

Chapter 83 Dispute

The covetous and sleazy way Alick stared at Celia made her skin crawl and she had to tamp down the urge to slap some senses back into him.

Unfortunately, the canteen was a public place and she couldn't afford to get into a fight on her first day of work. Sucking in her lips, Celia managed to swallow her anger. When she finally replied, her tone was even and devoid of any emotion. "Even if my husband doesn't have as much money as you, he is a thousand times better than you."

Alick was insistent. "I'm handsome and rich. Why won't you choose me?"

"You have a dubious character."

Celia's tone was brisk and unapologetic.

Her eyes that stared Alick down were proud and held a hint of disdain for him.

"I don't want to get cheated on again."

Red tinged Alick's cheeks, and he fought hard to maintain his composure. Even though he tried not to feel it, he couldn't help but be embarrassed by her snide comment.

"I cheated on you? It was because of your holier-than-thou attitude. You refused to sleep with me! We were adults. You had needs as much as I did. So drop the act!"

Derek chose that moment to walk over and join them.

Celia looked at the bill in his hand and asked, "What did you order? How much does it cost? I'll give the money back to you."

Before Celia could get a glimpse of the bill, Derek put it in his pocket and waved her offer away with a smile. "I didn't order too much and the food here is not expensive. Besides, lunch is on me."

"No, I can't let you pay."

Celia took out her phone and insisted on paying him.

Derek's fingers covered the screen of her phone, halting Celia's attempts. "Cece, just accept it. As I said earlier, food is cheap here. I won't go bankrupt if I pay for your meal."

Celia tried to pay for her own food, but Derek remained adamant and refused to accept the money, so she had no other choice but to accept his offer.

"Thank you, Derek," Celia murmured politely.

"It's not a big deal. We'll be colleagues from now on. You don't have to be so formal with me." Derek's reply was less formal but just as genial.

Sitting across from them and completely forgotten, Alick watched their interaction with growing anger. They were so wrapped up in their conversation that neither of them gave him a chance to make a comment.

Cheeks ruddy with embarrassment, he got up and was about to leave when he saw Kiley walking over to them. She pointed at the seat beside him and asked, "The canteen is so crowded today. Is this seat taken?"

There was a smile on her face, but it was stiff and fake.

If Celia had a choice, she wouldn't be having any conversation whatsoever with Kiley. However, since it was her first day at work, she couldn't afford to make a scene of any kind. "No, it's not," she answered in a neutral voice.

The two men said nothing now that Celia had made her decision.

The second Kiley sat down, she turned curious eyes on Celia. "Cece, what's your relationship with Mr. Watson and Mr. Juarez? It seems like you all knew each other before today."

Her wide smile failed to fool Celia. She was well aware that Kiley was up to no good.

"We attended the same college," she replied curtly.

"Really? But the way I saw Mr. Juarez holding you in the corridor made me think you were a couple," Kiley declared in an exaggerated show of surprise.

Shock and doubt warred for dominance on Derek's face as he stared at Celia.

For a second, Celia wanted to explain that Alick was harrasing her, but then she remembered that she wanted her first day of work to be scene free and bit back the words. Besides, this was definitely not an occasion to delve into such a topic. "You were mistaken." That was all she told Kiley.

Alick, who saw this as an opportunity to get back in Celia's good books, quickly added, "Yeah, you were mistaken. Cece and I were just catching up."

After setting Kiley straight, Alick turned to Celia and graced her with a smarmy smile, but Celia paid him no attention.

In fact, at that very moment, Celia was concluding in her mind that something was wrong with his brain. A moment ago, he tried so hard to piss her off. But now he was trying to please her. This man just had no shame.

Kiley said nothing more after that. Deep down, she believed that Celia really had a way with men. Somehow she had successfully snared two of the most handsome men in the design department!

The one thing she wanted more than anything was to expose Celia's true colors to the world. A shameless slut like her needed to be taught a lesson.

