

## Desperation 116

### Chapter 116

Valentin, already used to Joseph's boisterous behavior, settled on the living room couch without even lifting his gaze. "What

news?"

Joseph pulled out his phone and showed the screen to him. "News about Ashley!"

At the mention of Ashley, Valentin's indifferent demeanor shifted, and he immediately lifted his gaze to look at the phone.

Joseph played a video he found online, saying, "The press took this today. Ashley was at the airport picking up someone. It was

Jaden, the founder of Glory Youveile!"

Pointing at the video of Ashley and Jaden at the airport, Joseph's gossip-loving soul was ignited.

"How does Ashley know someone like Jaden? And she even went to the airport to pick him up. Jaden was calling Ashley his

dream girl and seemed very protective of her. They appear to have known each other for a long time and share a special bond...

Then Joseph showed another video. "Look at this, Valentin. Someone captured Ashley and Jaden having dinner together and

they even went shopping after that! Have you ever gone shopping with Ashley?"

After Joseph asked, he felt a sudden shift in the atmosphere, and the air turned heavy and stifling.

Joseph immediately fell silent.

He thought to himself nervously, "Oh no, I spoke too much!"

Valentin sat on the couch, his deep gaze fixed on the video. His expression was calm, yet there was an underlying intensity.

Valentin lowered his gaze, fixating on the video.

The footage captured Ashley and Jaden shopping in the store, discreetly recorded by a nearby employee.

Valentin pondered, "Dear... Jaden called her dear..."

A hint of coldness flickered in Valentin's eyes, his handsome and fair face taking on a stern expression.

Joseph cleared his throat awkwardly, trying to recover from his blunder. "It's alright, Valentin. Ashley also went to the amusement

park with you, remember?”

He thought to himself, ‘We’re not behind in this!’”

After a moment of thought, Valentin asked in a deep voice, “Glory Youveile’s chief designer Attelia has a photo of her back,

doesn’t she?”

Joseph was initially taken aback, unsure why Valentin suddenly asked this question.

Once Joseph came back to his senses, he nodded. “Yes, there is a back photo. It shows a woman, and it’s rumored to be

Zyrrinthian.”

With his eyes lowered, Valentin delicately tapped on his phone screen. and pulled up the photo from the Internet.

The instant the woman’s back appeared on the screen, Valentin stiffened, and his eyes widened slightly.

A few seconds later, he lowered his gaze and let out a soft, sensual chuckle.

Joseph was already feeling anxious, regretting that he had asked Valentin if Ashley had gone shopping with him earlier.

His unease grew when he heard Valentin suddenly laugh, making him even more anxious.

Swallowing nervously, Joseph asked, “Valentin, why are you laughing...”

He nervously thought, “This sudden laugh is really unsettling.

Valentin glanced at Joseph indifferently, raising an eyebrow slightly. He then showed Joseph the picture of Attelia’s back on his

phone and said, “This is Ashley.”

Previously, Valentin hadn’t been curious about Attelia, so he had never investigated or specifically looked at her backview photo.

Today was the first time he saw it.

Joseph was utterly shocked upon hearing Valentin’s revelation.

“What? Attelia is Ashley, and Ashley is Attelia?!” Joseph thought in astonishment.

“Really, Valentin? How did you recognize her? Wait, you just glanced at

this photo of her back and can already know she is Ashley?”

Joseph was genuinely impressed.

He thought, "There's not even a hint of a face in this back photo, and yet Valentin recognized the person as Ashley. The extent of

his attention to Ashley is truly remarkable!

Joseph had felt it before, but now more intensely, he mused, 'Ashley really does hold a very special place in Valentin's heart!'

Joseph suddenly stood up. "So, Ashley is actually the other founder of Glory Youveile and its chief designer, that legendary figure

in the design. world!"

He had a sudden realization and clapped his hands, saying, "No wonder Ashley and Jaden are so familiar with each other. They

have known each other for a long time. Wait, does that mean Ashley and Jaden are more. than just ordinary friends?"

Valentin glanced at Joseph noncommittally and said, "Attelia's first design for men's wear was for me."

Joseph was rendered speechless.

He wondered, 'Why do I feel like he's silently asserting his dominance? He's still trying to display their affection even in this

situation!"

In the evening, Ashley returned to the Kingsley Villa.

Valentin was in the kitchen cooking.

Ashley looked around and noticed he hadn't let the villa's chefs cook. Instead, he was doing it himself, wearing an apron that

oddly gave him a homely vibe.

In a cheerful mood, Ashley walked over and offered, "Let me help you!"

Without looking up, Valentin replied, "No need. You just sit and enjoy the meal."

However, Ashley wasn't particularly touched by his gesture. "Admit it, you just don't like how I cook, do you?"

He chuckled softly, leisurely lifting his gaze to glance at her, "Since we were kids, it's always you who didn't like me. When have I

ever didn't like

Ashley retorted, "Then why won't you let me help you?"

Valentin was washing vegetables, the water streaming over his distinct, pale fingers, exuding a restrained sensuality.

He spoke casually, and his voice was deep and magnetic. "Ashley, could you get me an autograph from Attelia?"

Ashley paused momentarily at his words, then realized and asked, "You saw the news about me picking up Jaden from the

airport, didn't you? You like Attelia?"

Upon hearing this, Valentin's deep eyes fixed unwaveringly on Ashley. Every line from his brow to his jaw radiated allure.

With a faint smile and a sparkle in his eye, he spoke tenderly yet passionately. "Yeah, I like her very much."

Ashley's long, curled eyelashes fluttered slightly.

She pondered, 'I gifted him clothes designed by Attelia on his birthday, but he seemed indifferent back then. Why has he

suddenly started liking her? Is my design so impressive that it made him like it this much?'

Ashley smiled. Her bright and lively eyes sparkled with teasing charm. and her chin lifted slightly. "Sure! I can get you a dozen!"

Watching her proud and playful demeanor, Valentin chuckled and said, "Well, thank you, dear."

Hearing this endearment term, Ashley's smile froze.

She stammered, "What...what did you just call me?"

Valentin wiped his hands and approached her. Observing her eyes widen in surprise, he gently pinched her earlobe and teased.

"Why, he can call you that, but I can't?"