

My Babies 161

Chapter 161 Making Her Happy

- ☒ Patricia's gaze fell on him. She could see the teasing look in his eyes.
- ☒ She gritted her teeth. Since she met him every day, he would have seen all sides of her anyway.
- ☒ She gave up. "I'm not fat, so I need to eat in order to have something to lose in the first place!"
- ☒ Having said that, she quickly plopped a mushroom croquette onto her plate and dug in happily.
- ☒ Isaac chuckled at the way she ate with so much relish.
- ☒ He liked sharing his meals with her. Watching her eat was a kind of enjoyment that seemed to whet his appetite.
- ☒ Patricia continued tucking into the food, and Isaac obligingly piled her plate full of all the various dishes on the table. Everything he ordered today was a favorite of hers.
- ☒ When she finally set her fork down, she realized how full she was and immediately felt a little guilty.
- ☒ She was stuffed! Everything was delicious, so she kept on eating without noticing that she ate too much.
- ☒ When she glanced at the plates on the table, she noticed that they were all nearly empty.
- ☒ Meanwhile, the man in front of her was drinking from his glass of water while staring at her with those dark eyes of his.
- ☒ "Are you done?"
- ☒ Patricia felt a wave of embarrassment. She said she was going on a diet, but she ended up eating far more than him.
- ☒ She was not that much of a glutton in the past. Even though she had been a foodie ever since she was a child, her enjoyment of food had waned in later years.
- ☒ For some inexplicable reason, she seemed to have regained her foodie ways ever since she started working for Isaac.
- ☒ Isaac found her conflicted expression particularly adorable. He was tempted to pinch her cheeks.
- ☒ After over a month of making her share meals with him, she seemed to have gained a bit of weight. At least, her face looked a little fuller than it used to.
- ☒ Patricia was frighteningly thin back then, so thin that it would evoke sympathy in anyone who saw her.
- ☒ Isaac thought that women should maintain a healthy weight, rather than force themselves to be so skinny. He preferred women who looked healthy.
- ☒ When the two of them exited the restaurant, they ran into a few colleagues, all of whom greeted Isaac politely.

☒ “Hello, President Arnold!”

☒ Isaac nodded briefly in acknowledgment, while Patricia flashed them a smile.

☒ Liam was waiting with the car at a nearby plaza, so Isaac headed over in that direction.

☒ Patricia tagged along behind him and took the seat next to him.

☒ Liam turned around and nodded in greeting. “President Arnold, if we leave now, we’ll arrive just before three. The auction starts at three.”

☒ Isaac nodded. His slender fingers tapped against the armrest.

☒ Soon, the car slid out of the plaza and joined the swarm of vehicles on the road.

☒ Now that Patricia was full, she was feeling a little drowsy. She woke up early this morning, so it was about time that she began to feel a little sleepy. She closed her eyes as she decided to nap for a bit.

☒ Suddenly, Isaac reached out and grabbed her hand. Patricia’s eyes flew open in shock. She glanced toward the front before struggling as hard as she could to retract her hand.

☒ Isaac refused to let go. He closed his eyes with his hand still wrapped tightly around hers.

☒ Patricia glared at him but he did not notice it at all, so she could only rage at him on the inside.

☒ Without any warning, Isaac said, “If you let me hold your hand for a bit, you’ll get a reward later. Let me know if you see anything you like at the auction. I’ll get it for you.”

☒ Patricia froze for a moment. Anything that was being auctioned off would surely be worth a tidy sum of money.

☒ It’s just holding hands, right? It’s nothing compared to what he did last time.

☒ She could almost see the dollar signs in her head now as she thought to herself, I’m going to pick the most expensive thing there! Let’s see if you’ll regret it then.

☒ Meanwhile, Liam, who was sitting in the front passenger seat, could not resist glancing at them in the rearview mirror as he thought to himself, President Arnold went through all that trouble simply because he wanted to make Miss Aniston happy by giving her a gift, but was afraid she would not accept it.

☒ He had to take her to the auction and let her pick one out herself.

☒ Isaac continued to grasp her hand tightly. There was a faint smile on his lips as he closed his eyes to rest.

☒ “Patricia, are you happy about receiving a gift?”

Chapter 162 Good to Be Young

☒ Patricia was a little thrilled to receive a gift, but it was not in her hands yet, so it was still purely hypothetical.

☒ “What’s there to be happy about? I don’t even know if there’ll be something I like.”

☒ Isaac was taken aback at first, but soon, his eyes flashed with amusement.

☒ “Miss Aniston, all the items at the auction are quite valuable. Do you mean to say that money can’t buy you happiness?”

☒ Patricia did think that money could make her happy, but it was not a given.

☒ “Ahem... I might be poor, but money can’t guarantee my happiness!”

☒ She was happy if her kids were happy! Yes, that was her ultimate source of happiness.

☒ Everything she did right now was for the sake of her three precious children.

☒ Isaac frowned. She was even refuting him now. His fingers started tapping on the armrest once more.

☒ “In that case, what I said earlier no longer applies.”

☒ Patricia turned her head to look at him. “Mr. Arnold, money does make me happy sometimes, and a man like you is a man of his word, right?”

☒ Isaac knew that she was trying to goad him into doing what she wanted, but he refused to cooperate.

☒ “Yes, I am a man of my word. That includes the last thing I said.”

☒ Patricia rolled her eyes. I knew it. He was just fooling around. He never intended to give me anything in the first place.

☒ She whipped her head back around to stare out the window as she did not want to look at him any longer. In any case, everything at the auction would be something of serious value, and she was not that greedy of a person anyway. If he was rescinding his offer, then so be it.

☒ Isaac quirked his lips when he saw her disappointment. His eyes danced with mirth.

☒ At ten past three, they arrived at a small countryside town. It was a community with a long history and was home to an enormous antique store.

☒ The auction was held at the antique store, which was actually a large compound built in a style that paid homage to Renaissance architecture.

☒ There was an entire fleet of various luxury cars parked at the entrance. Patricia followed Isaac out of the car and immediately felt a chill. The countryside was a lot colder than the city; the temperature was a lot lower and the humidity a lot higher.

☒ It was so cold that she began to shiver. Isaac glanced at her before removing his dark blue coat and draping it over her shoulders.

☒ Patricia instantly felt a surge of warmth. She turned to look at him, but he was already far ahead of her, so she pulled the coat tighter around her. It had the faint smell of his cologne, as well as a warmth that must have come from his body heat.

☒ She felt a lot better now; a lot warmer.

☒ Liam paused beside her and smiled.

☒ “You should put on more layers next time, Miss Aniston.”

☒ Patricia eyed her attire today. She wore a purple sweater paired with a pale blue dress.

☒ It was a neat and elegant look, but not a very warm one.

☒ All of the staff in the president’s office dressed very professionally, but Isaac never requested the same of her.

☒ In the beginning, she dressed just as formally as the others, but soon after that, she dressed for comfort instead.

☒ Naturally, her limited wardrobe played a part in this. If she had to dress in professional attire every day, she would go broke just from having to buy a whole new wardrobe. Therefore, she decided to switch it up with some of her favorite clothes.

☒ Patricia stared off into the distance. She spotted the handsome man in dark blue slacks that stood out among the crowd.

☒ It was especially pronounced today, as he had given her his coat, so he stood out as the least-dressed person.

☒ Patricia jogged over to him. “I’m not cold, Mr. Arnold. Here, you should take your coat back.”

☒ She was about to take it off when she heard him say coolly, “Keep it on. I feel hot.”

☒ Patricia went silent.

☒ You feel hot when it’s freezing out here? I commend you for your healthy body, Mr. Arnold. It’s much stronger than a woman like me, who has given birth before. It’s so good to be young!

Chapter 163 The Auction (1)

☒ They went through strict security at the door. Everyone had to show their invites and step through a body scanner.

☒ Patricia had attended a few auctions before, but never one that was this stringent.

☒ A female guard did a quick body search before ushering her through a body scanner. She was only allowed entry if she passed both checks.

☒ Once Patricia, Isaac, and Liam passed the security checks, they headed inward.

☒ The entrance started with a long corridor that was filled with intricate carvings and beautiful paintings.

☒ Patricia keenly observed their surroundings. It looked like it had been built for quite some time now, so it had its own historical value too!

☒ Upon arrival, they ran into numerous familiar faces. Patricia guessed that all the guests here today were among the wealthiest and most distinguished people in Appleby.

☒ Nikola and Percy were here too, and they both came over once they spotted the trio.

☒ “Isaac? I didn’t think you’d come this year.”

☒ Isaac never attended this auction in the last few years.

☒ “Are we not allowed in yet?” Isaac asked.

☒ He noticed how red Patricia’s nose was already, stark against her pale complexion. She suffered easily when it was cold.

☒ The slightest chill was enough to turn her nose and ears red.

☒ Nikola pulled his sleeve up to check his watch. “It starts at three-thirty, so the doors should open in a few more minutes.”

☒ Percy swept his eyes over the waiting crowd in the open-air lobby. “Do you think there’s anything good this year?”

☒ There were a lot of people here today. Could it be that word got out about something of significant value? It was possibly why the auction attracted such a large crowd this year.

☒ Nikola muttered lowly, “I’m bidding on a portrait of a beauty. I do like beauties!”

☒ Percy chuckled. “Do you think you’ll meet the beauty in your dreams just because you bought her portrait?”

☒ He has countless women to keep him company, but here he is eyeing one who lived in the past.

☒ Nikola cocked his eyebrow. “You don’t get it. We’ll revisit this subject if you ever learn to appreciate the arts.”

☒ Isaac stayed silent. He knew the list of items that were up for auction today as the organizer had given it to him. He never attended the past iterations of this auction, so the organizer hoped that he would this time.

☒ He had his eye on a necklace dubbed Celestial Tears. It was created during the Ancient Roman Empire and was made from precious gems that came from stars that fell to the earth as meteors.

☒ It was said that this necklace would bring good fortune to those who wore it, and would also bind two lovers together, so that they may continue to find each other and love one another throughout each and every lifetime.

☒ It was Percy’s first time attending this auction too. He was not on leave when the auction was held the past few years, so he could not attend.

☒ He looked at Isaac. “Isaac, what about you? Any insider information that you care to share?”

☒ The auction that was held here at Seneville each year was shrouded with intrigue. Most auctions would publish the list of items up for auction to draw in those who were keen to bid on them.

☒ However, the auction at Seneville was invite-only, and the items up for bidding were kept secret until the auction itself. Only those who attended would know what was on auction.

☒ Many people wished to attend but had not received an invitation.

☒ At long last, the doors were open to the crowd, and a member of the auction staff came over to make the announcement.

☒ "Please enter and proceed to take your seats."

☒ Nikola was the first to step forward. "Let's sit together!"

☒ All three of these young, wealthy men had their respective private rooms on the second floor. They could relax in comfort while keeping a close eye on the auction.

☒ Patricia was trailing behind them when she felt a tap on her shoulder.

☒ "Tricia."

☒ She turned around and was startled to see Zachary behind her.

☒ "Zachary? I didn't know you were here!"

☒ However, she chuckled as soon as she said that. After all, the Selwyns were one of the most prominent families in Appleby, so they would have received an invitation too.

☒ "Tricia, are you here with Isaac?"

☒ Zachary spotted Isaac, who was not too far away. At the same time, Isaac turned around to see where Patricia was, and their eyes met.

☒ "Yeah. I'm his secretary, so I go wherever he goes," Patricia said with a smile.

Chapter 164 The Auction (2)

☒ Just then, Madam Selwyn came over and called out icily, "Zach, the auction is about to start. We should go and take our seats."

☒ She wore a pale green dress with a white mink coat and a vintage red purse. Her hair and face were styled to perfection.

☒ Patricia nodded at her in greeting. "Hello, Madam Selwyn."

☒ Madam Selwyn nodded stiffly and began to pull Zachary by the arm.

☒ "Mom, I'm talking to Tricia! You can go on ahead first." Zachary was displeased.

☒ He had not seen her in so long and had no idea how she was doing. She was never around when he tried to look for her.

☒ It was like she was hiding from him on purpose. Since he ran into her at last today, he was determined to say a few more words to her.

☒ "Zach, don't forget why you've come today," Madam Selwyn reminded coldly.

☒ Right then, Isaac came over and called out to Patricia, "Miss Aniston, keep up."

☒ He reached out to grab her hand before pulling her up the stairs to the second floor.

☒ Zachary watched as Isaac took her away. He was a man. He knew from the way Isaac acted that he liked Patricia.

☒ But isn't that punk about to get engaged next Saturday?

☒ Madam Selwyn yanked on Zachary's arm once more. "Zach, don't you see that? She's found another wealthy suitor."

☒ Patricia followed Isaac to a private room on the second floor. Nikola and Percy were already in there, and there were two more empty seats beside them.

☒ Isaac gestured to the one at the end and said, "Sit there. Let me know if you see anything you like."

☒ Patricia was planning to take a seat with Liam at the back, but when she heard what Isaac said, she thought about it for a moment before taking a seat on the spacious armchair.

☒ They had a very good view of the auction podium from here. There were also large screens that catered to those who sat near the back, but it was a lot better to see the items themselves.

☒ The auction started at three-thirty sharp, and the first item up for bidding was the painting of a beautiful woman that Nikola had his eyes on.

☒ Quite a number of people bid on it, but Nikola won in the end. Patricia frowned slightly as she thought to herself, It must be nice to be that rich.

☒ He was ecstatic about spending 75,000 on a painted piece of canvas.

☒ Patricia did not get it at all. She could not share his enthusiasm.

☒ She thought about how even though she slaved away for the past five years, she was barely able to provide for her three children.

☒ She was working now too, having to accompany her boss to an auction.

☒ The following items up for auction were all fine china and porcelain pieces. None of the three men were interested in these, so they did not bid on anything.

☒ Next came a ruby bangle that was also an antique item from the Renaissance period. The bidding started at 15,000.

☒ Patricia had eyed the bangle. She thought about asking Isaac to get it for her if she did like it, but when she heard the five-figure opening bid, she decided against it.

☒ There was no way she could repay him for it, so she would rather not accept it.

☒ Meanwhile, Isaac sat there drinking his tea without even glancing at the podium. True enough, these items were not enough to pique his interest.

☒ Patricia began to feel a little thirsty too, so she drank some tea as well.

☒ It was green tea with a very refreshing fragrance that seemed to linger in her mouth. She quickly took another sip.

☒ All of a sudden, Percy raised his auction paddle, and the auctioneer called out, “90,000 from number fifteen. Are there any other bidders?”

☒ Isaac and Nikola both turned to look at him, and Nikola asked, “Percy, that’s a woman’s bangle. Are you getting it to give to a woman?”

☒ However, Percy did not satisfy their curiosity. He smiled faintly and said, “It’s a secret.”

☒ Seeing that no one else called out a higher bid, the auctioneer closed the bid and announced, “Item sold to number fifteen. Congratulations.”