'm inviting you to our engagement dinner tomorrow and our wedding," Riley repeated.

Before heading home that night, Riley dropped by the hospital to check on her mother. At the same time, to formally invite Zia.

Zia's mouth rounded. Then, she laughed excitedly and exclaimed, "I knew it! I knew it!"

Riley was puzzled at Zia's reaction. Things only became clear to her when Zia finally voiced her inner thoughts, "I knew the Brazilian wax would work wonders, but damn! Marriage? That was still unexpected! I should get a man really quick, get eaten out, and get married ASAP."

"Pffft!" Riley could not help but laugh hysterically. She said, "No, actually, it had nothing to do with me getting eaten out. We are in love!"

"Oh, come on!" Zia made a face that was so amusing that Riley kept on giggling. She said, "I bet it helped a lot. The boss was smitten over your taste!"

"Haha! I don't know what to do with you, Zia!" Riley got up, her stomach still hurting from laughing. She said, "I really need to go. It's late, and Adrian's waiting in the car. Plus, I have a lot of things to do tomorrow."

"Wait, are you going to have a honeymoon?" Zia winked at Riley and said, "You should make time for that."

Riley's face reddened. She replied, "Yeah, but just for two days. Adrian has to get back to work. He has a lot of work waiting for him -"

"You can demand, Misses King," Zia suggested with another playful grin.

"No," Riley corrected. She clarified everything to Zia, including Adrian's temporary CEO appointment. "This is important to him. You must be aware of his family's situation. He wants to get back what belongs to him. We can have another honeymoon after he gets the CEO position."

"Spoken like a true woman in love who puts her husband's goals first," Zia said before raising her hand above her brow. "I salute you and your marriage goals!"

Standing up, Zia announced, "I'll be there!"

"Oh, and it's not a grand wedding. We did not have enough time to do all the wedding planning, but we will have the usual ceremony," Riley said. "And, of course, the party."

"Are you at least going to get a wedding dress?" Zia asked.

"Yeah, tomorrow morning, I will. I'm going to Zalore to get one of those premade ones," Riley said. She was about to leave when she gazed back at Zia, saying, "Wanna come tomorrow?"

"Hell, yeah! Zalore! Are you kidding me? Zalore is the best bridal gown designer in the state! Premade or not, each gown costs a million dollars!" Zia said. "I'll go get myself a dress too."

"Sure, my treat," Riley offered with a smile.

"Well, hello, Miss Money Bags. Must be great to marry a King," Zia teased.

Riley laughed again. She answered, "I can't complain. Max and I will pick you up tomorrow, then."

"See you!" Zia happily waved goodbye.

Meanwhile, at Anthony's mansion, Fredrick was fuming. He saw Adrian's plans for the company and was amazed at how good they were.

Fredrick was jealous that he could never outsmart a cripple! He screamed, "Why the hell is Adrian so smart?! He had been holding back all this time so that I would fail!"

"Why didn't I think of this?!" Fredrick slammed his hand against his table as he read through the email. He was thinking of disapproving Adrian's proposals, but his step-brother had already announced them to the board and executives!

Throughout the day, Fredrick received feedback on how good the morning meeting went. Even Brett Monroe thought Adrian's ideas were innovative.

'How can I steal Adrian's ideas now?' Fredrick muttered.

Fredrick knew he needed to get Clint by his side. If Adrian had other bright ideas, Fredrick would take it right under his nose.

"On Thursday," Fredrick muttered. "Adrian and Riley will be going on a trip, and I will take the chance to bribe Clint. How much does an executive assistant make? Five hundred thousand dollars should be enough to make Clint switch sides."

Fredrick heard a knock on the door while planning his scheme. He opened it, and his mother entered. Tonet said, "I have information about Riley that could permanently destroy Adrian's relationship with Anthony. If Anthony finds out about this, he will surely disapprove of Riley!"

Fredrick frowned. He asked, "What information did you find, mother?"

"Riley was recently divorced. She is a divorcee! One of my friends is friends with the Martin family. She told me that Riley's ex-husband had built a jewelry company for her, and the same thing is happening with Adrian! See? She is a gold digger!" Tonet revealed. "She is using Adrian's money!"

"Mind you, according to my friend, she was dismissed by her ex-husband at the company." With narrowed eyes, Tonet described, "She must have done something wrong."

"I wonder if Adrian knows about this," Fredrick wondered.

"Of course he does." Tonet presented the documents and implied, "He knew Riley since college, remember? Well, Riley's ex-husband also went to the same college. Adrian must know her ex-husband too."

Fredrick went through the file. He read, "Brian Martin. Interesting. This information is helpful."

"I also wonder if Grandpa Abner knows," Fredrick said.

Tonet shrugged. She suggested, "Maybe he doesn't. Maybe that's why the old man was very supportive of them. He doesn't know that Riley was recently divorced!"

"Adrian and Riley will have an engagement dinner tomorrow night. I wasn't planning to go, but after learning this, I am now eager to attend the party," Tonet said.

With an evil look on her face, she added, "I'm going to bring my friend along, and she can drop the bomb on them. That way, we are also not at fault for ruining the entire event."

"We will purposely arrive late so we can enter in the middle of everything and catch their attention," Tonet suggested. "Riley will be humiliated, and so will Adrian. I heard Adrian invited some other prominent figures in Halliport. He invited Engineer Philips of ACE Construction and the mayor of Dowel City!"

"I can't wait," Fredrick said. "Dad will be so ashamed. He might just disown Adrian."

The next day, Tonet and Fredrick arrived at the Marriot Hotel. They met Tonet's friend, Lucy Smith, in the lobby before going to ballroom room three.

Last night, she asked Clint to send her the dinner invitation. It was a beautifully made digital card. The time indicated was seven, so they arrived at eight-thirty in the evening.

"Oh, god. Anthony had been calling me since five in the afternoon. I wonder why?" Tonet mumbled. She failed to check her messages since she had gotten her hair and makeup done in the last two hours.

"He probably wanted us to arrive with him," Fredrick assumed. "But it's like you said, we needed to be late for a grand entrance to catch everyone's attention."

Finally, standing by the ballroom's double doors, Tonet turned to her friend, Lucy. She asked, "You know what to do, Lucy?"

Lucy smirked. She answered, "Of course! I'm going to be like, aren't you Riley Martin? Didn't you just get a divorce? Is Adrian King settling for a divorcee? From what I heard, Riley is a gold digger!"

"Perfect start!" Tonet laughed at her friend's acting. She said, "Let's go."

Fredrick opened the double doors for the two ladies. Tonet and Lucy came in.

"Sorry, we are late -"

 **LiLhyz**  Author

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