

## Chapter 78 Xander's Friend Has His Eye on Isabel

Jessica's eyes were like saucers, wide with a mixture of awe and disbelief as she took in Lincoln's presence.

Gosh!

What had I just seen?

Lincoln, one of the top assistants in the business world, driving Reggie and Isabel around like a chauffeur, huh?

"This ... this can't be real!"

Jessica's eyes flew open like startled owls as she watched the car disappear.

In that instant, a daring idea sparked in her mind.

The idea was taking root and rapidly growing into a full-fledged plan.

"It has to be!" she muttered to herself, her disbelief slowly turning into certainty.

Why else would Lincoln be driving Reggie and Isabel? Why else would the receptionist at the company have treated her so dismissively during her interview? And why else would Lincoln have defended Isabel earlier?

And then there was the name of the company— I.Z. Corporation.

"Gosh!" Jessica was beyond shocked, her mind racing before a burst of wild joy overtook her.

My ex-boyfriend had become the owner of a company. This meant I could be a rich, pampered wife soon!

Without wasting another second, Jessica hailed a taxi and followed them all the way to Vermillion Maple Restaurant.

"Reggie!" Jessica ran over and blocked Reggie's path as soon as they got out of the car. "I'm so sorry. It was my fault. I shouldn't have broken up with you, but it wasn't entirely my fault, either. It was because—"

"You're right," Isabel cut in, her tone dripping with sarcasm. "It wasn't entirely your fault. It's my brother's fault. Blame him for ruining his face and making you feel disgusted. Blame him for leaving the Zimmermans, so you couldn't become some wealthy young madam. Blame him for not being able to satisfy your insatiable need for luxury."

Isabel's words were sharp and cutting, leaving Jessica's face alternating between red and purple from embarrassment and fury. But she swallowed her pride and held back her temper.

You wretched girl, you just wait. Once I become your sister-in-law, I'll make sure your brother throws you out of the family!

"I didn't mean it like that," Jessica snapped, unwilling to waste time bickering with Isabel. She turned her teary eyes back to Reggie, her voice trembling. "Reggie, we've been through so much together. I can't just let go. Honestly, ever since we broke up, I haven't been able to eat or sleep properly. I've been miserable, heartbroken, and—"

"Is that so? You look like you've gained some weight. I can see a little belly there. Don't tell me you've been stress-eating ever since you broke up with my brother," Isabel interrupted, her gaze fixed on Jessica's slightly rounded stomach.

Jessica glared at Isabel, fury flashing in her eyes.

The nerve of that woman! Calling me fat? She's the one who needs to lay off the pastries! And her whole family, for that matter!

Taking a deep breath to calm herself, Jessica turned back to Reggie, ready to continue, but Reggie spoke before she could.

"I must have been blind to date someone as shallow and opportunistic as you for so long. I used to think back on the good times we had, but now I'm just disgusted."

Disgusted?

Reggie had actually said I disgusted him!

Jessica's face twisted with anger, and she couldn't hold back any longer.

She screamed at Reggie. "This isn't my fault! What woman doesn't want to be with a capable, successful man? That's just nature! When you left the Zimmermans and were broke, why should I have stuck around and suffered with you? Why?"

Isabel stepped forward, positioning herself between Reggie and Jessica.

"You're right, you have the right to make your own choices. But my brother also has the right to make his. And he would never choose someone like you—someone who only shares the good times but runs away at the first sign of trouble. So from now on, stay away from my brother. You're an eyesore."

"Isabel! You're despicable!" Jessica enraged, lunged at Isabel, her fingers clawing toward Isabel's face. But before she could make contact, Reggie grabbed her wrist.

"Let go!"

Reggie's face was cold with anger, and he shoved Jessica away from them with enough force that she stumbled back several steps.

Jessica's face turned all shades of red, green, and purple in her fury, her emotions flashing across her face like a malfunctioning traffic light.

"You lied to me, manipulated my feelings, and now you want to hurt my sister?" Reggie snapped. His protective stance in front of Isabel radiating with cold hostility.

His eyes were sharp, icy, and unyielding. Jessica was stunned, her mouth opening and closing as she struggled to process this side of Reggie. She had never seen him so angry, so fierce.

It had to be Isabel! Isabel must have been whispering terrible things about me into Reggie's ear!

Her fury burning hotter, Jessica shot Isabel a venomous glare.

But Isabel only raised an eyebrow and smiled, her eyes sparkling with amusement.

She's smiling? Jessica thought, enraged beyond belief.

You just wait, Isabel! And you too, Reggie! I'll make you regret this!

After storming away, Jessica immediately called her sugar daddy, an older man named Clive Hicks.

"Hello? Mr. Hicks? Are you free tonight? I'll be waiting for you at the Northville Hotel ... "

Hmph! So what if Reggie has a company now? It's just a start-up, and who knows what kind of lucky break they had to poach Lincoln?

Jessica's new target, Clive, was an established businessman whose company had deep roots in Solaria. His business was thriving, and recently, he'd even boasted about negotiating a deal with the Bennett Group.

If that deal went through, the Farkey family would officially enter Solaria's elite circle.

The only reason she hadn't agreed to Clive's advances before was because he had a reputation for being a "widow-maker"—he'd already lost four wives under mysterious circumstances.

But now, none of that mattered. She was out for revenge, and if getting close to Clive meant crushing Isabel and Reggie beneath her feet, she was willing to take the risk.

She'd just go to a temple later and get some charms to ward off bad luck.

Meanwhile, back at the restaurant ...

Isabel raised her glass of red wine with a smile. "Congratulations, Reg. You finally got rid of that toxic girlfriend."

"Uh ... " Reggie chuckled and shook his head, raising his own glass. He lightly clinked it against Isabel's. "And congratulations to you too, for finally moving on from Kaleb."

"D\*mn you!"

Just as Isabel was about to take a sip, her phone rang. The caller ID flashed with an all-too-familiar name—Kaleb.

Honestly, Isabel didn't feel like answering, but after a moment, she reluctantly picked up.

"Isabel, it's me." A woman's voice came through the line.

Eva?

Isabel's brows furrowed. "Why are you calling me?"

"I want to meet you. There's something I need to talk to you about, alone."

Isabel's face showed a flicker of confusion. Eva wanted to meet with her? Alone?

Based on what Isabel knew about Xander, Eva definitely had ulterior motives. This wasn't going to be just a simple conversation—there had to be a trap involved.

"Alright," Isabel agreed.

She was curious to see what Eva was up to.

The next afternoon, Isabel and Eva arranged to meet at a nearby cafe.

Across the street, in the billiard room on the fourth floor of a snooker center ...

"Xander, what are you looking at? It's your turn," Max Hunt said, walking over to Xander with a pool cue in hand. He followed Xander's gaze and noticed the cafe across the street.

"What, are you craving coffee? Let's finish this game, then we can head over," Max suggested. But just as he was speaking, he caught sight of a woman by the cafe's floor-to-ceiling window.

"Whoa! Now that is a beauty! A total knockout!" Max pointed excitedly at Isabel. "Xander, look over there! I've got my eye on her!"