

## Flirtacious 691

### Chapter 691 Making Deals With Me

After a moment of silence, Sylvie's chuckle could be heard. "You only have suspicions. If you had the evidence, you wouldn't have your classmate look for the test result at the DNA-testing center."

"I'm just curious. I wanted to find out how you've managed to get someone to swap the real report for a fake one at the DNA-testing center without having any power."

Perhaps Sylvie had been sure that the other woman would be dead soon, for she let down her guard and said, "You're right that I'm powerless, but some people just love making deals with me."

Then, the next sound that came was the sound of a knife slicing through skin and the agonized groans of a woman.

Cooper's hand, which he rested on the table, clenched into a fist. The veins on the back of his hand popped. If not for him holding himself back to the best of his ability, he would have lunged toward Sylvie and broken her neck.

A few minutes later, Sylvie's voice sounded out again. "I would've submitted to fate if Jack hadn't made the deal with me back then. But he has presented me with a great life. How could I possibly say no to that? I know that he wants to use me to deal with Armand, but I'm willing to play the part to get what I want. Don't blame me for this but blame Jack instead."

The recording was not long; it soon came to an end. However, it had been played on speakers, so everyone in the area could hear it.

By then, Sylvie looked as if she had seen a ghost.

Back then, Jane had come alone, so Sylvie answered Jane's questions as she was sure that Jane would

Yet, she never thought that Jane would have uploaded the recording in real-time.

Even Herbert—a man who had always been calm and collected—could not help but stay transfixed for a long time. In fact, he even felt a chill run down his spine at Sylvie's lack of mercy.

Then, he turned around to look at Sylvie.

elderly man said nothing, but Sylvie's heart was thumping loudly against her ribcage nevertheless. She forced herself to stay collected as she argued, "While it's true this is my voice, I've never said these things before. Someone must have recorded my voice and clipped it all together to make this! Genevieve, I know that you've always disliked me, but

her hand and swore, "I'll suffer a terrible death if I really did this—if I killed Jane."

Herbert's lips parted, seemingly ready to say something about Sylvie's oath.

Right then, one of the housekeepers led a man in casual clothes into the front yard.

The man then greeted Genevieve and Cooper.

"I'm sure everyone knows who this man is. He's a famous officer in Baykeep's police force, Reece Olsen," Genevieve introduced as she pointed at the man. "He'll be able to tell us whether or not the recording is tampered with."

Sylvie was already digging her nails into her palms by then, but she dared not reveal any of her thoughts on her face.

The Zeigler family was close to Baykeep's police force. Furthermore, the police chief was good friends with Phineus. Naturally, Phineus

Hence, he nodded and let Reece check the

to the computer. After a while of analyzing it on the computer, he said to Herbert and the other Zeiglers, "This audio file is the original. There are no traces of any edits to it."

### **Chapter 692 I Told You This Before**

Sylvie wiped her tears away and quietly said, "I love dancing, and I got to know Stella in a dancing studio. We became friends afterward. I've been to Stella's house, and I've seen her mother. She told me that her mother hurt her head before, and had lost her memories. All she knew was that her mother was from Baykeep. One day, Stella called me. She told me to look for her family if I come to Baykeep one day and that her family would be my mine too."

Sylvie could not help but begin crying at the mention of the past.

Once she recollected herself again, she lifted her reddened eyes and turned toward Zayne at the side.

"Zayne, I told you this before, didn't I?"

Herbert's fourth son, Cyrus Zeigler, immediately turned to Zayne. He knew that his youngest son would not lie, so he asked, "Is she telling the truth?"

Zayne never thought that everyone would suddenly be focusing on him, so he stiffened for a moment.

Frankly, he felt pity for Sylvie after seeing her miserable state at the hospital the other time.

However, what Genevieve had shown them today was making him think otherwise.

As he let his eyes drift toward Sylvie, who had reddened eyes and a pale face, he wondered if he could still trust her.

In the end, Zayne nodded with difficulty. "Yes."

"What happened to Stella?" Herbert urged. Truthfully, he could somewhat guess what happened to Stella, but he dared not continue down that line of thought.

Sylvie's lips parted. "S-She died..."

day, Herbert's mood went up and down like a rollercoaster. His birthday celebration should have been a happy one, but he found out that the girl he had been doting on was an imposter and that his actual daughter and granddaughter were long gone.

Devastated, Herbert found himself unable to take in the next breath. He scrunched up his face and collapsed on the chair.

“Dad!”

“Grandpa!”

as they hurriedly

At the same time, they pushed Sylvie, Genevieve, and Cooper out.

Genevieve watched as the family doctor rushed over and kneeled beside Herbert. Her grip on her wheelchair

Hurting him had not been her intention.

Cooper put a hand on Genevieve's shoulder and whispered, “Genev, you don't need to blame yourself for this. Even if this didn't happen today, the things

In the meantime, Sylvie tried to run during the chaos.

some of his men outside, and they caught her before she could get away.

The doctor administered first aid to the elderly man for over half an hour before he finally saved him.

When Yuvan realized that Genevieve and Cooper were still around, he walked over to them. At that moment, a rare grim look was on his face. “Ms. Rachford, if you knew that Sylvie isn't my aunt's daughter, you could've told us about it. We would've helped you out. My grandpa is already ill. Was the act of taking revenge

Genevieve pursed her lips.

Cooper answered him instead, “You've seen how sly and how capable Sylvie was to twist the truth. This was my idea, and I just didn't want her to get any chance to get out of this matter scot-free.”

Yuvan scoffed and turned to Genevieve. “Ms. Rachford, I don't think we

He then asked the housekeeper to escort Genevieve and Cooper out of the compound.

### **Chapter 693 Why Are They Together**

The next day, after washing up, Genevieve grabbed her phone. She was about to message Cooper and ask him how he had dealt with Sylvie.

However, she was greeted by a recommended news article from a few hours ago when her phone screen lit up.

Genevieve narrowed her eyes and swiftly clicked on her Trending. Then, she saw Bruce and Sylvie's names trending.

*Bruce and Sylvie Together!*

Genevieve froze when those two names entered her line of sight. The air was escaping her lungs as if those very words had punched her in the chest.

Anger and desolation enveloped her.

After taking in two breaths with much difficulty, Genevieve clicked into Bruce's page and saw his pinned tweet.

*Bruce: I remember seeing your gentle smile when I saw you in the film crew of 'For Elise' five years ago. Now, you still smile as gently as always, and I wish I can be the one you can rely on. @SylvieClasen*

the same time, Sylvie posted a tweet: You're the gift time

often than not. Nevertheless, he was in several big-production films, and he used to be crowned the best actor. Similarly, Sylvie had

two were a match made

people's fans were dumbfounded. Then, they began fighting. In the end, they worked together to promote

together? Genevieve wondered in

the doorbell ring, she wheeled herself to the door and

did Bruce post a tweet like this? Why is he saying that he's

that she would be greeted by news of Sylvie's ruined reputation when

a few seconds after

surprise, and

the screen and saw the previous tweet

be marrying at Lovely Heart Hotel on the thirteenth of next month. Reporters and journalists, feel free to join us.

fought her anger down. "Why are

replying to her, Cooper entered the house to wheel Genevieve to

#### **Chapter 694 Encountering The Couple**

Cooper did not want to let Sylvie off the hook, but the call the night before had messed up his and Armand's plan.

He was angry, but there was nothing he could do.

Cooper swallowed before crouching down to softly say to Genevieve, "I won't let her off, but her fate is currently tied to Bruce's, so I can't do anything to her. I have to prioritize the company's profits."

Genevieve clenched her teeth. Then, a thought popped into her head. "Sylvie played the Zeigler family like a fiddle. Do the Zeiglers not hate her?"

She would feel a little happier even if the only thing she could get was the Zeiglers sending Sylvie to jail.

However, Cooper squeezed out, "Sylvie's actions have indeed made Old Mr. Zeigler mad, but he did not want to hold her accountable anymore because she was friends with his granddaughter."

"Friends?" Genevieve barked out an angry laugh. "It's not like you don't know she's a skillful liar! Did Old Mr. Zeigler believe her when she said she knew Herbert's granddaughter? Even if she really does, I suspect that she might have killed Old Mr. Zeigler's granddaughter to take on her identity!"

Genevieve was livid, but she had nowhere to vent her anger. That was why she could not bring herself to listen to anything Cooper said.

Then, Genevieve asked Cooper to send her to the airport.

On their way to the airport, Genevieve unblocked Bruce and called him. Nevertheless, no one answered the call.

Genevieve then called Charlotte and received Bruce's current location.

Once the private jet landed at Jadeborough, Genevieve turned on her phone to see that Bruce seemed to be in a car and heading somewhere.

Once Genevieve saw the location where his car stopped, she pursed her lips.

He had stopped at the City Hall.

He just posted the tweet this morning, but now he's at the city hall with Sylvie. That's swift.

Upon reaching the City Hall, Genevieve called Bruce again.

It did not take Bruce long before picking up the call this time.

the first to speak. "Bruce, delete your tweet. Sylvie owes me her life, and you're not allowed to marry her!

Genevieve could not pinpoint any word to describe the complicated feelings she felt when she saw the two confessions Bruce tweeted.

However, she knew well that she could not let those two marry.

Sylvie owed Johanna and Jane a life. The only way Genevieve could feel relieved was if Sylvie was bedbound for the rest of her life.

end of the line said nothing; Genevieve could only hear his soft breathing.

Genevieve gritted her teeth. Just as she was about to curse at him, she saw the two people coming down the stairs from the corner of her eye.

It was Bruce and Sylvie.

The man was wearing a light gray v-collar sweater and a pair of slacks that fit his slender legs. As he was really tall, his height made him seem intimidating.

He had his phone pressed against his right ear, but his eyes were fixed on the inside of the car at the bottom of the stairs.

## Chapter 695 Why Her

"Sylvie has said everything I wanted to say earlier," the man finally uttered after a long while.

The expression on his face was mild as ever, and Genevieve could not tell whether or not he was angry or happy. "I'm no longer an artist under Genevieve Orsi, so I don't think you can lord over what I post on Twitter, Ms. Rachford."

At that very second, it was as if someone had torn off a part of Genevieve's heart. It ached, and the air around her seemed to thin out.

Genevieve bit down hard on her lip, forcing the physical pain to overwhelm the heartache she felt.

When Armand saw that she was biting her lower lip to the point it was bleeding, his heart ached as well. He wanted to step forward to wipe away the droplets of blood on her lip and tell her to stop.

However, he could not do that. All he could do was turn his head aside and look away.

The moment Genevieve smelled blood, her mind cleared a little. She then asked the man, "Didn't you say that you hated women? Why did you marry Sylvie then? Why her?"

As Armand looked at her hands that were wrapped around the armrests, he muttered, "The kind of women I hate are the ones I'm not close with."

"So you mean to tell me that you don't find women despicable if you're close to them?"

"Yes."

to clap for him. "You've shown me a new definition of 'I hate women. Since you're so adamant about being together with Sylvie, you'll be shouldering her debts as well."

Anger surged through her veins when she saw no changes in the look in his eyes. Then, she took the bag on her lap and began hitting the man.

Each and every punch was a strong blow.

knew how heavy the steel chain of that bag was, and she knew how painful it would be if it was used as a whip.

Hence, she was startled by how crazy Genevieve was when the latter hit the man. Just as she was

She then asked Cooper to

Once Genevieve was inside, she looked through the half-wound-down window and swept her gaze across Sylvie and Bruce. "I hope you'll be quick to flee

The threat in her words made a chill creep down

After Cooper's car was gone, Joash, who had been waiting behind them, quickly drove the minivan over. Armand then pulled the door open and stepped into the car.

Sylvie looked away from the direction Genevieve had gone in and quickly entered after Bruce.

After closing the door, Sylvie leaned back against the

She thought she was doomed when Cooper's men caught her the night before. Yet, those  
Only when she came out and saw Bruce in the car  
marry her—that only by binding their fates together would Genevieve not dare to lay a finger on her.  
Sylvie, who was terrified of death, naturally agreed to it without hesitation. She then went to City Hall  
“Bruce,” Sylvie started, wanting to ask the question she never got to ask the night before. “Why did you  
save me?”  
she hired had taken photos of Bruce hugging and kissing Genevieve. They seemed intimate at that time.  
Later on, she gave those photos to Jack in exchange for a chance

### **Chapter 696 You Are Not Welcomed Here**

Sylvie briefly pondered Bruce's change in personality but quickly forgot all about it. After all, she had  
more pressing matters to worry about other than him.

*It's been almost a month since I obtained a visa. I was planning to seek Zayne's help and fly abroad  
quietly. Alas, my fake identity got exposed. Since I have no connections with the Zeigler family, there's no  
way he'll help me. Although the Zeigler family has remained silent for now, I know they'll soon release a  
statement clarifying that I'm not Old Mr. Zeigler's granddaughter. When those who secretly sent me  
money in hopes of sucking up to the family or seeking its help see that, they'll surely be furious. My  
reputation will be in the gutter once this news breaks online. If those people go to the Zeigler residence  
to demand an explanation, and Old Mr. Zeigler gets angry and decides to pursue the matter, I'll be  
doomed too.*

All those thoughts weighed heavily on her mind to the point that she felt suffocated.

*It's so unfair! Why was I born into such a miserable life? No matter how hard I try, I can never climb to  
the ranks of the rich and powerful. Every day, I have to live in fear and worry about whether I can make it  
to the next day.*

Sylvie had not truly cried ever since she was sixteen years old.

But now, the fear, anger, grievances, indignance, and other emotions she had bottled up within her  
burst forth, causing her eyes to well with tears.

Soon, the floodgates opened, and tears streamed down her face. There was no stopping them, and they  
quickly soaked through her mask.

It was only when the piercing blare of a car honking rang out that she jolted to her senses and quickly  
held back her tears. Spotting a taxi approaching, she quickly waved it down and got in.

“To the airport, please.”

the time Sylvie arrived at Baykeep, it was already past four

was a rainy day

afternoon, the skies were so dark and gloomy that it felt as though it was

a taxi to the Zeigler residence, she used makeup remover wipes to remove her eyeliner and bright lipstick. Then, she applied a layer of foundation in a

well that he was soft-hearted

had the taxi driver stop some distance from the Zeigler residence, then chose a small path and headed toward the house that was situated halfway up the mountain. Glancing downward after walking for a while, she suddenly lost her footing and fell onto the hard, stone steps before tumbling all the way to the

though a car had run over her

and every breath she took was painful. There was a glazed look in her eyes as she raised her  
of living if

determination surged within her as she recalled her childhood, her pitiful

on the ground and slowly got to her

### **Chapter 697 Kneeling In The Rain**

The security guard was stunned for a moment. However, he quickly guessed that Sylvie was probably doing that to gain Herbert's sympathy. His disdain toward her intensified, and he ignored her.

Even as the rain grew heavier, Sylvie did not move. She continued kneeling there with her back tall and straight.

Soon after that, a black car drove up. Seeing the familiar license plate, the security guard opened the gates immediately while keeping a wary eye on Sylvie, ready to prevent her from rushing inside.

Before the car drove in, Zayne looked out the car window as he sat in the rear passenger seat and saw Sylvie kneeling in front of the gates.

She was drenched to the skin, and her wet hair stuck to her face and shoulders.

He sat forward subconsciously, thinking of telling the driver to stop the car. But when he remembered how she had deceived Herbert, he bit back the words on the tip of his tongue.

Meanwhile, the housekeeper was in the midst of preparing dinner.

Although Herbert's condition had taken a turn for the better after a night's rest, he was still in rather low spirits.

Since his three sons were busy working, his grandchildren accompanied him.

Racked with guilt as he was the one who had brought Genevieve and the others, Yuvan had not stepped away from Herbert's side since the day before.

When Zayne went upstairs, he saw Yuvan playing chess with Herbert.

"Grandpa."

"Oh, you're here!" As soon as Herbert saw Zayne walking in, he forgot all about playing chess and quickly beckoned to the latter. "I'm fine. All of you don't have to stay home and

Zayne shrugged his shoulders and smiled. "I don't have much to do at school anyway, so

"I think you're just here to have fun," Yuvan responded jokingly.

"Yeah, you're right," Zayne admitted readily. He gestured with his hands as he continued, "I just finished memorizing two books that were this thick not too long ago. They were even thicker than a brick!"

Then, he added with a downcast expression, "If I'd known studying law would be so tiring, I'd have gone to join the military."

Herbert was amused by his grandson's grumbling. "Were they Mr. Sasnett's notes?"

Zayne nodded in response.

upstairs and knocked on the door to tell them that dinner was ready.

Herbert and his two grandsons headed downstairs, he told Zayne, "It may be difficult now, but when you succeed in the future, your father and I will be very happy."

Kevin Sasnett was a famous attorney general in Baykeep and quite close to Herbert's second son. Thanks to his help, Felix was able

I have many grandsons, but apart from two who joined the military, the others have ventured into various fields. Now, Zayne has the chance to enter the judiciary, and he has Kevin's assistance. Once Zayne gains a firm foothold in those circles, the Zeigler family will be able to prosper for many

Zayne murmured an acknowledgment. "Don't worry, Grandpa. I

"Good." Herbert broke into a relieved smile.

Zayne's shoulders. "I heard Mr. Sasnett's daughter likes you and even confessed her feelings to you."

## **Chapter 698 Let Her Kneel**

Yuvan picked up the pot of coffee and poured himself a cup, drawling, "I'm interested, but Faith's father probably disdains an artist like me."

"At the very least, give it a try. How would you know if you don't try?"

"All right, that's enough." Upon seeing that his two grandsons were squabbling relentlessly, Herbert interrupted them with a chuckle.

He then advised, "If you like her, Zayne, you can try dating her. Otherwise, forget about it. However, don't humiliate her. Ultimately, not only is her father your lecturer, but he's also on good terms with your uncle."

Grinning, Zayne exclaimed, "You're the best, Grandpa! I just knew that you love me! If my father were here, it would be a different story."

"I don't have much time left." Perhaps the injuries he once sustained on the battlefield were too severe, coupled with his advanced age, Herbert could sense his health deteriorating with each passing day.

"I wish you both a happy marriage!" he proceeded to utter sincerely.

Both Zayne and Yuvan's expressions changed.

Zayne promptly countered, "What are you saying, Grandpa? You're only in your seventies, so you're still strong and robust. I'm even planning to celebrate your hundredth birthday with my wife and child!"

Taking some food for Herbert, Yuvan echoed, "Exactly, Grandpa! Your sons and grandsons are all exceptional, so all you have to do now is enjoy yourself. Whenever you miss any of us,

Herbert perked up slightly. "Okay. For the sake of seeing my two granddaughters-in-law marrying into the family, I've got to keep myself alive and well."

Thus, Yuvan

mood to play chess struck Herbert again. He ordered Yuvan to take the chess board out, and the three of them played chess in the living room.

Later, he found Zayne's skills too horrible and had Yuvan play

and cousin for a while before he stood up and walked over to the window. He noticed that the lights in the front yard were unlit, and it was pitch-black outside.

only sound was that of the crisp pitter-patter of the rain hitting the roof and glass.

Recalling the figure he spotted kneeling outside the gates when he came home, he went to the

From the dim surveillance footage, he could see Sylvie kneeling outside the gates, with her back ramrod straight.

It wasn't even March then, so it was damp and cold at night, even more so when it rained. Meanwhile, Sylvie had been kneeling in the rain for more than four hours in a thin

Zayne gave his

When he had gone downstairs and was watching Herbert and Yuvan's chess game, his driver phoned him back and reported helplessly, "Ms.

It's so chilly at night. If she were to kneel for another hour, she'd definitely meet her end.

Herbert turned and glanced at the man. Seeing that Zayne was holding the phone without saying anything, he asked in puzzlement, "Who called you, Zayne?"

the gates when I returned. She had been kneeling there until now." Zayne initially didn't want to care about her, but still, he couldn't help telling

Herbert was stunned for a moment before a furious and complicated expression showed

**Chapter 699 You Likewise Think I Went Too Far**

With the umbrella in hand, Zayne hurried along the path. From the lights on the gates, he could see from afar that Sylvie was still kneeling there. Not only was she drenched, but she was also deathly pale from head to toe.

After exiting the gates, he held the umbrella over her even as he reached out to help her up. "Don't kneel here anymore. Grandpa said he's no longer mad at you."

Sylvie tilted her head back and looked up at him. "Really?" Her voice was a touch hoarse.

When his car drove into the mansion earlier, she knew that she had a high chance of winning this time. But she never expected she still had to wait so long that she had gone numb from the rain.

If he had come out a few seconds later, she would have definitely left.

"Yes." Only when Zayne made contact with her arm did he realize that her body was as cold as ice.

Seeing that she couldn't get to her feet, he scooped her up and placed her into the car at the side.

After getting into the car, he draped a thick towel over her and ordered the driver to raise the temperature.

Sylvie's entire body had gone stiff to the point that she couldn't even hold the towel.

When the car took a corner rather speedily, her stiffened body pitched at Zayne. Fortunately, Zayne was swift to support her. He then snagged another towel and wrapped it around her wet hair.

"Thank you," Sylvie muttered weakly.

for several hours, so her body was still chilly despite the

the hotel, Zayne carried Sylvie out of the

in at the spacious front desk. One of them caught sight of Zayne, and her eyes lit

"Zayne!"

to approach her,

an oval face, and a pair of crystalline eyes that could seemingly speak. On the whole, she was very much

carrying a woman, her animated

a few seconds at the

"Why

from Yartran. I brought them out for a tour today and am

woman in his arms, and she couldn't help querying, "Who is

see that the woman had a towel wrapped around her body, her long and slender arms hooked around Zayne's neck. She had her head buried in

quite know how he should

at warp speed for several seconds before he answered, "She's the cousin I mentioned to you previously. She's suffering from a leg

noticed the woman's wet hair

seems to have been in

Zayne for a long time and knew the kind of person he was. Therefore, she didn't doubt his words at all. Instead, she even dashed to the front desk and asked the receptionist for a suite

you." Zayne

### **Chapter 700 He Did Not Want Her**

Back then, the most ruthless method Sylvie used against Genevieve was to have someone spread rumors about her and Jan.

She had never wanted to take the latter's life.

She merely wanted to realize her dream of being a renowned celebrity and having lots of money, living the high life. However, everyone used her and wanted to ruin her.

Even her manager—Joyce—who had been with her for a long time, conspired with Johanna to set her up for the sake of money.

Past events flashed across Sylvie's mind, one after another.

Her tears flowed even swifter, and she questioned Zayne, "Why must I allow them to pick on me? Was it wrong of me to fight back? I've got no parents or a brother whom I can rely on, but I'm human, too. I will also feel aggrieved and livid."

Zayne had more or less read some of her past from the internet, but he didn't dare ascertain whether she was speaking the whole truth.

Nonetheless, her shaking shoulders and aggrieved expression as she sobbed then were exceedingly pitiful.

After Sylvie had finished crying, she wiped her tears with the back of her hands. In a hoarse voice, she murmured, "Thank you. If it weren't for you, I might still be in the rain. Also, thank you for sending me to the hotel. You may go back now."

but he

wall. He had no idea how long she

are you doing

restaurant offers supper. Is your cousin hungry?" Faith had her hands

the rain for several hours and had no time to eat,

her phone and texted

pressed the button for the ground floor. Then, he took out his phone. "I'll transfer

had even finished speaking, she received the

and she slumped back against the elevator

a sudden, the elevator

for a

know what he should

were an ordinary girl, he would probably have turned her down right away. Alas, her father was his lecturer and

hours ago at

The elevator

elevator doors closed again, Zayne stated solemnly, "I know, but I don't have any plans to date at the moment. I want to enter the judicial field and contribute to the Zeigler