

Game Over 101

Chapter 101 The Fight Begins

She chose to ignore Tiana's words. After all, she herself knew better whether or not the man was old.

Tiana looked at Elizabeth with a smug look, assuming the latter would feel sad. Elizabeth, however, would not let Tiana get her way and changed the subject.

Judging from the luxurious manicure with real diamonds on Tiana's nails, Elizabeth could tell that the former was well taken off in the Wade family.

"That looks nice."

After saying that, she returned to her table and added, "I'm talking about your nails."

She did not compliment Tiana on her appearance, as the latter was always an ugly duckling to her.

Tiana had known about this since childhood.

In truth, both of her parents had a good look. However, she inherited their shortcomings of having small eyes, a round face, and a flat nose.

Speaking of which, Tiana was livid. Somehow, she was glad that she had secretly had

injectables to improve her facial appearance these few years. At least, she was considered pretty

the crowd now.

among

Things were the opposite whenever she stood together with Elizabeth, though.

Tiana was furious at the thought. She wished Elizabeth could die, but the latter was still

alive.

Clenching her fists in rage, she gave Elizabeth a cold glare and said, "Even if I'm not as pretty as you, I am the apple of the Wade family's eyes and have a better life than you. Look at you!"

You

grew up without a mother, and Dad never liked you. Now, you even have to earn a living and raise three kids alone at such a young age. What a pity!"

Elizabeth's expression slightly changed when she heard that.

"Who's the culprit behind all of this, then? Tiana, what goes around will come around. You

and your mother will have to pay for it sooner or later."

The two ladies started quaneling. As Elizabeth began to turn the table on Tiana, the latter

crossed her arms and stated, "Elizabeth, go get me a cup of coffee."

Elizabeth was organizing Matthew's schedule, and she still needed to study and prepare

herself for university. Since she had a stable job now, she wanted to start improving herself.

“Mr. Hilton said I’m his personal secretary and serve only him.”

Matthew had never said such words before. However, he was not around in the office, and

thus, Elizabeth could bluff anything.

Infuriated, Tiana got up and approached Elizabeth with a menacing look.

She swept everything on Elizabeth’s table onto the floor and scolded, “Elizabeth Wade, you’re only his secretary. It’s a job. Do you think you’ve become his wife just because of the

headline?”

Elizabeth was stunned when she saw her cup shattered. The cup carried a special meaning,

as she had made it together with her three children.

She immediately got up from her chair and pushed Tiana to the side.

“Are you crazy?”

Bending down, she picked up the pieces of the cup. Still, the photo of the four of them on the cup had shattered. Damn it! She’s still the same despicable girl I know.

Being pushed to the side, Tiana was enraged. She could not bear seeing Elizabeth being

around Matthew every day and wanted to get rid of her.

Hence, she stepped forward to pull Elizabeth's hair. The latter, however, was no easy prey.

Back when Elizabeth worked in Night City, Dominic had found her a coach to learn self-defense skills to protect herself. Eventually, she earned herself a black belt in combat arts.

Hence, when Tiana pulled her hair, she turned around and pinned the former onto the floor.

Tiana did not expect Elizabeth to fight back, and the pain was unbearable for her.

"Help! Elizabeth is hitting me!" she screamed and cried, her voice sounding miserable.

When she raised her hand to wipe her tears away, a sinister smile could be seen on her face.

Let's see if you can stay in this company, Elizabeth. I bet he'll definitely fire you.

Chapter 102 Get Her Out Of Here

Upon hearing the cries from the CEO's office, Gracie walked into the room and saw a lady

with messy hair crying on the floor.

Slightly startled, she quickly walked over to check what was going on.

"Ms. Wade, are you okay? Let's get up first."

After Gracie helped Tiana sit on the couch, the latter held her waist and remarked, "My

waist! My hair! Elizabeth, why did you hit me?"

At the end of her sentence, she sobbed and wiped her tears, trying to get others' sympathy..

however, Gracie knew who Matthew cared about and dared not to comment on anything.

“Ms. Wade, do you want us to send you to the hospital?”

Elizabeth, on the other side, remained silent as she picked up her books, some documents,

and the pieces of her cup on the floor.

Right then, Esme heard of the fight in the CEO's office and informed Matthew about the

incident in no time.

When Matthew entered the room, he spotted Elizabeth picking up the pieces of her precious

cup on the floor. He was afraid that she would injure herself, so he remained silent.

As he watched her pick the pieces up and wrap them in a paper bag, he could not help but

frown.

To Elizabeth, it was not an ordinary cup but a memory of her and her children. Whenever she

saw the four smiling faces on the cup during working hours, she would have a smile blossoming

on her face.

All of this encouraged her to work hard and stay strong for her children, no matter what challenges she was facing.

Upon seeing Matthew, Gracie greeted, "Mr. Hilton."

"It's so painful. My waist hurts!" Tiana Immediately wailed in a more miserable tone.

Putting her things away, Elizabeth looked at Matthew and stated, "Mr. Hilton, I'll pack my things and leave immediately."

She believed Matthew would be angry about what had happened today and wanted her to leave.

Nevertheless, she could not take it any longer. She could tolerate anyone, but not Tiana.

Matthew stood by Elizabeth's table and watched her pack up her things with grit and determination.

He realized Elizabeth would put herself on guard when facing Tiana, and she would even give up her job.

"Please make fifty copies of this document," Matthew ordered.

"What?" Elizabeth was taken aback.

“Who said you can leave? Do you think Hilton Group is a place you can come and go as you please?”

Matthew stared at Elizabeth with a solemn expression, and his gaze darkened.

“Okay.” Elizabeth quickly took the document over.

She thought she had to leave for offending Matthew’s girlfriend and was glad to hear that he did not dismiss her.

After all, she never wanted to lose the job.

After Elizabeth went to make copies of the document, Matthew strode toward the couch and said to Gracie, “Ms. Johnson, you may get back to work now.”

His voice was low and cold. It sounded as though he blamed Gracie for being nosy, not paying attention to her own work, and only caring about other matters.

“All right, M. Hilton.” Gracie nodded slightly.

Where did I do wrong? Could it be because I’m comforting Ms. Wade? Having that thought in mind, she suddenly realized that Matthew was biased toward Elizabeth.

I guess the mother of his children is more important than his girlfriend.

Sitting on the couch, Matthew crossed his legs and stared coldly at Tiana, who frowned with a grimace.

Unable to withstand his stare anymore, Tiana wiped away her tears and uttered, "Matthew,

Elizabeth is crazy. You told me to come to your office before you get off work. I happened to be nearby and came over early. She hit me right when I entered your office. I don't even know what

had happened."

Chapter 103 Biased

With that, she began to wipe her tears again. The hatred in her eyes was so intense. How dare she say I'm ugly!

She had pulled Elizabeth's hair to serve as a warning just now. However, she had never expected the latter to retaliate and seemed to learn combat skills before.

Feeling resentful, she was determined to give Elizabeth a lesson.

With a sneer, Matthew lowered the projector screen, clicked on his phone, and started to play footage of his office.

Tiana gaped at the screen in utter shock because Matthew had zoomed in on every single

movement of hers. Everything was clear now.

It was obvious who was in the wrong between the two.

As the footage ended and the projector screen retracted to its original position, Matthew

smiled faintly, sending a chill down Tiana's spine.

Tiana swiftly sat up straight and tried to explain, "Matthew, she called me ugly! That's why I

grabbed her hair."

Upon hearing that, Matthew scoffed, "Well, she's only telling the truth."

That was undoubtedly another pierce to Tiana's heart, making her feel even more miserable.

"Matthew...

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She got up and sat next to Matthew, trying to hold his arm.

However, Matthew moved aside as he said coldly, "Tiana, we're only business partners, and I

have given you some benefits and authority. Others may have to treat you with respect just

because you're my woman, but not Elizabeth. Do you understand?"

Tiana nodded, even though she was unhappy that Matthew was protective of Elizabeth.

She's only a secretary. Couldn't she show some respect to me?

way,

Still, she pretended to give in.

"Understood. I promise I won't mess with her again. Please don't be angry, Matthew. By the

didn't you say that you want me to go home with you tonight? I didn't get to see Hector that

day. Hence, I bought him a gift today."

She then took out a box of health supplements.

"It's good for elders."

She smiled faintly, thinking Elizabeth was no longer her concern after gaining the Hilton

family's favor and becoming Matthew's woman.

Once I have Matthew's heart, nothing can stop me from bullying Elizabeth anymore!

Meanwhile, Elizabeth returned from photocopying the documents and saw Tiana was

smiling. Mr. Hilton is not only a capable person but also good at coaxing a woman.

Putting the documents on the table, she informed, "Mr. Hilton, I've made the document

copies as you requested.”

With that, she returned to her table and continued her work. However, she felt uneasy in front of the couple, feeling as though she was a third wheel between them.

Hence, she stood up and stated, “Mi. Hilton, Mr. Mack said we’re running out of coffee beans and asked me to buy some from the store,”

As soon as her words fell, she grabbed her bag and left. They had indeed run out of coffee beans, but her initial plan was to get someone to send the coffee beans over. Buying coffee beans from the store was just an excuse.

“Okay!” Matthew replied.

He thought Elizabeth was in a bad mood and probably did not want to see Tiana. Since he needed Tiana for an act later, he could only let Elizabeth leave for a break.

Initially, Matthew told Tiana that he needed her for an act, and the driver would pick her up at six o’clock.

Never did he expect she would arrive earlier and bump into Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth exited the CEO's office, Esme arrived. He greeted with a smile, "Ms. Wade, where are you going?"

Elizabeth flashed him a charming smile.

"Mr. Mack, It Hector that you asked me to buy coffee beans from the store just now. Please cover that for me. Thank you!"

She put her hands together and bowed at Esme.

Esme felt a tad surprised.

What? Ms. Wade, are you kidding me? How could I get you to run an errand? Oh, no. I'm doomed!

Chapter 104 Matthew Likes You

After exiting Hilton Group, Elizabeth hailed a taxi to the hospital. She deliberately bought

Pearl's favorite dessert and a cosmetics set for Jessica.

When she arrived at the ward, Pearl had gotten her injection and fallen asleep. Jessica was also sleeping beside the kid's bed.

Seeing that, Elizabeth took a blanket and covered Jessica with it. Jessica was only lightly.

dozing, and she opened her eyes as she felt a warmth on her body.

She had gotten used to it two years ago, as she was worried about her kid. Hence, she would be awakened by even a little noise.

“You’re here, Lizzy,” Jessica remarked as she wiped her face.

“Just sleep a little longer.” Elizabeth adjusted the blanket on Jessica.

Jessica shook her head. When she saw the cosmetics and desserts on the table, her gaze darkened.

“Lizzy, why did you buy me the cosmetics? I don’t even have the mood for it now.”

If it were not a requirement to put up makeup when working in Night City, she would not even want to wash her face during the day, not to mention any skincare routine.

Elizabeth caressed Jessica’s face. “Women should never give up on taking care of their appearance, no matter how bad the situation is. It’s not for others but for yourself.”

That was what she learned from the past. No matter how tough her life was, she persisted in carrying on her daily skincare routine, having a morning run, and practicing yoga.

Maintaining her appearance boosted her self-esteem, and her mood eventually got better.

Nodding, Jessica responded, "You're right. We should not give up on ourselves."

Just then, a caregiver entered the ward. Her name was Audrey Barber. She had been helping Jessica take care of Pearl all this while. She could not help but sympathize with Jessica, and she

took care of Pearl wholeheartedly.

"Jess, don't you have something to do today? Just go ahead."

"Ms. Barber," the two ladies greeted.

Audrey slightly nodded at Elizabeth when she saw the latter. Then, she started to get busy,

taking out the clothes she had washed at her place and putting them into the wardrobe.

Jessica combed her hair before washing her face in the washroom.

"Lizzy, are you going to work after this? Let's head downstairs together."

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After taking their handbag and bidding farewell to Audrey, the two walked toward the

elevator hand in hand.

There were not many people in the hospital at this hour. Hence, the two were the only ones.

in the elevator.

“I don’t have to go to the office today. Where are you going? I’m going with you.”

Jessica looked at her and replied, “Didn’t you say you’re willing to give everything you have to Hilton Group for the salary they offered? I can’t believe you’re skipping work now.”

Elizabeth did say that before. After all, her life had turned for the better, and she could afford to buy Jessica cosmetics with the job.

However, she was pissed when she thought of Tiana.

“Matthew’s grandpa wants him to marry Tiana, right? Well, she came to our office today, and I got into a fight with her. Since we couldn’t stay in the same office anymore, I’m the one who should leave.”

It sounded as if she was unnerved, as Tiana was supposed to be the one to leave. However, Tiana was the future CEO’s wife, her future lady boss. That was why she chose to leave.

“Does Matthew want to keep you as his mistress?”

Apparently, it was Matthew’s idea to hire Elizabeth as his secretary and offer her such a high ‘salary.

Elizabeth's expression immediately changed. "No! There's no way I'm going to be his mistress."

Mistresses were what she hated the most in her life. If it were not for a mistress like Celine, she would not have grown up without her mother by her side, and she could have had a better life than the current one.

Jessica laughed as she squeezed Elizabeth's waist.

"All right, all right. I know you're reluctant. However, I can tell that Matthew likes you. You have to believe me in this."

Chapter 105 It Is Her Wish

Elizabeth shook her head. "He only likes to tease me."

She could not help but get angry at the thought of Matthew. There was not one day where she went without his constant teasing.

She also understood that he had probably asked her to be his secretary just to tease her as a form of entertainment in his otherwise boring life.

Jessica noticed her look of annoyance and thought that Elizabeth was jealous. However,

Elizabeth would rather die than admit that.

Sighing, Jessica walked out of the elevator with Elizabeth.

“Lizzy, sometimes when a man likes someone, he would always tease her. Have you ever thought about how he treats others compared to how he treats you? Isn’t it different?” Jessica commented.

Elizabeth pondered over her words. It did seem that way as Matthew always treated others coldly.

On the other hand, he would sometimes put on a smile when it came to her. However, he only smiled when he was mocking her.

Elizabeth sighed. “Whatever. It doesn’t matter who he likes. His grandfather wants him to marry Tiana. There is no way Matthew would disobey him, for his grandfather is sick. But once he gets into a relationship with Tiana, he will automatically become my enemy.”

Upon saying that, she promised herself that no matter if they ended up as enemies or not, she would do everything she could to earn as much money from them as possible.

love.

Jessica shook her head. "All right. Let's just see how it goes."

From Jessica's point of view, there was no way Matthew would marry someone he did not

Even if Hector forced him to do so, Matthew would not go down without a fight. Besides, he

was a powerful man in the business world. There was no way he would so easily be coerced into

doing something that he did not want to do.

Jessica did not believe Elizabeth's words. Instead, she thought that Elizabeth would end

with Matthew anyway.

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They hailed a taxi and got in. When Elizabeth heard Jessica telling the driver to head to The

Estuary, she asked. "Are you going to see a friend? Is it convenient for me to tag along?"

At that moment, Elizabeth was worried that by going out with Jessica, she would be in the

way if the latter were to find a boyfriend.

It would be great for Jessica if she managed to marry a good man.

Furthermore, Pearl would begin her surgery soon. Once she recovered, Jessica could continue to live her own life happily.

Jessica looked out the window. "It's all right. I'm just going to find the man who is Pearl's match. I want to ask him to come to the hospital so that Pearl can start the surgery as early as

possible," she said calmly.

Elizabeth's eyes lit up. "Didn't you say he was in the army? I didn't know he had already

returned!"

It was amazing news. They had been worried that the man would be too busy in the army.

Soldiers never did have a lot of free time.

fare.

Jessica smiled. "Yeah, I think God is watching over me," she replied.

She would do anything for Pearl to recover.

Elizabeth laid her head on Jessica's shoulder as her eyes glimmered in happiness.

"That's amazing," she smiled.

After an hour, the car stopped in front of The Estuary. Both of them got down after paying the

Jessica took out her phone to look at the address. "He lives on the eighteenth floor."

They had no way of knowing if the person was actually at home or not. Nevertheless, they

decided to give it a shot. It would be best if that man was at home. If he was not, they would just wait for his return.

After registering themselves at the counter, they walked into the condominium. Both Jessica and Elizabeth took the elevator to the eighteenth floor and found the unit numbered 1802.

They stopped in front of the door and Jessica took a deep breath. "I'm kind of nervous, Lizzy.

What should I do if he disagrees?"

Even though this man was their only hope, they would not be able to force him if he did not want to help.

Regardless, Elizabeth pressed the doorbell anyway. "Since he's willing to donate his bone marrow to the bone marrow bank, he should be willing to help us."

Soon after, someone came to open the door.)

It was a girl.

"Who are you looking for?" she asked the duo.

Chapter 106 It Is I lim

Jessica forced a smile onto her face and said, "We're looking for Leonard Johnson."

When Elizabeth heard the name, she looked at Jessica in surprise. Isn't that Matthew's friend? The major general?

The girl turned around and called out, "Leonard! There are two ladies looking for you!"

After that, the girl at the door went back inside and Leonard came walking out. He was wearing his pajamas and rubbing his eyes. It was very likely that he was asleep before they came.

Leonard scratched his head. "Who is it?" he asked as he looked up.

His gaze then landed on Elizabeth and smiled.

"Hey, Mis" Before Leonard could continue his sentence, he quickly corrected himself.

"What brings you here, Ms. Wade?"

Leonard totally ignored Jessica. That day, Jessica was wearing simple sportswear. Her face was pale and she was not feeling very energetic at all. Therefore, when standing next to Elizabeth, she looked dull.

When Elizabeth saw him, she was also taken aback.

"What a coincidence, Mr. Johnson. This is my friend, Jessica Frye," she gestured at Jessica.

It was only then that Leonard noticed the woman standing next to Elizabeth. He realized that although the woman looked tired, she was also beautiful. Jessica had big eyes and her facial features suit her well. She looked kind of exotic.

"Hello there!" he greeted Jessica.

Leonard then pointed inside. "Come inside," he offered.

Elizabeth and Jessica walked into the condominium and realized that Leonard's unit was huge. It was about four hundred square meters. Outside of the floor-to-ceiling windows was the view of a river.

It was definitely a luxurious place to live in.

Leonard walked over to the couch and patted it. "Have a seat. What would you two like to drink?"

Jessica spoke up. "No thanks, Mr. Johnson. We are here to speak to you about my daughter.

She is diagnosed with leukemia. We found out that your blood is a perfect match with hers. We would like to request for you to have a check-up at the hospital. We would like to start the

surgery as soon as possible,” she said in one breath.

Once he heard Jessica’s words, Leonard straightened his back. Leonard’ skin was tanned.

from being in the military. He looked strong and manly.

“I’m sorry, Ms. Frye. I’ve already submitted my response. I’m not willing to donate. my bone marrow,” Leonard said apologetically.

To be honest, he did not register at the bone marrow bank voluntarily at all. It was only because his ex-girlfriend was working there that he applied. He had wanted to use that as a reason to get to know her better.

That was about five years ago. Leonard had nearly forgotten about it.

Furthermore, that girl was now his ex-girlfriend. That was all the more reason for him to throw it to the back of his mind.

Jessica’s face paled and she visibly started to panic.

“Mr. Johnson, I beg you. My daughter is very sick right now. Her surgery can’t be delayed anymore. It took us a very long time to find a match. Please save my daughter,” she pleaded.

Leonard was not a hard-hearted person. It was just that donating his bone marrow would be

very damaging to his body. He had researched about it before.

It was not suitable for him to donate his bone marrow, especially considering his status.

Moreover, what happened to that lady and her daughter was none of his business anyway. He

did not want any part of it.

Noticing how Leonard remained silent, Jessica knelt in front of him.

“Please, Mr. Johnson. I’ll do anything you want,” she begged as she started to cry.

She felt that she was about to lose her only hope.

Elizabeth pulled her up. “What are you doing, Jess? Get up.”

She could not help but think that Leonard’ heart was made out of steel. How could he not be

willing to save a life?

However, they could not force him to do it anyway.

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Leonard furrowed his eyebrows. “There’s no use in begging me. I will never donate my bone.

marrow. It’s actually better if your daughter’s family members donate theirs, like you, or her

father.”

Leonard could not understand. Why must they ask a stranger?

The two women went silent after Leonard spoke. Pearl’s father had expressed that he did not want to donate his bone marrow.

Leonard was a complete stranger. There was no reason for him to donate his either.

Jessica was stunned at what Leonard said. His words hit home, and it was something she was extremely frustrated about. However, she could not find the words to say anything about it.

Chapter 107 A Plea For Help

Jessica’s dejection had Elizabeth launched a final appeal to Leonard.

“Mr. Johnson, could you please help my friend? Pearl’s a beautiful and bright kid. If we don’t find a bone marrow donor soon, she’ll only have half a year left to live.”

As her words fell, tears welled in her eyes.

Leonard took a sip from his teacup and croaked, “This is your plight. I’m sorry, but I can’t help.”

His rejection was firm and brutal. Getting to her feet, Jessica gave him a bow and

apologized, "Sorry for taking up your time then, Mr. Johnson."

With that, she walked toward the door, utterly dispirited. Elizabeth got up hastily when she noticed Jessica's behavior.

tears.

After shooting Leonard a bitter glance, Elizabeth chased after Jessica.

"We'll think of something, Jess."

Once they were outside Leonard's condominium, Jessica leaned into Elizabeth and burst into

Jessica stammered through her sobs, "I-I thought there was h-hope for Pearl. What should I do n-now?"

Elizabeth was furious, yet she could hardly drag Leonard off to the operating theater. She felt as helpless as Jessica.

Eventually, she muttered, "The hospital is still looking for possible bone marrow donors, Jess.

There are tons of people in this world. I'm sure there's another match out there."

She paused for thought before suggesting, "Why don't you track down Pearl's father or his relatives? There's a higher chance for a match if they're blood-related."

She replied to Elizabeth, "Okay. I'll try to contact them."

She had been begging so many people for help these days that a few more hardly dented her pride.

time.

With that, both women left The Estuary, Leonard's condominium.

In the meantime, Leonard dialed Matthew's number. The line only connected after a long

"What?" A man's cold and impatient voice drifted through the receiver.

Leonard smiled and teased, "Someone's in a bad mood without his personal secretary by his side."

Nicolas had told him all about Matthew browbeating Elizabeth into working at his company.

Matthew had made her his personal secretary, stationing her in his office where he could see her day in and day out.

At the moment, Matthew was sitting in his car with Tiana, and he was suffocating from the obscene amount of perfume the woman used.

“Out with it,” he grumbled, taking out his annoyance at the perfume on Leonard.

Years of friendship had numbed Leonard to Matthew’s moods.

“Matt, do you know who came to my house just now?”

Having no interest in knowing about Leonard’ visitors, Matthew deadpanned, “I’m busy. I’m hanging up.”

“Hold on a minute. Elizabeth Wade came to my house.”

Hearing that, Leonard immediately held his tongue. As expected, Matthew did not make good on his declaration to hang up, and Leonard failed to suppress his laughter.

Leonard ribbed, “Haha! Didn’t you say you were busy? Go on, then. We can talk later.”

“Pfft,” Leonard snorted before he could help himself. Elizabeth’s the only one who can make our dear Mr. Hilton eat his words!

“Tell me,” Matthew demanded impatiently.

“She and her friend came over. They wanted me to donate my bone marrow.”

“Bone marrow?” Matthew scrunched his brows in confusion.

Leonard naturally would not agree to such a request. His present situation required him to

keep his body in tiptop condition. His job was dangerous and placed him in life-threatening

situations. Only a healthy and strong body could ensure his best chance of survival.

Leonard elaborated, "Yes. Elizabeth's friend is called Jessica, and her daughter needs a bone

marrow transplant. Honestly, I pity the woman. I almost agreed until I remembered my job

demands."

"I see. Well, I'm hanging up," came Matthew's reply.

His car had pulled into the parking space in front of the Hilton residence. Matthew led Tiana.

into the main house, and Hector's eyes rolled into his head when he saw them.

Seeing that, Chelsea shrieked in horror, "What's wrong, Hector? Do you feel unwell?"

Chapter 108 The Sham Continues

Matthew immediately glanced at Tiana after Hector's worrying reaction. Why did he faint.

after I brought over his desired granddaughter-in-law?

He and Tiana rushed over to check on Hector.

Frightened, Tiana muttered, "Hector, Hector. Are you okay?"

I'm supposed to win him over. Why is the old man reacting like this?

Matthew hovered on the side while a doctor tried to resuscitate Hector. "How is my grandfather?" he asked anxiously.

The doctor heaved a sigh of relief after completing his examination. "He'll be okay, Mr.

Hilton. Hector's breathing stuttered because he was agitated. He should recover in no time."

Upon hearing the report, Chelsea wiped her tears, worried to death over Hector's condition.

Why is he so agitated after seeing the eldest Ms. Wade? I don't know what he sees in Tiana

at all, but what can I do? Hector's weak, and whoever he wants Matthew to marry, Matthew will

bow to his every whim. I can't object to anything if I want him to stay happy and alive.

Meanwhile, Matthew took his grandfather's fainting episode as a sign of the latter's

excitement at seeing Tiana, and his expression cooled.

It seems I have to proceed with this fake marriage.

Hector eventually opened his eyes. When he saw Tiana, his eyes rolled into his head again.

Everyone panicked and yelled, "Hector!"

"Grandpal"

Hector!”

Chelsea coaxed, “Hector, your eldest grandson is home. And look, he brought his girlfriend.

home to see you. Don’t be so agitated!”

eyes.

Hector glanced at Chelsea after hearing her words. He pointed at his room and closed his

Much to their disbelief, Hector was merely tired and wished to rest. Instead of meeting the

woman he had wanted Matthew to marry, Hector chose to retreat to his room.

Chelsea summoned the housekeeper and instructed, “Send Hector back to his room to rest.”

She thought it best for Hector to avoid Tiana for the time being, lest he became agitated and

developed conditions far worse than fainting.

Under the housekeeper and the doctor’s accompaniment, Hector returned to his room.

Chelsea dried her tears as Matthew sat beside her, draping his arm around her comfortingly.

“Grandma, the doctor said Grandpa’s vitals are normal. He’ll be okay soon,” he said gently.

He knew his grandparents had a loving and lasting relationship, and neither could bear the

anguish of losing their spouse.

Nodding, Chelsea replied, "I know. He'll live to be a hundred years old."

Tiana stood aside, a box of ginseng dangling awkwardly from her arm. She was disappointed, as she had missed her chance to talk to Hector.

Noticing Chelsea's grief, Tiana gingerly sat beside the old woman and offered, "I bought some skincare products for you, Old Mis. Hilton. They're suitable for your age group."

her.

Chelsea glanced at Tiana. She looks average to me, but I can't say anything if Hector likes.

Then, Chelsea nodded lightly and mumbled, "Thank you. You're too generous."

Matthew and Tiana had dinner with Chelsea, who got up midway to check if Hector had eaten anything.

you

when I need you

When they were alone, Matthew piped up, "I'll send chauffeur for

my

to act as my girlfriend. You don't need to go to the office anymore. If you're unwilling to keep up this act, I can dissolve the contract any time."

He would not force her to proceed with this sham of courtship, even if it pleased Héctor.

Tiana was already delighted to be in his presence, and she was hardly going to relinquish any opportunity to insert herself in Matthew's life.

Hence, she sputtered, "I'm fine with keeping this up, Matthew. Perfectly fine."

Matthew raised his left hand and checked the time on his exorbitant watch.

"It's late. I'll ask my chauffeur to send you home."

Fearful of Matthew dissolving their contract, Tiana jumped to her feet and replied, "Okay, I'll

leave now, Matthew. Please call me if you need me. Anytime

Chapter 109 The Wade Family Banquet 1

Tiana received a call the minute she left the Hilton residence. The caller was her younger

cousin, Nicolette Wade. Why is she calling me today? She doesn't talk to me much in the first place.

She ignored it, and the call eventually auto declined. To her surprise, Nicolette called again.

Tiana answered it reluctantly, “Yes, Nic. What’s up?”

Nicolette was the youngest daughter of Tiana’s second uncle, Leroy Wade. She adored

Elizabeth and stuck to the latter like glue.

Consequently, Tiana disliked Nicolette. It did not help that Nicolette often referred to her as

“the mistress’ child.”

“Fels, it’s my birthday today. Why aren’t you here? Where’s my present?”

So she’s angling for a present. Tiana furrowed her brows in annoyance before replying flatly,

“How old are you? Kids can’t celebrate their birthdays. Did Grandpa allow you to hold a party?”

Michael believed in the virtue of frugality. As such, younger members of the Wade family

were not allowed to hold birthday parties. Tiana herself had never had a birthday party, though

she was already twenty-three.

The thought filled Tiana with indignance. The socialites frequently gossiped about her,

claiming that Michael disliked her.

Tiana’s protests fell on deaf ears because these socialites had attended a party held by

Elizabeth for her eighteenth birthday.

Nicolette merely insisted, “I’m eighteen, Fels. I’m an adult now. Anyway, be here as soon as possible!”

With that, she hung up, and Tiana cursed out loud, “This brat! I can’t believe she hung up on

1. Where are her manners?”

Then she received an address from Nicolette.

Meanwhile, Elizabeth sat beside Nicolette at the latter’s party. Six years had passed, but her relatives hardly changed at all.

Her aunts wore blinding amounts of jewelry, while her uncles, rather unfortunately, developed beer bellies and thinning hair. Otherwise, they mostly looked the same.

Nicolette had always been close to Elizabeth, and she made Elizabeth promise to attend her eighteenth birthday party.

“You should eat more, Lizzy. Look at how thin you are!” Nicolette prattled as she filled Elizabeth’s bowl with food.

Nicolette’s mother, Francine, smiled. She mock-chastised her daughter, “What do you know,

Nic? Your cousin's trying to maintain a figure. You're still young. We can't eat as much as you without worrying about our weight."

With that said, Francine began filling her daughter's bowl with food. In truth, Elizabeth was not eating less to watch her figure.

She lost her appetite after witnessing Leonard's rejection of Jessica's pleas. Jessica even went on her knees! I can't forget how sad she looked. I need to think of a way to help her.

From opposite Elizabeth, Celine eyed her stepdaughter unhappily.

Celine's rage ballooned when she recalled the beating she had taken the other day.

Pettily, Celine asked, "Why didn't you bring your triplets over today, Lizzy? They should try the dishes here. The taste is exquisite."

Nicolette's birthday party took place at Amaranthine, a restaurant with a long history in Mistwood. Rumor had it that royal cooks founded the restaurant, and its excellent culinary offerings kept it in business for centuries.

Accordingly, Amaranthine's food came with a high price tag. Each dish easily cost hundreds.

Silence descended upon the table at Celine's question. Elizabeth's triplets were a taboo topic

in the Wade family; her illegitimate pregnancy had infuriated Michael to no end,

Michael went from pampering Elizabeth to shunning her from the family. He would not

accept Elizabeth back into the family despite her attendance at Nicolette's party. He evidently

saw the triplets as a stain on the Wade family's good name.

The Wade family's patriarch was a proud man. Celine's frequent mentions of Elizabeth's

children screwed up the latter's chances of returning to the family.

Elizabeth merely replied, "The kids are too rowdy. I wouldn't want them to disturb the aunts

i and uncles with their chatter."

Chapter 110 The Wade Family Banquet 2

Nicolette refused to let Celine get away with her snide comment. I invited Lizzy to my party,

and I won't let anyone bully her.

Nicolette asked, "Aunt Celine, when is your daughter coming? Did she claim she was busy

because she didn't want to give me a present?"

She changed the conversation topic to divert attention from Elizabeth's affairs.

She had been too young to understand what had happened back then. Over the years, she

pieced things together from gossip by the other Wade family members. Nicolette learned the

Ashtons kicked Elizabeth out of the house over her teenage pregnancy. Her elder cousin went missing shortly after that.

Nicolette would have remained in the dark if her mother had not mentioned Elizabeth's return. She and Francine tracked Elizabeth down and invited her to the party.

Nicolette had been ecstatic to see Elizabeth again. She missed the latter dearly over the years.

Meanwhile, Celine eyed her husband, whose displeasure was palpable. She had spent years.

badmouthing Elizabeth, ensuring his support for her and Tiana.

Richard firmly believed that Elizabeth was a shame to him and the Wade family. He would never help her out of such an awkward situation.

Celine replied to Nicolette, "Tia went to her boyfriend's place. She'll be here after their dinner."

She grinned from ear to ear, looking like the cat that ate the canary.

Her response piqued the Wade family's curiosity. "Tia has a boyfriend? That's fast."

"Weren't we talking about shortlisting some potential in-laws for Tia? How did things progress so quickly?"

Elizabeth's third aunt, Christina Woods, chimed in, "Who is he? Why didn't she bring him

She grinned from ear to ear, looking like the cat that ate the canary.

Her response piqued the Wade family's curiosity. "Tia has a boyfriend?

That's fast."

"Weren't we talking about shortlisting some potential in-laws for Tia? How did things progress so quickly?"

Elizabeth's third aunt, Christina Woods, chimed in, "Who is he? Why didn't

she bring him over to visit us? We should help Tia to vet this man."

"Yeah! Does he come from a rich family? If he's from an average background, it would be prudent to give her relationship a second thought."

Christina, who was also Celine's younger sister, piped up, "You should

remind Tia not to become blinded by love. Otherwise..."

The warning came out unbidden as Christina recalled Elizabeth's past.

Deciding to spare the latter's dignity, Christina abruptly stopped herself from

blatantly mentioning her niece's sordid past. Instead, Christina merely shot

Elizabeth a disdainful glance.

Celine was just waiting for them to ask about Tiana's boyfriend.

She deliberately built the suspense by answering, "They seem to like Tia a

lot. She's visited his family home twice, but we haven't met him yet. We'll see how it goes."

Celine's smug expression intrigued the Ashtons, and someone urged, "Who

is he, Aunt Celine? Come on, don't leave us hanging!"

After shooting Elizabeth a cold glance, Celine announced loudly, "She's

seeing the Lowens' son, Matthew Hilton."

A second of silence ensued. Then, everyone exclaimed in unison, "Matthew

Hilton?"

They exchanged glances among themselves, disappointment flooding their

souls. The other Ashtons had been dreaming of their daughters marrying into the

Hilton family. Now it seemed they had lost their chance,

Lucky Tia! She started as the mistress' kid. Now, she's the Wade family

heiress and poised to marry into the wealthy Hilton family. It's the stuff of

fairytale!

"Congratulations, Celine!"

"Tia is such a lucky girl!"

Elizabeth watched as her relatives fell all over themselves to butter up

Celine.

Christina exclaimed, "Your future is brighter than ever, Celine. Such a lovely

son-in-law! You'll be the subject of everyone's envy!"

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She glanced at her daughter, Rachelle Wade, as she expressed her

compliments. Hmph! My daughter's more beautiful and intelligent than Tiana.

Why isn't she this lucky?

Rachelle averted her gaze and pretended not to hear a thing.

Just then, Tiana entered the restaurant. She placed a branded shopping bag in front of Nicolette and wished her, "Happy birthday, Nic!"

Nicolette appraised the gift and grudgingly commended her generosity.

"Thank you, Fels," she replied.

Then Tiana sat beside Elizabeth, occupying the seat everyone had left empty out of scorn for the shunned woman.