

Master Odell 2001

Chapter 2001

Both Max and the assistant director heard the strangely flirtatious tone in Decker's voice and turned to look at Isabel.

Isabel scoffed, "It's hard to forget you. You hit my face so bad that it swelled up like a tumor was growing on my face."

In all her life, her parents had never raised their hand against her even once, then there was this man who had practically abused her! Decker frowned and expressed wryly, "Isabel, you were the one who was too impulsive at the time. You almost ruined my carefully devised plan. I didn't have time to explain to you, so that's the only thing I could have done. I only wanted you to calm down."

Isabel nearly rolled her eyes back into their sockets.

She might have lost her memory then, but she was no idiot! How dare he try to manipulate her again! She said snappily, "I'm not in the mood to listen to your pathetic explanation. Why don't you let me just slap you in the face and then scram?"

Decker stiffened briefly.

Max, the assistant director, and the two assistants that came with Decker were entirely dumbfounded by this interaction they were witnessing.

They did not know what to do with themselves.

Should they stay? Should they leave? Should they say something? Decker cast a quick look at them and flashed a perfunctory smile.

He addressed them at last, "Guys, I'd like to speak to Isabel in private for a moment. Would you two mind stepping out for a moment?"

"Oh. Sure, sure."

than willing to oblige and went out of the box

of Decker's assistants proceeded to head

with a gentle thud,

up to

expression, then he pursed

a tender glow in his eyes as he lowered his voice to a tired whisper, "Isabel, in these five years that

frowned and felt physically

were engaged five years ago. Shouldn't you be

said curtly,

you still

her body and asked accusingly, "Does your dear fiancée know that you came all the way

affairs are none of her

"You sure have

the keys to the Rockwell business empire. If you come back to my side, I can give you everything you'll ever want," he said with an earnest

eyes to the truth, Isabel might have let herself be

yeah?" she asked just to amuse

Decker smirked.

"Of course." She chuckled.

want you to break off your engagement with your fiancée and

Chapter 2002

With that, Isabel prepared to open the door and leave.

"I'll pull back the investment. Don't try me!" Decker said in a guttural growl.

She turned back to him, noticing the vicious look in his eyes. It looked like he was going to strangle her to death right then and there. She said dismissively, "We have more than enough funds, so we don't need your money. Do whatever you want. I don't care."

Decker took a deep breath and threatened her again with whatever he could come up with, "I will ruin your reputation and sabotage your career. Do you think I won't do that to you?"

Isabel broke out in amused laughter.

"I don't believe you."

He was certainly not the first one to try; many had tried and failed in the past.

Decker stiffened. He was abashed by Isabel's wild laughter and how confident she seemed, even when her career was being threatened.

This was not the same person he knew—the gentle, doting, and kind girl who was attached to him like a parasite.

the past few years got to her head and inflated her ego? Was this the result of her

was when he growled again, "Isabel, aren't you

successful celebrity, any of her contemporaries would have bent over backward to get on his good side because he was at the

have yet to recover her memory, she might have been intimidated, but

"Decker, just to remind you,
that, she strode
and two of
emerging, they quickly went up to
"Isabel, are you okay?"
already? Are you not going to
while answering Max, "The deal is called off.He's going to pull back the
Max was dumbfounded.
assistant director exclaimed wildly, "What? How
the shoulder, hinting to him to drop the matter.He sighed
rather clear to him that Decker was her ex-boyfriend, and that they had
an excuse to see Isabel again.His calling off the deal also meant that the novel's two were unable
to make up.It was unreasonable

Chapter 2003

Inside the private box overlooking the parking lot, Decker had just wiped his face clean of the wine
Isabel had splashed on him.
He stood by the window and watched silently as Isabel's car pulled out of the lot.His eyes were dark and
ponderous.He suddenly grinned and said to himself, "Isabel, you are full of surprises."
He had been missing her day and night for the last five years.
The girl had cast a spell on him.
In the past five years, he had got involved with countless beautiful women, all of them no less beautiful
than Isabel.
And yet, none of them managed to seize his heart the way she did.
Sometimes at night, when he was by himself at night, he would miss her to the point of losing his mind.
Then, he found out that she was active in Westchester.He made time out of his busy schedule and came
here to see her.
The way he pictured it in his mind, he expected her shocked reaction upon seeing him to be a mixture of
anger and sadness.
He thought that all he needed to do was to whisper some sweet - nothings and briefly cajole her, and
that was all it was going to take for her to become his again.It was a shock to see that she wore nothing
but a scowl along with the faintest trace of a smile.
Her surprise upon seeing him barely lasted an instant.

but her smile was vicious, haughty, and
affectionate way she used to look

was completely unprecedented, but to make matters worse, she had slapped him and splashed wine on
him! She even threatened him, declaring that Westchester was her

actress who survived on her looks could possibly do to continue to secure her position in Westchester!
Isabel took Max and Marcus

dining at this place ever

a long-running history of more than

and humble establishment, its decoration

owner of the place recognized Isabel

she entered, the owner greeted her politely

bring two bottles of your best beer for my two

"Alright."

private room

two of them looked around as soon as they

director had grown

tentatively, "Isabel, is this the private restaurant run by the successor of

"I think so."

with the owner. She remembered him talking about his family hailing from

owner only serves

flashed a surprised look, then he turned to Isabel with a queer look as

Isabel nodded candidly.

"I'm a regular here."

Chapter 2004

There was hardly any traffic at this hour.

Before long, they were nearing Isabel's residence.

She sat by the window and looked outside, her mind wandering.

At one point, she spotted a handsome and familiar figure walking down the street, illuminated by the
faint glow of the streetlights.

"Slow down, Ben," she said to the driver.

The driver slowed down as he was told.

Isabel lowered the window to get a better look.

The young man was trotting down the street by himself, donned in a fitted suit.

He stood tall and handsome, his stride steady.

On a night such as this, his melancholic figure looked like a prince that had been banished from his homeland and was wandering, looking for a place to belong. He exuded a fine charm around him that was entirely captivating and unique.

Isabel wondered if she had drunk a little more than she thought.

She continued to lean out the window the longer she stared at the man until nearly her entire head was hanging out.

car drew closer

Isabel recognized him.

called

name, the man turned around and looked

Isabel cried out in shock, "It is you!

remarked, "I just

window with a puzzled

"You don't drive?"

his position and had a

did not want to buy a

"It's more convenient to

was just a short distance from the

to pass through a handful of

there was still a roughly five hundred meters walk to get to his place

logic behind this choice, but since it was his choice to

stopped beside

still leaning outside

of curiosity, "Working till late today, aren't you? Are

with a blank expression, "This is pretty much my regular hours except

a jab of guilt, as if she had been

blame on her for neglecting his duties and leaving him to take care of everything? She pinched her nose and laughed dryly, "Well,

Roland

and she blurted out, "How

Chapter 2005

Roland stopped and turned to Isabel with a glitter of light in his eyes.

Isabel crossed her hands across her chest and asked haughtily, "Do you have anything against me?"

"No," he muttered.

"Then, why have you been ignoring me?"

He did not answer.

Isabel wanted to get angry at him but could not make herself hurl more insults at him when she saw how handsome he looked.

She took a breath and said, "It's not like I want you to stay this late at the office every day. You can assign some of the work to the people under you."

Why was he trying to handle everything by himself? There were a lot of competent employees at Carter Corporation.

Roland cocked an eyebrow at her.

"Do you think I'm anything like you?"

Isabel's eyes flashed, and she seemed ecstatic to finally have something to call him out on.

"See! I knew you have something against me!"

Why else would he say something like that if he felt otherwise? He must have been used because she had left him to take care of everything.

Roland pursed his lips and made it as if he wanted to explain but was questioning if it was even worth the effort at all.

seconds, he confessed, "Yes, I do have

Isabel sighed.

that I want you to do everything for me. I just can't find time for the moment," she expressed

let her vent, then he asked,

are you thinking?"

he said, "Several important things have

immediately regretted

own business! Her whole demeanor suddenly changed, and her shoulders

go home and get some rest

"I'm not tired yet."

"But

let's just get

she could, but Roland's firm

to

all she needed to do? That seemed

breathed a sigh of

"Alright then, go on."

walking as

began, "Two days ago, we launched a new project

a

were barely near her place yet,

than a handful of times during their walk At last, they finally reached her

her eyes open

me.Let's talk about the rest next time.Make sure

Roland pursed his lips.

walked toward

Chapter 2006

It was a dreamless night.

The next morning, before Isabel's alarm had even gone off, she received a call from her manager Amanda who was supposed to still be recovering from her illness.Her shrill voice blasted through the speakers, "Isabel, what trouble did you get into this time?"

Isabel rubbed her sleepy eyes and asked in a dazed state, "What happened?"

Amanda said without the least attempt of concealing her anger, "

It's Isabella.

She managed to snatch the female lead role in the show 'Legend of the Goddess'! She also managed to steal the special guest spot on the variety show I was just talking about with you the other day!"Isabella was another celebrity who had launched into stardom several years earlier than Isabel.

However, ever Isabel's first big hit, she had always been more popular than Isabella was.

Both of them were household names in mainstream media.

Due to the extreme similarity of their names, people had always referred to them as the Isabel sisters.

The people in the circle who were in the know were all aware that the two were anything but sisters; they were rivals.

Isabella's popularity was trending upward for a while before Isabel suddenly broke into the scene.

Not only did Isabel overtake Isabella out of nowhere, but the unfortunate likeness of their names meant that most people searching for Isabella online ended up getting redirected to Isabel who was more popular instead.

were around the same age and starred in the same genres of movies, a

other which led to a

it was not surprising that these circumstances led to them essentially

the past few years, Isabella's team had tried every trick in the book to sabotage Isabel's

it that they suddenly managed to snatch a female lead role and another guest spot right from under her nose? "Isabel, are you there? What kind of

failed

eyes darkened, and her mind immediately went to what

of Isabella having a certain benefactor

there was no chance that Isabella and the person backing her could

resourceful person involved that was for some

only person who could fit these

this person I

any attempt at deflection to ease

gasped audibly before asking,

"Decker."

Decker? Why does

Southboro," Isabel clued

Amanda gasped again.

wouldn't dare to upset

ex-boyfriend and wanted to take advantage of me, so I slapped

by

Chapter 2007

Isabel pouted.

"Stop reading that." Carla was still very upset.

"But you're the one who fought for the female lead in Legend of the Goddess and the guest star spot on The Wonders.

There is no reason that she should swipe them away! So many times in the past, you could have stolen her role but you never did it even once out of common decency.

How could she do this?" Isabel gently patted her head to console her, "Everything is fine.

Don't worry about it." She was not going to let anyone take away what was hers.

Upon sensing her unusual calmness, Clara asked curiously, "Do you already have a plan?" "Not yet.

I'm thinking about it." Carla scowled.

"Then, how are you so calm?" Isabel smiled and made no further comment.

The moment Isabel arrived at the set, Max and Marcus turned to her with what seemed like a look of sympathy.

They must have found out about the latest news as well.

filming a scene, Max said as if to

I come up with the script for my next project,

to not get on the nerves of the wrong person in the future." This stung a nerve in Isabel, evident by her was not so much that she wanted to provoke people, but she could not help it if some

The day passed quickly.

to head home, she checked her phone and saw messages from the director of "Legend of

the same lines, expressing how they were looking forward to working with her but that the unfortunate replacement of her role

what happened and tried to remedy things by

thanked both of

went up to

not looking

out about Isabella taking your roles, and the two fandoms are at each other's throats." Isabel frowned and promptly grabbed

an all-out

her name and Isabella's were on

roles purely

Isabella

demanded evidence, and Team Isabel delivered

paparazzi of Isabel eating at a restaurant with the directors of "Legend of the Goddess", engaged in conversation about the

with the show directors of the variety show, "The

Master Odell's Secret Ex-wife

Chapter 2008

With this in mind, Isabel instructed Carla mindfully, "Carla, go to my fan forum and tell my fans to cool it a little." Carla was about to say something when Isabel's cell phone rang suddenly.

It was Amanda, her manager.

Isabel answered promptly, "Hey, Amanda, what's the matter?" Amanda said in a voice seething with fury, "Did you see Isabella's latest post?" Isabel held her breath.

"What did she say?" "Take a look for yourself." "Okay.

" Isabel promptly hung up before swiping to her feed again.

The two fandoms were still going at it.

There was now a new topic on the trending page that read: Isabella got the role based on merit.

Isabel tapped on it and immediately saw a new post made by Isabella only several minutes ago.

It was an officially worded post that read: "Formal announcement: The female lead in 'Legend of the Goddess' and the guest star spot in 'The Wonder' were given out purely on terms of merit.

Please calm down, everyone.

Don't get manipulated by the false narrative." By merit? False narrative? No matter how you look at it, it seemed like Isabella was taking a jab at Isabel while also implying that she was mobilizing her fans on social media.

Isabel was not the only one who felt this way.

fans felt the

putting out the flames, the post only fanned the

in full force now, mocking Isabel's fans

a mirror of Isabel,

to be

and take it, so

Decker had bought the allegiance of some people in the industry because

for Isabella and uttered

said were as follows: "This has

herself has clarified things, so why hasn't Isabel said anything? Is her plan to let her fans bully Isabella's fans while she hides in the corner?" "Isabel's agent is one of

Isabella can steal the role

them because she was the better choice, plain and simple." "Isabel is probably

you look at her past performances in different variety shows, you can see that she's

personality." "Even though Isabella stars in the same type of film as Isabel,

she

show some respect to her senior." These were all comments made by the famous talking heads in the entertainment circle, which drew

the other way

enough, the consensus was that Isabel

were piling onto the drama to see how things

that Isabel had let

of the things people said about her, frowning

Chapter 2009

As time went on, more people were drawn in by the sensational drama.

"What's going on here? Isabel says she's going to handle herself.

Does this mean that it's true that Isabella stole her roles?" "Wow, don't mess with her! Isn't she worried about the netizens riling against her?" "Look at her performance in the past few years since her grand debut.

Every show she starred in is at the top of the year-end list, and the variety shows she guest stars in always see record numbers.

She's the type who speaks her mind without fear.

Do you remember that old director who was ousted as a sexual predator harassing female students? Isabel was the one who called him out publicly when she went on that variety show.

Do you think someone as tenacious as she is is going to be afraid of some measly online gossip?" "who is the one telling the truth? Isabel or Isabella?" "I don't know.

I guess we will know in time." Fans of Isabella's stormed Isabel's page after that but were eventually chased away by Isabel's loyal defenders.

Isabel swiped through the comments, then she went to the forum dedicated to her by her fans again.

She posted a message: "Everyone, take it easy, alright? Just wait for my good news." She very rarely showed up on the forum.

had spoken, everyone

of seconds, she was bombarded with

fans promised to do

the online storm had more or less

names were slowly sliding

heaved a

are you going to deal with this?" The car had

smiled and assured her with a pat on the

news." With that, she opened the

a five-star hotel, Isabella was wearing a lacy dress

sat sideways on the couch in a position that accentuated

coquettish at the handsome man sitting next

to get closer to him but was slightly

deemed a safe

to convince people that I was the one

on his phone, and he read

she would handle things herself,

think that she was popular to a point where producers and directors would bend

Chapter 2010

Isabel got out of the car and walked back into her apartment.

On her way back, Amanda had called her twice followed by several additional messages.

She frantically asked what Isabel was going to do and if she had lost her mind.

Several of her friends in the circle had been texting her as well to offer advice and support.

It would seem like there were only two options at this point.

She had to either concede to Decker or find someone more resourceful than Decker to outwrestle them.

Isabel was fully aware of this.

She lay on the couch with a tight frown zipped across her face.

She stared at her phone and considered whether she should contact Liam or her father for help.

She knew that all she needed to do was to ask and they would help her get the roles back for her.

she wanted to

want to rely on

of her to approach her family

as influential in the industry as Amanda was

the option of begging for forgiveness from Decker, her family was her

idea for a while, she reluctantly went through her

was when she received a text

okay?" She did a double-take before replying, "I'm

Roland replied, "I saw the news online." Wasn't he supposed to be

you need help?" Isabel was going to refuse

leverage the influence of Carter Corporation to take back her leading role in "Legend of the Goddess" as well as her guest star spot on "The Wonder"! With this in mind, she explained, "Roland, what they say about Isabella stealing the roles away

I need your help.

roles back for

pull it off, I promise I'll give you a giant

long and grueling ten minutes had passed, he still had

Isabel frowned.