

Chapter 784 Silly To Trust It

Westley planned to explore the world with Gabrielle. His initial goal was to make her happy and improve her experience.

Westley didn't believe it was vital to go there then because Gabrielle was weary. He didn't mind, and he would wait till she was ready. There was no point in forcing her.

"We're not going until you want us to," Westley said as he wrapped his arm over her shoulder.

"That's fine."

"Gabrielle, you're correct. And if you want to go anywhere, just let me know. I'll take you to the most charming and nicest destination. It's all on me, and I guarantee to make your travel a nice one," Alexis promised.

He was reputed to be good at his job, and he could easily demonstrate his sincerity to Westley and Gabrielle.

"I know that."

"It's wonderful to see you laughing and joking. Lunch is nearly ready. Let us head to the dining room." Cowan, the master of the household, made the invitation after seeing how happy they were.

"You'll have to accept our heartfelt thanks for your efforts in preparing the supper, Mr. Schmidt." Alexis was the first to rise and make his way to the dining room. He said that purposefully as he went past Cowan.

"Mr. Williams, you're welcome. It is an honor for me to cook lunch for you. The proudest part of it will be if you love it." Cowan followed them and sat with them.

Westley and the others went to the dining room. The chef had already started serving the food.

Because the food ingredients in this type of establishment were limited, the meals were not extremely varied, but they were all in excellent color, scent, and flavor combination. The mere sight of them would make one's mouth water. There were quite a few cuisines to choose from as compared to those from the regular family.

"The food has been served. Let's eat some food. Then, we'll venture deep into the forest," Cowan added as he looked at them.

"It's snowing fiercely today, Mr. Schmidt. Are you still planning on taking us into the woods?" Alexis was puzzled.

Cowan was astounded but then smiled. "Actually, Mr. Williams, you don't have to be too concerned about that. The resistant system of the snow forest is strong. Even if Snowland gets a lot of snow, it won't have much of an influence here. So you may be very confident."

Although such nonsense seemed unconvincing, what he claimed was accurate. This forest's capacity to survive blizzards was greater than that of the outside, yet it was still impossible to say that there was no risk at all.

"In snow forest, there is a rigorous security system. We don't need to be concerned about anything, but if you don't believe me, we may remain here for a day and then go hunting in the forest after the snow tomorrow. This is okay with me. It all depends on your point of view. Furthermore, you are the Schmidt family's most important guests, and everything should be done with your preferences in mind," Cowan told them in a moderate and generous tone.

"Actually, there is no need. We'll try it out today. If there's nothing huntable, we'll have to give up," while scooping up food for Gabrielle's dish, Westley addressed indifferently.

Westley's strategy was straightforward. They would complete hunting early and thus depart from the forest and the Schmidt family sooner.

"Since Mr. Morris suggested it, we should go to the forest this afternoon." Cowan wholeheartedly agreed with Westley. He desired that they all visit the forest today.

"Mr. Schmidt should handle it. We don't have any problems." Westley continued to assist Gabrielle with the food, oblivious to Cowan and the others.

"Have you ever hunted in the depths of a forest in winter, Gabrielle?" Abigail felt uneasy as she saw Westley take such excellent care of Gabrielle in their presence. Could the two put an end to it? Was it really essential to flaunt it in front of her?

"No, I haven't done so. Before, I had few opportunities to hunt in the winter. Unlike you Miss Schmidt, you were born in Snowland and have plenty of time to spend in the snow forest," Gabrielle responded humbly.

Even though she had no intention of making Abigail appear more arrogant in front of them, this lady just desired that all women in the world be inferior to her.

"So, since you don't have much hunting expertise, instead of joining us, you may consider staying in the building to relax on such a snowy day. I'm worried you'll be in danger." Abigail acted as though she cared for Gabrielle.

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"Miss Schmidt, I appreciate your compassion, but I still want to be a part of it. It would be a shame if I did not go winter hunting while we are here in the snow forest. I'm not sure if I'll be able to return to Snowland in the future. Furthermore, Mr. Schmidt stated that no matter how deep the snow is outside, it will be safe in the forest. Miss Schmidt, don't you trust the Schmidt family's security system?" Gabrielle was skilled at deflecting queries to someone.

When confronted with such a question, Abigail couldn't deny the Schmidt family's security system, which was rated as world-class. If she disputed it, it would be like smacking her family in the face.

Of course, Abigail wasn't stupid enough to do that. Hence, she had no choice but to repress her very unpleasant feeling.

Gabrielle was a harder lady than she had anticipated. She was quite proficient at appearing to be someone who was not threatening. A lady like her, who could make Westley fascinated, certainly had something special.

Gabrielle was underestimated.

"You are correct, Mrs. Morris. Of course, the Schmidts' snow forest is secure. There has never been an accident here in so many years." Cowan spoke on behalf of his sister. At this point, Abigail was still seeking to purposely provoke Gabrielle.

Cowan realized after a quick observation that Gabrielle was not an easy woman to deal with. He couldn't approach her directly, so he used periphrastic language instead. In any case, she could marry Westley and be far from a simpleton.

Abigail was far too anxious about it. It may anger Gabrielle if she pushed it too far, and they might become suspicious.

"I am relieved because I have faith in the Schmidt family's abilities. You will not disappoint us. This winter hunting in the snow forest will undoubtedly be remembered fondly." Gabrielle's mouth twitched with a grin.

In the snow forest, nothing ever occurred. Who would be so naive as to believe such nonsense?

Chapter 785 Calm Before Storm

Well, Gabrielle wasn't a fool, nor anyone who was present here.

Therefore, they all knew that Cowan was defending for the reputation of his family so that they wouldn't blame him.

As long as they knew what Cowan was doing, they would be fine.

In a calm voice, Cowan said, "Of course, I won't let you down. This will be a memorable trip that you will never forget."

In fact, he was secretly implying something. This trip would definitely be a trip that Westley, Gabrielle and the others wouldn't forget. However, he didn't say whether it would be a good trip or not. After all, the things that would happen after they entered the woods weren't his business at all.

As if he couldn't wait to go hunting, Alexis said with a smile, "We are really looking forward to it. Thank you, Mr. Schmidt, this trip is going to be a special one."

"Well, let's have lunch first. After that, we'll take a rest and then set off." Seeing the expectant looks on their faces, Cowan was satisfied.

Actually, this was exactly what he wanted. The more expectant they were about the trip, the more hurtful they would feel when they found out about his real plan.

When they finished having lunch, they went back to their rooms that Cowan had prepared for them.

Since they would be in the woods for three days and four nights or maybe even longer, they needed a room to rest.

Cowan was surprised to see that everyone returned back to the living room once they finished checking their rooms. With wide eyes, Cowan asked, "Aren't you guys going to take a rest in your rooms first?"

Alexis took a look at his watch before saying, "We have plenty of time to take a rest in the evening. It's already one o'clock. So, when are we going to set out, Mr. Schmidt?"

Looking at them, Cowan raised his eyebrows and asked, "Actually, we will set out at two o'clock. You guys know how to use shotguns, right?"

"Of course." In fact, Cowan didn't need to worry about that at all as it wasn't their first time to hunt in winter. Therefore, all of them were very proficient in using shotguns.

Looking at Cowan with a grim smile, Alexis said, "But Mr. Schmidt, it usually gets dark soon in winter, maybe before six. If we set out only at two o'clock, don't you think it's easy to get lost in the woods when the night falls?"

Hearing his words, Cowan was stunned for a moment before he composed himself and smiled.

Showing them the temporary camp locations on his tablet, Cowan said calmly, "Yes, Mr. Williams. That's exactly what I wanted to tell you next. As you know, this is just a temporary camp site in the snow forest. So, if you get separated from the group or run into some kind of accident, you can go to the nearest camp. You don't have to worry about danger because we have supplies there."

Nodding his head, Alexis requested, "Well, it seems that it's safe here. Can you please send the map to us later, Mr. Schmidt?"

Looking each and every one of them, Cowan reminded, "Sure, I will send you the map of the whole forest later. Once we enter the woods, please be careful and stay close so that you won't get lost."

In a calm voice, Alexis said, "Of course." Even though he didn't like Cowan, he had been looking forward to this winter hunting. In fact, he might be the second most exciting person here beside Gabrielle.

"So, what are we waiting for? Let's just go right now. Why bother waiting till two o'clock, Mr. Schmidt?" Of course, Alexis couldn't wait to go hunting.

Looking at them, Cowan asked, "So, do you all want to set out earlier too?"

Nodding their heads, everyone agreed, "Yes, let's set out now."

Since everyone was agreeing, Cowan had no choice but to agree. "Okay, let's get ready and set off then."

After asking the workers to bring them the shotguns, they were given an outdoor backpack which contained the supplies that they needed.

Looking at everyone, Cowan said, "Everyone, take your things and let's go."

With a wide grin on his face, Alexis said excitedly, "Finally, let's go hunting! I am going to be the best hunter!"

When they got out, they were met with the sight of ten motorcycles which were accompanied by several workers.

Since two people could ride the motorcycle, Cowan took Abigail, Westley took Gabrielle, Jonas took Joseph and Alexis rode alone.

In a serious voice, Westley reminded Gabrielle, "Hold me tightly and don't let go, Gabrielle. Although it doesn't hurt much in the snow, it's easy to fall down. So, be careful, okay?"

Nodding her head, Gabrielle promised, "I know. I won't let go."

However, Westley reminded again, "Just hold me tight, okay?"

Gabrielle held Westley's waist with one hand and patted his shoulder with the other as if she was riding a horse and shouted excitedly, "Let's go hunting now!"

Starting the motorcycle, Cowan reminded, "So, let's get ready to go. Follow me closely so that you don't get lost. When we get deep inside the woods, we can hunt separately."

When Cowan started the motorcycle, the snow beside him splashed as if he did it on purpose. Then, he was gone within seconds.

At that time, Alexis shouted in excitement, "Let's go, Westley."

Pulling on his snow goggles, Westley started the motorcycle and drove ahead as Gabrielle held him tightly.

In fact, Westley was good at driving any kind of vehicles.

In an instant, Gabrielle wrapped her arms around his waist and shouted, "Snow forest, here we come!"

Beside them was Alexis who drove alone excitedly. Suddenly, he stood up from the motorcycle and shouted at Gabrielle, "Isn't this exciting? Aren't you happy, Gabrielle?"

Even though Gabrielle wanted to stand up and have a try like him, she didn't dare to do so. After all, this was her first time riding on a motorcycle in the snow field. Besides, Westley was driving very fast so she didn't have the guts to do so.

In an excited voice, Gabrielle screamed, "Yes!"

Hearing it, Alexis shouted at Westley, "Westley, can't you see that Gabrielle is very happy? You have to speed up!"

When Westley heard his words, he asked Gabrielle loudly, "Do you want me to drive faster, Gabrielle?"

After hearing what Alexis just said, Gabrielle was even more excited. Therefore, she shouted, "We can drive faster than this? Yes, of course! Let's race Alexis!"

"Okay then. I'll speed up. Hold on tight and don't let go. Also, don't stand up okay? I don't want you to fall down, honey." After reminding Gabrielle again, Westley sped up.

Chapter 786 Race

Gabrielle was excited. It was her first time riding a snow motorbike.

Westley was driving steadily and fast. Gabrielle, who had been afraid and scared at first, finally mustered her confidence and stood up, although she still had her arms securely wrapped around Westley's neck.

"Gabrielle, you must keep your grip tight. Please don't let go of me. Take care!" Westley yelled as he slowed his pace. He didn't want Gabrielle to go down.

"Don't worry, Westley. I'm going to be OK. Don't give up. We must defeat Alexis!" Gabrielle clearly saw that Westley had slowed down. With this pace, how could they ever catch up with Alexis? She felt a little nervous.

"Then clutch me tightly. I'm going to pick up the pace." Westley increased his speed to appease Gabrielle.

"I'm clutching you tightly, honey! Come on! Let's go! Let's go!" Gabrielle exclaimed with glee.

"I'll then pick up the pace." Westley accelerated after saying that.

They were on their way to catching up with Alexis. When Alexis saw Westley had accelerated, he drove even faster.

Following that, they engaged in a race.

"We can't lose, Cowan!" When Abigail noticed that everyone was speeding up, she instantly urged Cowan to do the same.

Alexis and Westley had outpaced them, which made Abigail nervous because she had always wanted to win at everything. She was determined to win.

She couldn't possibly lose!

"Cowan, we can't lose to them; it would be humiliating!" Abigail went on.

Cowan had the same idea. How could they lose to foreigners on their own turf?

"Hold on, Abigail." Abigail was reminded.

"Gabrielle! Let's hold a contest. In front of the winner, the loser will concede defeat and say that she is useless in front of my grandfather!" Abigail yelled at Gabrielle.

Gabrielle was rendered speechless. What was the matter with Abigail? She was always striving to be the best at everything.

It was so juvenile.

"Gabrielle, do you have the courage to compete with me? Then simply acknowledge defeat. Acknowledge that you are not as good as I am!" Abigail kept yelling at her.

"I'm never defeated. Miss Schmidt, I apologize, but my husband is so good that we can't lose," Gabrielle calmly answered.

Abigail's expression abruptly shifted, and she scowled at Gabrielle.

"Gabrielle, then show me what you're capable of. If you lose, you must accept that you are not as good as I am! Let's go, Cowan." Abigail clutched Cowan's waist and implored him to speed.

She couldn't possibly lose, especially when it came to her dignity.

"All right, I'll show them what it's like to be a professional racer." Cowan accelerated to catch up with them.

"Cowan, we must outperform them. Let everyone witness what the Schmidts are capable of, and I want Gabrielle to concede defeat in front of me." Abigail wanted Gabrielle to admit she was better than her.

Gabrielle didn't mind if they won, but she didn't like how proud Abigail was.

"Are we going to lose, honey? Can we go faster?" Gabrielle stroked Westley's shoulder.

Westley didn't respond to her question, but he noticed Cowan following them in the rearview mirror. Of course, he wasn't going to give them a chance, so he stepped on the gas.

Gabrielle tightened her grip on Westley's waist as she felt she was about to be thrown off.

"Are you terrified, Gabrielle?" Westley asked, concerned because he sensed she was scared.

"It's all right. You have the option to accelerate." Gabrielle was no longer disturbed.

"Okay, I'll pick up the pace again. Keep your grip tight. Simply ask me to stop if you are uncomfortable. Okay?" Westley reminded her with seriousness. After all, Gabrielle's safety was always his top priority.

"I understand. They're coming. Hurry up!" Gabrielle turned to face Cowan and Abigail, who were behind them. They were on their way to catching up with them.

Gabrielle couldn't give up so easily now that the race had begun. If they won, she'd be able to witness Abigail accept defeat in

front of her. Gabrielle was overjoyed about the prospect.

"Honey, come on! We have to win!" Gabrielle exclaimed cheerfully.

Westley's passion was rekindled by her roar, and he accelerated once more.

"You're doing fantastic, honey! We will undoubtedly win. Come on, honey!" Gabrielle kept cheering for him.

Although Westley was unfamiliar with the terrain, he was an excellent driver and drove fast and steadily.

Abigail had no idea Westley was so skilled at driving that they couldn't pass him.

It would be a pity to lose to Gabrielle and Westley in this manner.

She couldn't give up.

"Cowan, let's get this over with. Isn't there a short distance to the camp?" Abigail devised a workaround.

In any case, there was no requirement that they get at the camp through the main route. They could take the shortcut, but it would be risky and simple to get lost for anyone unfamiliar with the woods.

Cowan and Abigail, on the other hand, were familiar with the snow forest like the palm of hand.

In any case, as long as they could win, they didn't worry if they used certain techniques. They feared that they wouldn't be able to win Westley if they took the main path.

"Abigail, it's a little risky." Abigail was reminded by Cowan.

The snow on the mountain was fairly thick after a couple of strong snowfalls. Only when the snow was cleared off the road could it be driven safely. It would be perilous if they took the shortcut.

"It's all right, Cowan. We've taken it many times before, so it'll be alright. We're already familiar with the woods." Abigail was unconcerned about it. She was just interested in winning.

"All right, let's take the easy way." Cowan turned a corner and drove to the shortcut without hesitation. He was familiar with the forest, so he didn't believe they'd be in any danger.

Chapter 787 This Is Murder

The forest was extremely large. Since it was all covered in snow, it was hard to tell the directions. The Schmidts, on the other hand, had grown up in the woods and were intimately familiar with the area.

It was completely safe for them to wander here.

But for outsiders, a planned route should be followed for safety purposes. They couldn't risk going off the route, or they might tumble into a pit, get lost, or possibly die. It was dangerous.

"Westley, it looks like they're going in a different direction. Are they taking a shortcut?" Gabrielle noticed that Cowan, who had been trying to catch up with them, had driven into the woods until they disappeared from her sight. She could hear the sound of the engine getting lower and lower, which meant they were getting further and further away from them.

It meant only one thing, they took the shortcut. How cunning.

There were several ways to get to the camp, but this was the safest.

"What should we do?" Gabrielle looked at Westley and asked worriedly.

"We should stick on the main road since it's the safest. This is their territory, and they know the area best. The Schmidts could afford to take the shortcut without risk, but we can't. My only priority is to get there and keep you safe," Westley calmly explained.

Gabrielle blushed hearing Westley's words. However, she guessed right about those two.

"I knew something was off about them. They knew we aren't familiar with this place so they took a shortcut! Imagine being this desperate to win." Gabrielle fumed.

"They went too far now. They even took a shortcut just to win. We should go for it as well. We can't lose to them." Alexis backed his motorcycle and stayed on their side. He was visibly pissed off by what Cowan and Abigail had done.

"Should we take a shortcut?" Westley looked at Alexis and asked in a disagreeing tone.

"Yes, they took one, so why can't we?" Alexis scoffed.

"How well do you know this area?" Westley glanced at him and asked seriously.

Alexis pursed his lips together, then shook his head. "It's my first time coming here, so I don't know much about the place."

"Since you're not familiar with it, be careful. The snow is very thick and you have no idea what's underneath. What if you fall into a pit or even a cliff? There's no reason to put your life on the line for a race," Westley said in a firm tone. He didn't want to take the risk.

"Westley, didn't Cowan give us the map of the snow forest? Maybe we could find a shorter route. There could be some directions there." Gabrielle recalled that Cowan had provided each of them a map, and she thought that they might be able to follow the directions on it.

"You're right, Gabrielle. I just checked the map and there are at least five shortcuts to the campsite, but they're not as smooth as taking the main route. The one Cowan and Abigail chose was not even the closest." Joseph flipped his map.

"You mean there's a quicker way?" Westley immediately understood.

Something was odd. If it was the quicker shortcut, why didn't Cowan take it? It was either they forgot about it or there was a scary reason why they avoided it.

"There is one, but it seems to be the most dangerous route. It's probably the reason why they didn't choose to go down there. They didn't want to be in danger," Joseph calmly said.

Westley's hunch was right. No wonder Cowan and Abigail didn't take it.

"Could you show me a three-dimensional map of the area? I'd want to know how dangerous it is." An idea flashed into Westley's mind.

Joseph knew what he was thinking. He nodded and showed Westley the map.

It looked crazy. There were several cliffs and the trail had many twists and turns.

"Westley, what do you think? Although it could get us to the finish line faster, it'd be a huge risk. There are so many curves and slopes, so it's going to be dangerous. We have to be careful since the road is covered in snow." Joseph reminded him.

"Interesting. I have driven on roads like this before." Westley seemed unbothered by what he just heard.

The roads in Italy and Switzerland were even more dangerous than this one. He remembered how challenging they were when he visited previously.

It made him feel confident.

"Honey, it looks dangerous. Let's just take the main road." Fearing for Westley's safety, Gabrielle objected. She didn't want Westley to get hurt.

"Gabrielle, it's a piece of cake for me. I've driven on roads far more dangerous than this one. But if you're worried, we can continue with the main road. I don't mind losing the race at all. Your safety is always my first concern." Westley smiled as he looked at her.

"I want to say the same thing. It's best if we don't get greedy and just stay on course." Gabrielle nodded.

They didn't care about the race anyway.

"Mr. Morris, a little heads up! There is a fallen tree on the road ahead, so you can't take this route for now. I'm afraid you have to wait until my coworkers remove the tree." One of the workers here rode a motorcycle to catch up with them and warned them about the tree.

"How long will it take?" When Alexis heard this, he had a gut feeling that it wasn't an accident.

A big tree fell across the road just as they were about to pass it?

"It will take at least a dozen minutes. The tree is really big, and we are doing our best to remove it. I'm very sorry for the inconvenience. I believe the tree fell during that storm. We thought that the tree next to it could hold the weight, but it turns out we were wrong. Fortunately, no one was injured," the worker explained clearly.

"Is it just a coincidence? Why didn't you do anything about it? Are you supposed to deal with it after someone gets killed by the tree? You should have checked the place right after that storm. That equates to murder!" Alexis yelled, looking angrily at the worker.