

No Chance 1381

[Chapter 1381 Cut the Crap](#)

Elisa furrowed her brow, her expression growing solemn, "What did he eat today?"

Thomas' worry grew evident in his voice as he shared, "Mr. Wickam was with you all day today. We ate together, but we were both feeling fine. He started developing symptoms shortly after we got back from the casino. I was going to inform you, but he won't let me..."

Thomas quickly covered Gareth with the two blankets he was holding.

Gareth's hands trembled uncontrollably in that instant, and his palms felt icy cold. Elisa's brow furrowed as she observed the unsettling scene.

Realizing that Gareth hadn't eaten anything out of the ordinary, Elisa immediately concluded that the poison he had been given was intended to induce chills.

"Increase the room temperature," she instructed Thomas. "I'll go get some medicine for him."

As she turned to leave, however, Thomas stopped her. "Let me go instead, Ms. Benett,"

He voiced out, "If the enemy exploits the situation and attempts to harm you, it would be catastrophic."

Gareth's top priority now was to keep Elisa by his side, and Thomas had already gone above and beyond to help him achieve that. Elisa remained unperturbed by the idea of anyone taking advantage of the circumstances to harm her.

She chuckled and quipped, "Who would do that to me now that the Ganoderma Caligo has been taken?"

Thomas' anxiety grew as he heard her words and looked concerned at Gareth.

"But given Mr. Wickam's current condition, I wouldn't know what to do if something unexpected were to occur while you're away."

Elisa glanced at Gareth and saw he was shivering under layers of blankets. Thomas had a point. She had to find a middle ground.

"Then I'll send you the name of the medicines. Please make sure you come back as soon as possible."

"Okay," Thomas replied and immediately set off.

After he left, Elisa quickly switched on the room's air conditioner. The elevated temperature caused her to sweat profusely, yet she couldn't help but worry about Gareth's condition.

This was the latest, highly potent medication developed in the black market. Its effects were instant and formidable. If ingested without engaging in sexual activity with a woman, it would cause severe bleeding, ultimately leading to a violent death.

Even if someone utilized a drug to suppress the toxicity, the poison would persist in the body, leading to a two-stage reversal. Initially, the body would become intensely hot, followed by an equally chilling phase in the later stages.

There was presently no available antidote.

Upon reaching those concluding remarks, Elisa's gaze immediately shifted toward Gareth.

Gareth's symptoms showed no signs of improvement.

She had no option but to return to her room and retrieve her blanket to cover him. "Hang in there, Gareth. Thomas will be back soon."

She couldn't simply stand by and do nothing while watching his critical state.

However, Gareth also noticed Elisa drenched in sweat. Furrowing his brows, he told her, "You... leave..."

Hearing his words, Elisa responded indignantly, "If I were to leave at this critical moment and something happened to you, wouldn't I be held responsible? I have promised Grandma to look after you, so cut the crap!"

Just as Gareth was about to utter another word, a frazzle struck him. His eyelids grew increasingly heavy, and he eventually succumbed to darkness, losing consciousness.

Upon witnessing Gareth's condition, Elisa swiftly applied pressure to his acupuncture point and administered a precisely placed needle.

By the time Thomas returned, Elisa's clothes were completely drenched, yet she remained steadfast in her determination to prepare a medicinal bath for Gareth.

[Chapter 1382 No One Knows You Here](#)

After everything was settled, Elisa delegated the remaining tasks to Thomas.

"Keep a close watch on him and ensure he stays in the bath for at least two hours. Add hot water whenever the water cools."

"Sure, Ms. Benett. You should go rest now," Thomas remarked, noticing Elisa's drenched sweat and weary expression.

Elisa nodded and exited Gareth's room.

Surprisingly, less than an hour after Elisa left. Gareth regained consciousness, opening his eyes while immersed in the medicinal bath.

Thomas, who couldn't bear the humid and hot room, had removed his shirt. He was ecstatic when he saw Gareth regain consciousness, "You're finally awake, Mr. Wickam!"

Seeing Thomas' muscular chest, Gareth furrowed, "What's going on? Where is she?"

Thomas immediately realized that Gareth was referring to Elisa and expressing his displeasure. He quickly explained, "Mr. Wickam, you were feeling so cold, and with the high room temperature, I had to stay with you, but it was so hot, and I... She couldn't stand it here, so... after Ms. Benett prepared the medicinal bath for you, she returned to her room to rest."

"Get out now," Gareth ordered though he looked much more at ease.

Thomas dared not disobey his order.

Just as Thomas exited the room, he accidentally bumped into Elisa.

The latter swiftly understood the situation and inquired about Gareth's condition.

"How is he? Considering his condition, I suppose it will take a while until he's healthy to be allowed to discharge. Given his sensitivity to the cold, it would be good for him to increase his sun exposure."

"In that case, tomorrow you drive us to the beach. A seafood feast will also help improve his condition,"

Meanwhile, Thomas appeared somewhat pitiful and aggrieved.

Elisa found Thomas' reaction somewhat amusing.

She chuckled and said, "You should be grateful he didn't beat you up."

With that, she turned, walked away, and left Thomas alone.

Thomas let out a deep sigh.

He understood the situation, yet he couldn't help but feel wronged.

After all, he hadn't done anything to deserve it!

The following day, Thomas drove them to the beach.

Once they checked in at the hotel and deposited their belongings, Elisa changed into her beachwear.

She embarked on their excursion, clad in sun-protective clothing.

Gareth opted for a pair of beach shorts in a light color palette.

He seemed reluctant to wear them, as Thomas could discern from his chilly expression.

However, with Gareth's health in mind, Thomas urged, "Mr. Wickam, Ms. Benett has already set off. Remember how you were shivering last night? And let's not forget that Ms. Benett agreed to accompany you to the beach. It's a wonderful opportunity, isn't it?"

Gareth remained silent but cast Thomas a frigid glance.

Soon after, he left Thomas behind and strode toward the beach.

Upon reaching the shoreline, Elisa was already leisurely reclining on a wicker chair, holding a glass of juice.

On the other hand, Gareth placed a bottle of medicinal oil on the table before her.

"What's the matter?" As she saw him casually placing the items in front of her, Elisa couldn't help but frown and scowl at him.

Gareth replied sternly, "I don't want to get sunburned."

"Oh?" Elisa turned her head, displaying an indifferent expression as if she couldn't be bothered. "Isn't Thomas here?"

Gareth's expression immediately turned sour, his words filled with a hint of grudges. "I don't want to be the center of attention."

It was indeed an odd situation with two grown men.

However, in a playful mood, she chuckled and retorted, "If you don't want to be the center of attention, put on sunglasses and avoid looking at them. Besides, we're in a foreign country; no one knows you here."

[Chapter 1383 Intruder](#)

Gareth wasn't particularly polite when asking for her help. She wasn't his servant, so she couldn't be bothered.

"It feels wrong," Gareth mumbled, his expression serious and cold.

But Elisa didn't heed his chagrin, "Then let Thomas help you apply it in your room, and then you come out..."

"This is medicinal oil."

Gareth effectively silenced Elisa with a single sentence.

Elisa knew her way around medicine and understood his message loud and clear.

To properly absorb the medicinal oil required skilled massage techniques.

This guy had the nerve to ask for her help without even a hint of politeness.

Reluctantly, but considering his current condition, Elisa held back her dissatisfaction towards his unkind request.

"Go lie down on the beach," Elisa instructed, grabbing the bottle of medicinal oil from the table and tossing it to Gareth.

Gareth complied without putting up a fight.

Being a professional, Elisa swiftly applied the oil and skillfully massaged him.

After finishing the massage, Elisa forcefully slapped his back a few times. "Alright, you've had enough sun for two hours."

Gareth's disrespectful attitude certainly warranted Elisa's less-than-polite handling!

The sun at the beach was intense, and after two hours, the contrast between Gareth's sun-kissed skin and Elisa's fair complexion was very much noticeable.

Thomas also noticed it but chose not to comment.

However, just as they were about to sit down for a meal, an unwanted guest arrived.

"Hi, Ms. Benett, looks like we've crossed paths again," Eden chimed in with a playful tone and a mischievous smile, his wicked face looming in front of Elisa.

Elisa's expression soured, but she remained focused on her meal without acknowledging him.

Undeterred, Eden casually pulled up a chair and sat next to Elisa.

Today, he wore a white shirt with the top two buttons unfastened and the chest slightly exposed, revealing his fair skin.

Leaning against the back of the chair, he exuded an air of wickedness, decadence, and arrogance.

"Ms. Benett, we didn't have a chance to say goodbye at the banquet. As the saying goes, 'absence makes the heart grow fonder.' I actually dreamt about you last night," he said with a hint of teasing in his voice.

Seeing Elisa's lack of response, Eden smirked, his words carrying a touch of provocation.

Why did he openly confess that he dreamt about her? It was pretty clear that such words held a specific erotic meaning.

Thomas also noticed it but chose not to comment.

However, Elisa knew that Eden was deliberately trying to provoke her. She had no intention of falling into his trap. Maintaining a composed demeanor, she deliberately avoided making eye contact with him.

"Thomas, please show him out," Gareth instructed. Well, Elisa could pretend Eden was invisible, but he couldn't.

Gareth had no interest in sharing a table with strangers, especially someone as talkative as Eden.

Noticing Gareth's cold and flustered expression, Thomas promptly followed his command and addressed Eden, "Sir, it's our dining time now. Please wait until we finish our meal if you have something to discuss."

Eden completely disregarded Thomas' words. He leaned closer to Elisa and casually asked, "I haven't eaten and am hungry. Mind if I join you, Ms. Benett?"

Only then Elisa turned her gaze toward him.

Even though that wasn't the case, Elisa realized that Eden had a way with words, making it seem like they were long-time friends. She couldn't help but wonder about Eden's motivations.

"Liz, if you find it too noisy or hot here, we can have our food packed and dine in our room," Gareth suggested, an imperious smile forming on his face, making it clear that his proposal left no room for objections.

[Chapter 1384 Who Can Stand Him?](#)

Those eyes were filled with chilling intensity.

However, Elisa was preoccupied with Eden at the moment.

Despite being shamed by her the day before, Eden continued to show up by her side repeatedly, unfazed.

She couldn't help but wonder about Eden's motives!

However, Elisa's negligence immediately cast a shadow over Gareth's face, silently causing concern for Thomas, who stood nearby.

"Indeed, power and wealth can be incredibly tempting," Gareth remarked, setting down his chopsticks without any desire to eat.

'Clatter'

The sudden noise captured Elisa's attention, and she immediately noticed Gareth's icy gaze, cutting through the air like a sharpened blade directly aimed at her.

A surge of unease washed over Elisa, instantly killing her appetite.

Annoyed, she asked Gareth, "What are you trying to say?"

His unexpected statement left her utterly bewildered.

"The literal meaning," Gareth replied indifferently, his words dripping with coldness.

Meanwhile, Eden smirked, thoroughly relishing the drama he had set in motion. He was pleased with his scheme.

"Liz, can you believe his nerve to say such rude things to you? It's a good thing you divorced him; otherwise, he would have gotten even worse and made you go crazy," Eden remarked sarcastically.

"I don't care that you've divorced. All I know is that I care about you and genuinely like you. Just consider me, would you?" Eden looked at Elisa, exuding confidence in his words and the smile adorning his face.

Eden's prideful smile and words left no doubt about his determination to win her over.

With narrowed eyes, Elisa said, "You're absolutely right. I'm divorced. If I were to consider marrying again, I would carefully assess the conditions and stability the other person could offer. So give me reasons why should I consider you? And who is that woman standing behind you?"

Elisa's lips curled with a mocking smile as she spoke intentionally.

Being no fool, Eden was well aware of Elisa's deliberate intent.

He also knew that Gareth's cold and piercing gaze was fixed upon them.

Smiling, he explained, "I can assure you a lifetime of stability and endless riches."

Aware of his identity and abilities, Elisa played along, "Words alone don't convince me. I could also boast about being rich without showing evidence. Plus, you keep making all these assurances without any proof. Why don't you start by showing your sincerity and telling me who that person behind you is? In a normal circumstance, shouldn't you open your cards first?"

"I don't care that you've divorced. All I know is that I care about you and genuinely like you. Just consider me, would you?" Eden looked at Elisa, exuding confidence in his words and the smile adorning his face.

A deep and meaningful smile formed on Elisa's lips.

Thomas glanced at Elisa and Eden, then looked at Gareth beside him.

The visage of Gareth resembled a glacial ice sheet, and the wintry chill in his eyes sent a shiver down Thomas' spine.

Just as Gareth was about to say something, his phone rang.

It was Jeremy.

Gareth grasped his phone and rose to his feet, intending to answer the incoming call.

"Ms. Benett, besides seafood, what other food choices should we consider for Mr. Wickam's health?" Thomas quickly consulted as he noticed Gareth's absence.

Gareth's frustration grew as possessiveness was a strong trait in men. It pained him to see the woman he loved engaging in laughter and conversation with another man, testing his ability to endure.

Thomas' intrusion prompted Elisa to realize Gareth's absence.

"Didn't he already say he wasn't hungry?" Elisa furrowed her brows, clearly displeased.

He hadn't eaten a thing and was being so unnecessarily moody. Why should she bother looking after him? Elisa couldn't care less as long as the shivering episode from last night didn't repeat itself.

[Chapter 1385 Why Should I Trust You?](#)

"I wonder what Ms. Benett feels about me. But if I were to demonstrate my sincerity, it would be plain and simple. Nevertheless, Ms. Benett, I believe I deserve you," Eden stated in a condescending manner.

However, the more he persisted, Elisa felt skeptical of his boastful remarks.

"I have no interest in a man who keeps offering and claiming he's the perfect match for me. Does that automatically make it true, especially for someone like you, merely claiming to be worthy? Why should I trust you?" Elisa sneered, then rose to her feet the next moment.

Noticing Elisa's intention to leave, Eden quickly interjected, "You turned down my dinner invitation last night. I hope you won't reject me again today, Ms. Benett?"

Eden stood up and reached out to halt Elisa's departure, yet her silence spoke volumes through her disdainful glare.

Eden retracted his hand to respect her choice, but his smile grew even more profound and captivating.

Looking at his condescending manner, Elisa asked indifferently, "Didn't you say you were hungry?"

"It's no fun eating alone," Eden replied.

Of course, Eden was well aware of what Elisa's aloof demeanor indicated, but he couldn't let her get away again without trying.

Immediately after, Eden beckoned the waiter and said, "I've thought about what you've said, and you made sense. Let's sit down and continue our conversation over a meal, shall we?"

He directed the invitation to Elisa, wearing a charming smile.

However, Elisa wasn't impressed or swayed by his tenderness or chivalry. On the contrary, his actions and smooth words evoked a sense of aversion within her.

"No, thank you!" Elisa firmly rejected, standing up and refusing to give Eden any satisfaction or further attention.

As Elisa turned to leave, Eden's smile vanished in an instant.

This marked the third time Elisa had rejected him!

They said, 'Three strikes and you're out.' Eden's patience with her was wearing thin...

On the other hand, after finishing the call with Jeremy, Gareth returned to find that Elisa and Eden were gone.

Thomas greeted him without delay, "Mr. Wickam, based on my observation, I can assure you that Ms. Benett didn't entertain that man. I've already arranged a meal for both of you in the room."

It was evident that Eden's actions had provoked Gareth, leading him to misunderstand Elisa.

Thomas understood that being a competent assistant meant solving work-related issues and playing a role in his boss's love life as a mediator.

Considering Gareth's volatile temperament, Thomas knew that completing tasks efficiently and with enjoyment was only possible when his boss was in a good mood. And it was evident to Thomas that Elisa had the power to influence Mr. Wickam's mood!

He directed the invitation to Elisa, wearing a charming smile.

Gareth and the waiter entered the room one after the other. As Gareth swiped the room card and stepped in, Elisa sat up from the sofa.

"Didn't you say you don't want to eat?" Elisa said, and the next second, he approached her.

"Well, I can't risk poisoning myself," Gareth replied, stepping closer to her.

Elisa smiled coldly and continued, "Serves you right then."

"Don't I have you here? Or are you contemplating going with Eden...?" Gareth responded, understanding that Elisa was purposely teasing him. Nevertheless, he remained composed, showing no signs of being bothered.

However, his expression turned grave as memories of Eden's inciting and provocative attempts replayed in his mind.

Meanwhile, Elisa chuckled and deliberately taunted Gareth, "Even if something is going on between me and Eden, it doesn't concern you, does it, Mr. Wickam?"

Gareth's expression turned resolute and intense at Elisa's provocation. He was ready to respond to her when a knocking sound came from outside the door, interrupting their conversation.

[Chapter 1386 999 Roses](#)

Intrigued by the potential visitor at the door, Gareth swiftly rose from his seat, his face assuming a dark and apathetic expression as if enveloped in shadow.

"I'll go and see who it is."

Yet, Elisa noticed that as Gareth opened the door, his expression turned even darker.

A slight sense of unease crept over her. Could it really be Eden standing outside the room?

Right then, a well-spoken and courteous voice said, "May I ask if Ms. Elisa Benett is available? A gentleman has ordered a bouquet of 999 roses to be delivered to her."

But in the next instant, Gareth erupted, "F*ck off!"

With a resounding bang, Gareth slammed the door shut.

Elisa remained silent, but her displeasure was evident on her face.

She couldn't understand why a wealthy man like Eden would continue to pursue her relentlessly, even after she had rejected him three times.

He even went to the extent of sending her a message.

Eden: 'Darling, shall I deal with that irrationally furious man for you? Please don't go back to him who doesn't appreciate you. Direct your attention towards me instead. How about joining me at the barbecue party tonight?'

Hmm, that might be worth considering.

If she agreed to go out with him once, Eden would likely expose his motive, allowing her to finally discover what he was after.

Elisa: 'Alright then. Since you've been so persistent in inviting me.'

Eden: 'Cool! See you at 10 p.m. sharp!'

Elisa could already envision the scheming smug smirk on his face. However, it was still premature to determine who would emerge as the victor and who would be the loser!

Considering this, a faint smile formed on her face. However, her tranquility was abruptly shattered as Gareth's frigid voice pierced through, "Who are you chatting with? That Eden guy?"

Something about Elisa's smile rubbed Gareth the wrong way, causing an unexplained irritation.

Elisa was truthful and said, "Yes, it's him. He has made advances toward me on numerous occasions, and I want to find out his true intentions. If necessary, I hope you can cooperate with me tonight."

Gareth remained silent, his lips tightly pressed into a thin line.

Ultimately, Elisa chose this method to probe into Eden's intentions, despite being fully aware of his ruthless and ingenuine nature.

Deep down in Gareth's heart, there was an indescribable, stifling feeling.

In fact, he had lost all appetite, even for the seafood dishes Thomas had ordered.

Noticing Gareth motionless, showing no interest in the seafood before him, she furrowed and commented, "Given your poor health condition, consuming seafood aids in your recovery. If you ignore the doctor's advice, don't come running after me later!"

Elisa: 'Alright then. Since you've been so persistent in inviting me.'

With that, Elisa started digging in.

Due to Eden's sudden intrusion, she hadn't had much to eat.

Even though she had intentionally provoked Gareth earlier, she didn't want to push herself to the point of hunger either.

"Mm."

In the end, Gareth joined her for the scrumptious seafood treat.

They stayed in a suite, mainly because it would give Elisa space to handle unexpected situations with Gareth. At the same time, Thomas saw it as an opportunity to spark their affection for each other by staying together.

After finishing the meal, her phone suddenly rang as Elisa was about to return to her room.

Instinctively, she reached into her pocket and pulled out her phone.

Unbeknownst to her, Gareth had been staring at her, observing her every action.

In that moment when a smile formed on Elisa's lips, an indescribable anger surged within Gareth. But in the next second, he heard Elisa's playful voice:

"I never thought the esteemed Mr. Vincent Shane would actually call me for advice."

[Chapter 1387 Playful Banter](#)

Upon hearing that it was Vincent on the other end of the line, Gareth's furrowed brows eased, and the restlessness and anger in his heart gradually dissipated.

Gareth was taken aback by this sudden shift in his emotions.

Meanwhile, Elisa had made her way to the terrace and leaned against the railing, a playful smile gracing her lips. She quipped, "Wooing Rachel can be both simple and difficult, but the key is to understand and cater to her preferences."

It never occurred to her that Vincent would call her for advice.

Elisa was willing to share all her knowledge about Rachel and help Vincent in navigating their complex situation. However, the decision on how much Vincent would compromise for Rachel ultimately rested with him.

Their situation was intricately tangled, and Elisa was unsure of Vincent's desires for a future with Rachel.

In fact, Rachel also had feelings for Vincent. And Elisa's role was limited to offering words and suggestions. Whether their paths were meant to cross if Vincent genuinely sought redemption and if Rachel was willing to forgive him... Only time could tell. Elisa could only observe from the sidelines.

Vincent, on the other hand, was in a dilemma. "How do I cater to her preferences?"

"Find out what she likes and enjoys doing, and ask her out. She's straightforward, so it's better to be direct with her," Elisa said, smiling.

"I... I've asked her out many times, but she just refuses!" Vincent felt somewhat frustrated.

Frustrated with the constant bickering and stagnation in his friendship with Rachel, he wondered if confessing his feelings would push her further away.

Vincent felt a sense of turmoil as he recalled a friend's similar experience, where the relationship soured to losing their friendship altogether.

In distress, Vincent finally swallowed his pride and consulted with Elisa.

Elisa replied, "Sorry, I can't help you right now. I've got some stuff to sort out here, and it looks like I won't be able to wrap it up for another four or five days."

Vincent was a bit surprised by the timeframe. "Really? I thought it would only take two or three days. Why's it taking so long?"

Showing her frustration, Elisa shrugged and said, "I wish I could speed things up, but Gareth's dealing with some unexpected problems. If you need my help, you'll have to wait until I'm back."

"So, what's his deal?" Vincent asked nonchalantly, but Elisa could detect the underlying concern between close friends.

Elisa didn't elaborate much, stating simply, "Don't worry, he's not in any danger."

"Tsk," Vincent sneered, "that lucky b*stard always manages to escape unscathed. It wouldn't hurt for him to stumble a bit more along the way."

"I... I've asked her out many times, but she just refuses!" Vincent felt somewhat frustrated.

Elisa raised an eyebrow in response, choosing to remain silent.

After a moment of silence, Vincent's voice came through.

"Alright, then I'll wait for your return." Vincent still believed that having Elisa's help would be more reliable.

"Sure."

Afterward, Elisa ended the call.

Upon entering the living room, Elisa noticed Gareth still seated on the sofa, engrossed in his phone, evidently preoccupied with company matters.

Respecting his concentration, Elisa refrained from disturbing him and quietly retreated to her room.

Meanwhile, Thomas took the opportunity to update Gareth on the progress of the assigned tasks. "That guy Eden is making preparations for tonight's barbecue. We've reached out to others for further investigation, and the information gathered by Ms. Benett aligns with our findings. Now, as for that woman... the casino's surveillance footage only captured her fleeing the private room, and conveniently enough, the casino claims that all their cameras malfunctioned."

"We've made every effort to communicate with the casino, but they consider that woman inconsequential and not worth investing a fortune to rectify the camera issue."

[Chapter 1388 Invite Me?](#)

Moreover, the casino conveniently received a deposit of thirty million into their account within three minutes of the surveillance glitches without appearing to face any repercussions or losses. Given this situation, the casino had even less motivation to rectify the surveillance footage. Furthermore, there were several blind spots surrounding the private room they occupied.

"Did you follow Elisa's suggestion during the investigation?" Gareth's brows furrowed, and a cold expression settled as he listened to Thomas' report.

While it was confirmed that Eden had a secretive and elusive identity, making it challenging to trace him, Nicole's whereabouts shouldn't have been untraceable.

Thomas observed Gareth's reaction and hesitated, "Mr. Wickam, I followed Ms. Benett's instructions, but once Nicole and the man accompanying her left the casino, there was no evidence of her presence. However, Ms. Benett's suspicion is not without merit. I was thinking... perhaps you could consider a more strategic approach?"

Thomas' suggestion was met with an intense gaze from Gareth, his eyes narrowed with scrutiny, "Is that what you consider a good plan?"

"No, no... Mr. Wickam, it's just a suggestion. I mean, considering that Ms. Tabor... has feelings for you. You don't have to go to extremes. Just ask her out, have a conversation with her, like Ms. Benett did..." Thomas uttered while carefully observing Gareth's reaction.

"It's not about using your charm and good looks to manipulate the situation. It's simply about having a casual meeting and conversation. You wouldn't be risking anything."

Thomas believed that Elisa handled it well and it was worth taking a cue from her approach.

However, the gleam in Gareth's profound eyes intensified at Thomas' words.

In an instant, Thomas knew better than to utter another word. Without hesitation, Gareth responded sternly, "You have three days to find out if that woman is Nicole. If you fail, you can pack your stuff and leave."

With that, Gareth left Thomas standing alone in the living room.

Thomas sighed as he observed Gareth's imposing figure and detached demeanor.

While Gareth had reservations about employing a charming ploy or meeting Nicole in person, that didn't mean Thomas couldn't leverage Gareth's name to extend an invitation.

Although it meant going against Gareth's principles, it offered a viable solution. Considering the risks involved in both options, why not pursue this feasible course of action?

Thomas' mind raced with an idea, and he wasted no time putting it into motion.

Without delay, he located the hotel where Nicole was staying in Moranta and personally visited her.

"Mr. May?" Thomas' abrupt show-up caught Nicole off guard, but the latter composed herself to avoid giving anything away.

Thomas smiled politely, "There's a barbecue party at Moonlight Coast tonight at 10 o'clock. Mr. Wickam personally asked me to extend an invitation to you. I was wondering if you would be available?"

Nicole was startled, "Invite me?"

Deep down, she felt a surge of delight.

However, doubts began to creep into her mind. Why would Gareth suddenly invite her to a party?

While Nicole wanted to believe that Gareth's invitation was sincere, she wasn't gullible or oblivious. Furthermore, recent events had left her feeling somewhat uneasy.

After a momentary pause, Nicole glanced at Thomas. She instinctively inquired, "Is Mr. Wickam looking to discuss a business proposition with me?"

Having dedicated herself to emulating Gareth's success and being by his side, Nicole was more than willing to accept his invitation, hoping it would further her aspirations.

[Chapter 1389 You Gotta Be Kidding Me!](#)

However, the memories of her hastily fleeing the private room disguised as Elisa had haunted her for quite some time.

On that day, when she made eye contact with Elisa at the restaurant, Nicole felt that tonight's barbecue party held more significance than just a casual gathering.

She pressed her lips together and, noticing Thomas' smiling yet non-committal expression, inquired again, "Mr. May, is Mr. Wickam's invitation exclusively for me, or is it open to everyone?"

While she didn't explicitly mention it, Thomas grasped the underlying implication— the person she was referring to was Elisa.

Thomas chuckled and responded, "Ms. Tabor, after encountering you in a foreign land and having a brief interaction with you at the restaurant that day, Mr. Wickam took into account the connections between

the Wickam and Tabor families and their business interactions. A barbecue party is always more enjoyable with a larger gathering, don't you think?"

It wasn't an exclusive invitation...

Upon hearing Thomas' explanation, Nicole felt relief wash over her.

"In that case, please convey my sincere thanks to Mr. Wickam. I will gladly accept the invitation and attend the barbecue party tonight," Nicole responded, her smile radiating warmth.

Since it wasn't an exclusive invitation, declining would raise unnecessary suspicions.

By attending, she would demonstrate her trust in Gareth and Elisa and dispel any doubts others may have.

"Of course, Ms. Tabor," Thomas replied casually before excusing himself.

After Thomas left, Nicole reached for her phone and dialed a number.

"I have a barbecue party to attend tonight. Please handle all the necessary arrangements for me."

At nine o'clock in the night, Eden stood outside Elisa's room, carrying carefully selected clothes and a bouquet of flowers.

Knowing that Elisa and Gareth had booked a spacious suite, Eden didn't want his pleasant mood to be dampened by Gareth's presence.

To avoid any surprises, he decided to call Elisa ahead of time.

Elisa was puzzled when she received Eden's call.

"I thought I've already agreed to attend your barbeque party?" she answered the call, confused.

Eden chuckled and replied, "That's precisely why I want to be genuine. I'm outside your room, Liz. Could you please open it for me?"

He deliberately elongated his words, his voice laced with heavy amusement.

Hearing Eden call her 'Liz' sent a shiver down Elisa's spine, evoking a strong sense of disgust.

"Excuse me, we're not on such familiar terms."

Eden, however, raised an eyebrow nonchalantly.

"Familiarity comes with time. Even your ex-husband calls you that, whereas I always call you Ms. Benett. Wouldn't it be strange otherwise? You should know I'm pursuing and aiming to marry you as my wife."

Elisa didn't believe his nonsense and responded coldly, "Does it have to be now? Can we talk about it at the barbecue party?"

"You'll find out when you come out," Eden teased, creating suspense.

Initially, Elisa wanted to refuse, but she thought it over. She had already agreed to his invitation, so it wouldn't be right to back out now.

Additionally, she believed Eden wouldn't resort to harming her since he hadn't achieved his desired outcome.

As she unlocked the door, she was greeted by Eden, who held an elegant shopping bag in one hand and gently cradled ninety-nine roses in the other.

Without hesitation, Eden presented her with the items, remarking, "Wear this later, and may these roses brighten your day."

A smile formed on his lips as he greeted her,

Elisa's eyes narrowed, "You gotta be kidding me. Are you sure you're not mentally unfit?"

A barbecue party where he dressed in black and she wore a formal dress?

"Well, in that case, maybe you're the remedy," Eden replied, his smile in response to Elisa's remark. However, his words left Elisa with a heavy heart.

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Eden was aware of her medical expertise and intuitive nature. There was more to his knowledge than met the eye.

Elisa's lips curved into a smirk as she responded, "My consultation fee is steep, and I don't treat patients with mental disorders. Keep the dress with you. I have no use for them!"

Her words dripped with coldness and indifference while a smile played on her lips.

As she prepared to close the door, Eden swiftly extended his leg, placing it horizontally in the doorway, thwarting Elisa's attempt.

A smile lingered on Eden's lips as he stood beneath the soft glow of the light, donning a smoky gray shirt that exuded a hint of wickedness and ethereal charm.

Elisa felt her annoyance growing with each passing moment of Eden's presence. She mustered a slight smile and swiftly aimed a well-aimed kick at Eden's knee, precisely hitting his acupoint.

Eden winced in pain but remained silent as he withdrew his foot.

Unfazed by his endurance, Elisa slammed the door shut, cutting off any further interaction.

She had her limits, and if repeated warnings went unheeded, she was not to be blamed for taking decisive action!

In an instant, Eden stepped back, and two burly bodyguards dressed in sleek black suits emerged from the shadows.

"Your Highness, are you alright? Do you need us..." One of the bodyguards intervened and said, but Eden cut him off with a beckon.

"I don't need your interference, and make sure they know not to meddle either. I can handle Elisa!"

The faces of the two bodyguards subtly changed, and one of them whispered, "But the Princess is already livid. She claims you're not taking things seriously and engaging in promiscuous relationships. Her suggestion is to seize the opportunity and quickly eliminate Elisa Benett!"

Upon hearing this, Eden's expression immediately darkened. His gaze narrowed, and in the next second, he swiftly locked the bodyguard by the throat.

'Thump!'

'Crack!'

Two sounds resonated simultaneously. A scornful smirk formed on Eden's face as the bodyguard collapsed.

"Go back and tell her if she values her current position, she'd better keep her nose out of my business."

The other bodyguard's face had drained of color due to fear, rendering him speechless.

However, he had no choice but to heed Eden's words. "Yes, Your Highness."

"Get rid of the body," Eden said icily before placing the clothes and flowers on Elisa's doorstep. He then turned around and walked away.

Meanwhile, Elisa witnessed the entire incident through the peephole.

However, Elisa couldn't catch any conversation between Eden and the two bodyguards due to the room's excellent soundproofing. She could only witness Eden's ruthless actions firsthand.

Everything unfolded just as she had anticipated. Eden, this man, was both ruthless and dangerous.

"If you're so unwilling, why didn't you leave together earlier?" Gareth's voice suddenly pierced Elisa's ears, infused with a touch of mockery.

"Why do you care?" Elisa cast a disdainful glance at Gareth.

Gareth's contemptible words were growing increasingly sarcastic.

She couldn't be bothered to deal with him anymore and simply turned her back on him.

A few minutes later, she went out and brought in the things Eden had left behind.

Since Eden had personally delivered the dress, it was only polite for her to reciprocate his sincerity and go along with his intentions to uncover his true motives.

She would never know his true intentions if she didn't take this step.

Eden's tenacity left Elisa genuinely puzzled. Aware of his intimidating and dangerous nature, she didn't know why he would go to such lengths just to establish a connection with her.

The possibility of love at first sight seemed far-fetched and out of sync with their circumstances!