

## **No Chance 2021**

### [Chapter 2021 Testing The Waters](#)

When Rachel stormed off, she even threw Kaylee a fierce glare.

Before she left, she warned, "Ms. Knapp, if you encounter any problems while staying at the hotel, the first thing you should do is contact the front desk."

Kaylee nodded, appearing slightly terrified.

Rachel hated seeing that sight, so she shifted her gaze away to avoid being annoyed.

She whipped her head around to look at Elisa, who gave her a nod. The former then hurried off like a gust of wind.

Vincent followed behind as she left.

Even from afar, their conversation could be heard clearly.

"Why are you so angry? Who annoyed you?"

"It's you. You better stay away from me."

"Wait... What have I done to make you angry? You should tell me the reason, at the very least."

Watching their retreating figures, Elisa curled the corners of her lips into a smile.

Elisa didn't know when Gareth came over. She snapped back to her senses, stared at him, and nodded when his deep voice rang out next to her ear. "Let's go."

The two walked side by side at the front..

Bella followed half a step behind, with Kaylee beside her.

Kaylee secretly swept her gaze across the two before her and forcefully suppressed the envy overflowing in her eyes.

Walking in front, Elisa and Gareth occasionally exchanged a few words and shared a chuckle.

They gave off an intimate yet comfortable vibe, something that no one could come in between.

Bella could not help but click her tongue upon seeing the sight.

Realizing that Kaylee was still beside her, she had an idea and intentionally said, "In my opinion, they are a perfect match. A perfect match always looks good together, no matter what... Ms. Knapp, what do you think?"

Hearing her name being called out of the blue, Kaylee regained her composure, though still somewhat dazed.

Only after processing what Bella had said earlier did Kaylee nod in acknowledgment.

"Y-Yes..." Kaylee looked ahead again, likely in the direction of Gareth. She was visibly dejected as she muttered softly, "They make a good match indeed."

Bella nodded with a smile. "You certainly have an eye for beauty, Ms. Knapp. No wonder my grandma likes. you..."

Oh yes, you know my grandma is a believer in the Facloria religion, right?"

She abruptly changed the topic of the conversation to be about Julia.

Kaylee nodded in caution. "Yes, I am aware of that."

Bella smiled. "I heard your tribe also believes in that religion and is somewhat mysterious. You guys are even well-versed in sorcery... Perhaps it's because you share a common topic to talk about with my grandma. That explains why I was only away for a few days, yet she became so fond of you."

Bella was trying to sound Kaylee out, but at the same time, her words were also a genuine expression of her feelings. After all, she was a little jealous to some extent.

Even if she thought long and hard about it, she could not figure out why her grandma would suddenly treat Kaylee so well.

It was to the extent that Kaylee's treatment was better than what Elisa or herself would receive. That left Bella utterly baffled.

Kaylee knew Bella was testing the waters. Her palms were sweating unconsciously when the latter began to talk about sorcery.

She was even beginning to suspect that Bella had discovered something.

On second thought, that might not be the case. If Bella really knew something, why would she still be so polite toward me and even try to sound me out? She probably would've called the police to take me to jail.

With these thoughts, the anxiety in Kaylee's heart finally dissipated.

Then again, she knew she must not arouse their suspicions, so she tried to remain composed. "Really? I hadn't heard about that before. It's probably just rumors spreading around."

#### [Chapter 2022 Checking In](#)

Bella originally wanted to say something more, but they were already nearing the gate.

Elisa's room was in the middle, with Bella's on the left and Gareth's on the right. Directly across were Vincent and Rachel's rooms.

If it weren't for the frustration caused by Elisa's direct agreement to Kaylee's request, Rachel would probably be looking for someone to switch rooms with at this moment.

Still, that was fine. They had a love-hate relationship.

When they reached the door, Gareth whispered something to Elisa, but it was unclear what he said.

In short, she gave a reassuring smile, as if to put Gareth at ease. Then, she swiped her room card and stepped inside.

Bella deliberately observed Kaylee's expression. Nothing appeared amiss with the latter.

Gareth stood still, watching Elisa enter the room. Kaylee could feel that the moment she stepped into the room. Gareth had already shifted his gaze away.

Although she felt aggrieved and resentful, Kaylee did not show it at all.

Inattention to small details could lead to big problems. Now that Julia had been taken care of, there was nothing she couldn't handle.

All she needed to do was trip Elisa up at the right time and act like a good girl to salvage her image the rest of the time.

Upon entering the room and taking in the whole view, Kaylee couldn't help but exclaim, "This house is so big."

It was much larger than the hotel where she previously stayed.

Elisa chuckled, showing no particular emotion, and kindly said, "There are two rooms in total. You can choose whichever you'd like to sleep in."

Watching Elisa's calm demeanor and recalling her own amazed reaction just now, Kaylee bit her lip. Would Elisa secretly look down on me? Yes. She definitely would. She might even tell others about it.

Kaylee bit her lip, lost in her own imagination.

Elisa waited for a while but got no response from Kaylee. She waved her hand in front of the latter's face. "What are you thinking about? You seem so engrossed in your thoughts."

"Ah... no, I'm fine." Kaylee felt a bit awkward, still in a daze.

Elisa didn't dwell on the issue any longer. Instead, she patiently repeated, "Okay. Why don't which room you'd like to stay in?"

Kaylee nodded, picked up her suitcase, and began to look around.

There were two rooms. One was the master bedroom, and the other was the secondary bedroom, both with balconies and quite spacious. The only difference was that the master bedroom was slightly larger and had a bathtub.

However, the second bedroom was closer to Gareth's room.

Even though Kaylee knew that the soundproofing in this grand hotel was undoubtedly top-notch, she still wanted to be closer to Gareth. So, she chose the second bedroom.

Upon seeing the situation, Elisa simply asked, "Are you sure?"

After receiving an affirmative response from Kaylee, Elisa didn't argue further. This is her own choice, so there's no need to question why.

Elisa didn't persist, which was quite surprising to Kaylee. I thought she would put on an act and make a few excuses, but unexpectedly... You're probably dying to move into the master bedroom, aren't you?

Elisa probably had no idea Kaylee was assessing her with such thoughts. If she knew, she would undoubtedly be caught between laughter and tears.

Everyone was busy packing up their things. They had formed a small group chat from the time they had gone out drinking before.

After tidying up, Elisa lay on her bed and took out her phone. She snapped a photo from the balcony and sent a message.

Elisa. The best viewing spot! Haha!

Not long after, Gareth posted a photo of the balcony.

Gareth: This spot is pretty good too.

### [Chapter 2023 Nosebleed](#)

Rachel sent an emoticon featuring a sidelong smile, and everyone started chatting like that,

Suddenly, Bella spoke up.

Bella: Hey, hey, hey, come quickly to the balcony. From here, you can overlook the entire hot spring. Everything is in full view. Isn't it a great viewing spot? Gareth and Elisa, come and see.

Due to their location, Rachel and Vincent couldn't see the view, which frustrated Rachel to the point of venting in the group chat.

Rachel: Could my luck be any worse?

She was implying that not only her hotel room couldn't see the hot spring, but an annoying man was also staying in the room next door.

Vincent seemed oblivious to the hidden meaning in Rachel's words and simply followed along.

Vincent: Really? I actually think this spot is quite nice. At least it's peaceful at night, isn't it?

Rachel didn't reply anymore. Instead, she knocked on Elisa's door, wanting to enjoy the balcony view with her

Elisa didn't refuse. After all, the purpose of going out to have fun was to be happy.

Upon reaching the balcony, it was discovered that not only was Bella there, but also Gareth.

However, Bella's room was just next door, roughly about two meters away from the two of them.

But Bella's situation was different. With Kaylee's room in between, she was approximately five meters away from Elisa.

The group exchanged glances and shared a laugh.

Pointing down, Bella covered her mouth, expressing her surprise, "Quick, look! Their figures are quite impressive, aren't they?"

That was a five-star hotel that only the wealthy could afford to patronize. The affluent had high standards for themselves. Therefore, they maintained their good physique to keep themselves attractive. Moreover, all of them were good-looking.

If not, the guests tagged along with wealthy people, so they would undoubtedly be good-looking.

Moreover, in order to expand their business, Mount Lusetonas often invited celebrities and influencers to enjoy the hot springs for free.

Therefore, at first glance, those people at the pool were indeed quite captivating.

Rachel was having trouble averting her gaze.

“Oh my!” Rachel let out a shout, and in an instant, all eyes were on her.

They saw Rachel covering her nose in a somewhat awkward manner.

Bella burst into laughter, pointed at Rachel, and said, “What’s the matter with you? It’s not like you’ve never seen a handsome guy before. Isn’t there a handsome guy living right next to you? Is it really that big of a deal?”

Feeling both shy and embarrassed, Rachel quickly covered her nose, tilted her head back, and hurried off.

With a strong effort to suppress her laughter, Elisa reminded from behind, “Stop tilting your head backs. Otherwise, the blood might flow back and block your nostrils!”

She wondered if Rachel heard her.

After watching Rachel leave, Elisa pulled out her phone and started furiously typing a message to someone.

Vincent: Why has everyone gone quiet? Are you all up to something behind my back? @MarkeeLawyer, what are you. doing? @Elisalsa, what are you up to?

Suppressing a laugh, Elisa composed and sent out a message.

After sending a few exclamation marks, Vincent stopped talking. He probably went to find Rachel.

Elisa finally felt at ease after knowing someone was going to take care of Rachel.

Then, she returned to the balcony.

Perhaps it was the commotion earlier that had caught Kaylee’s attention. When Elisa instinctively looked toward Gareth, she happened to meet Kaylee’s gaze.

Kaylee smiled at Elisa, and Elisa responded with a smile in return.

Kaylee was somewhat puzzled, wondering why everyone seemed to have agreed to come up to the balcony and what they were looking at.

Just as she was about to speak, Bella returned to her own room.

Elisa and Bella returned to their room. Kaylee also turned around and returned to her room.

Kaylee was stunned, watching them leave one after another without even saying goodbye. She felt a little displeased.

### [Chapter 2024 Shunned](#)

She felt somewhat disrespected.

When she turned to look at Gareth, she realized he had already left without her knowing when.

For a moment, Kaylee felt somewhat defeated, but more than that, she felt resentment. What more do I need to do to not get hated? Also, there's Elisa, who claims not to care, yet her actions reveal otherwise.

In Kaylee's view, Elisa was being two-faced.

Kaylee, huffing and puffing, also entered the room.

When it was time for a meal, the group had already discussed and decided on what to eat and when in their chat.

When Elisa left the house, she called out to Kaylee, saying, "Ms. Knapp, it's mealtime. The restaurant is just downstairs. Would you like to join?"

Kaylee was waiting for something, probably hoping to bump into Gareth as they went downstairs together. Perhaps she was hoping for a serendipitous encounter, so she turned Elisa down.

Oh! N-No need. I'm still changing clothes. You go ahead first."

Upon hearing that, Elisa didn't insist. She knocked on Bella's door, and they both went downstairs together.

As for Gareth, he had already left.

When Kaylee arrived, everyone was already neatly dressed and seated at the large round table except for Vincent and Rachel.

Vincent, being assertive, took Rachel to see the doctor. They would probably be back in a while.

When Kaylee saw Gareth sitting at the table, she felt a mix of slight resentment and a touch of helplessness.

"Have a seat," Elisa said, effectively easing Kaylee's awkwardness.

Kaylee also realized that her behavior prior was inappropriate. She gratefully glanced at Elisa, then proceeded to choose a place to sit down.

Elisa was sitting on the left of Bella, with the right side left vacant.

The empty seat to the right belonged to Gareth.

So, without giving it a second thought, Kaylee was about to sit in that spot.

Just as she pulled out the chair and was about to sit down, Bella stopped her. "Excuse me, Ms. Knapp, this is Rachel's spot. She'll be upset if she comes back and finds she's not sitting next to Elisa."

Kaylee's face turned pale. Even though I found the spot myself. I have to worry about the feelings of someone who isn't even here. Yet, my hands are tied, aren't they?

"I-Is that so?" Kaylee felt a bit awkward, glancing at Elisa

It was clear that Elisa had no intention of speaking, and it was obvious that she felt the same way.

Kaylee glanced at Gareth again, and he was also keeping mum.

With no other choice, she reluctantly pushed the chair back to its original place. Settling for the next best thing, she obediently took a seat next to Bella.

That spot was roughly opposite to where Gareth was.

Bella was evidently not very pleased.,

After waiting for a while and still not seeing Rachel, Kaylee couldn't help but ask, "Is there something wrong with Rachel and Vincent? Should I go and check on them?"

These words were spoken considerately, but they were actually a criticism of the two people for being late.

Everyone present was astute, and they could read between the lines.

Bella rolled her eyes after she heard those words. Surely she doesn't think it's her time to shine now, does she?

Elisa wanted to explain, but then she heard Rachel's voice..

"Indeed, I'm not feeling well, so I told you not to wait for me. See, I still ended up being late." Rachel walked over with a smile, showing no signs of anything unusual.

When she met Elisa's gaze, Rachel playfully blinked her eyes, signaling that she was all right.

Only then did Elisa feel at ease.

Bella continued the conversation, saying, "How could we possibly not wait for you? We need everyone to be here."

#### [Chapter 2025 Swimsuit](#)

Rachel and Bella had developed a deep understanding of each other after spending so much time together. Continuing the conversation, Rachel said, "Indeed, after all, we came together because we admire each other."

That remark was a sarcastic jab at Kaylee, who was there because of Julia.

Kaylee understood what those words meant, but she didn't say anything.

Her face turned red, probably because that was the first time in a long while she was causing a stir, and she was caught red-handed by the person in charge after only a few words.

Needless to say, Rachel's hostility toward her would only intensify from that point on.

Kaylee felt a bit regretful, realizing she had stirred up a hornet's nest.

Bella started to laugh. Those words are vengeful! Well, that's Rachel. Who asked Kaylee to take advantage of Rachel's absence to speak ill of her? Serves her right!

Elisa didn't let the two sides continue their standoff. Instead, she urged Rachel to take a seat quickly.

Rachel let out a cold snort and promptly took a seat next to Elisa.

Following that, the waiter served the dishes.

Kaylee discovered they had ordered the dishes long before she arrived without asking her.

Again, she felt disrespected.

In actuality, before Elisa left, she did mention that Kaylee could go with her and even help choose the dishes.

Yet, Kaylee didn't hear it herself, which only made her more certain that Elisa was a two-faced woman.

The meal was eaten in somewhat of a silence, accompanied by a belly full of anger.

Perhaps truly hungry, Bella didn't beat around the bush when it came to eating.

Elisa was also serving her food, and Bella accepted everything graciously.

Gareth teased, "You'd better eat less. If you eat too much and soak in the hot spring, I'm afraid you won't need to swim. You'll just float on the surface."

Although these words were directed at Bella, Rachel felt as if she was the one being attacked.

Looking at Vincent serving herself food, she stopped him by saying, "All right. That's enough. Are you hoping that I'll just float up while I'm soaking in the hot spring later?"

Upon hearing those words, Vincent didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

The group then started chatting again.

Bella wore an expression as if she'd seen a ghost. "Since when did Gareth start cracking such dry jokes?" She rubbed her arms as if she was chilled to the bone.

Everyone shared a laugh.

Whenever that happened, Kaylee would feel somewhat out of place. All I can do is eat in silence.

Soon, she realized that she had eaten too much and felt a bit embarrassed.

However, no one cared about her at all.

As the group chatted away, they decided to go for a walk to aid digestion.

Kaylee also went along. She was genuinely feeling a bit full.

When they were walking, she was ignored.



Three girls were walking together, with Elisa in the middle.

Gareth and Vincent were walking together, with Vincent constantly muttering about something, probably about Rachel.

In short, Kaylee couldn't fit in.

Everyone noticed what was happening, but no one said anything.

It was already quite good of them to bring her along. Hence, naturally, they didn't feel the need to feel bad for her. She is Kaylee. She doesn't need our pity.

After everyone felt they had digested their food, they went back to change into their swimsuits before going down.

Gareth and Vincent were men, so they just needed to put on a pair of shorts, which was why they were the first ones to go downstairs.

Several girls, including Kaylee, arrived downstairs together.

When Gareth saw Elisa in her black and white swimsuit, revealing her slender legs, his eyes darkened.

Not only that, it was also a belly-baring one.

Elisa neatly tied her hair into a bun, with a few loose strands falling down, giving off a pure and innocent. vibe.

In short, it was quite different from her previous image, but it was also very attractive.

Fortunately, it was already late in the day, making it somewhat difficult to see the possessive desire and greed in Gareth's eyes.

#### [Chapter 2026 Changing Ponds](#)

Almost everyone was there. One by one, they began to get into the water.

At first, everyone was soaking in the large pool. There were quite a few people, but they didn't seem to be having much fun.

Kaylee especially just felt embarrassed. She didn't experience anything else.

Even Rachel couldn't help but comment as she watched Kaylee's helpless demeanor. "I really don't know why she insisted on coming along. Didn't she think about the situation she'd be in before she came?"

Bella glanced at Kaylee, lowering her voice. "I bet she never given it any thought. Just her standing by my side gives me the creeps. I don't believe she's actually that thick-skinned and composed."

With a serious nod, Rachel echoed, "Although, I think she'll still come even if she thought about it. After all, isn't your cousin here too?"

Bella glanced at Gareth, then turned her gaze to Vincent.

Both men were naked from the waist up, leaving their muscular bodies visible.

The most anyone could see were their abs. Luckily, it was nighttime, so it wasn't too embarrassing.

Bella casually remarked, "Maybe she'll turn to someone else's embrace after she's rejected by Gareth."

Rachel paused, taking Bella's casual words seriously, but said nothing.

Elisa sensed something and attempted to ease the tension. "There are quite a lot of people in this big pool. How about we go and see what other pools are available first?"

Elisa's proposal was unanimously approved, and everyone stood up from the water.

A chill wind blew, causing them to shiver from the cold, especially because they just left the warm pool and were still wet.

Without any hesitation, they left in a hurry. "Let's go check out that place."

Gareth's deep gaze was fixed on Elisa from the start. Even when she put on her bathrobe and disappeared from his sight, he remained in a daze.

Vincent first followed Gareth's gaze, then waved his hand in front of the latter. "What are you doing? She's already gone."

Only then did Gareth regain his senses, glowering at Vincent.

Feeling a bit aggrieved, Vincent rubbed his arm. It's pointless to keep watching anyway because they've already left. I don't know why he's so upset about this.

At that moment, Vincent noticed Kaylee, who was somewhat awkwardly standing off to the side.

He didn't find Kaylee that repulsive or understand why the women harbored such deep hatred for her.

In his view, Kaylee was merely a bit sensitive when she first left the mountains. Additionally, she apologized for her behavior later on, so she didn't seem like a bad person to him.

Of course, he could never say those words in front of Rachel.

He could clearly see how much Rachel despised Kaylee.

Among the group, Rachel was probably the one who disliked Kaylee the most. Therefore, Vincent always kept his distance from Kaylee in front of everyone.

With Rachel absent at the moment, Vincent took the initiative to speak. "They've all gone ahead. Aren't you going to follow?"

Kaylee opened her mouth as if wanting to say something but ultimately didn't speak up. In the end, she just shook her head.

Lowering her eyes, she bit her lips, looking aggrieved.

Things were different for Kaylee after she left the mountain. Though she was tanned when she first left, her skin had turned much fairer.

[Chapter 2027 Applying Makeup](#)

Intrigued, Vincent stared intently at Kaylee's face, asking with genuine interest, "Are you wearing makeup? You probably didn't right? Wouldn't it wash off in the hot spring?"

"Like heck she didn't!" On the other side, Rachel continued Bella's conversation. "If you can't tell, it means her makeup skills are superb. Besides, waterproof makeup products have been available for a long time. now. We've seen her without makeup, haven't we? Objectively speaking, her features are slightly above average at best, but her skin isn't that great. Do you think skincare can be achieved in a day or two?"

Upon hearing those words, Bella found them quite reasonable and nodded in agreement.

She didn't wear makeup often, so she didn't really understand the intricacies.

Rachel stood with hands on her hips indignantly. "Do you think everyone is like Elisa?"

Elisa was taken aback for a moment. She looked at Rachel, blinking in confusion.

Disappointed, Rachel held Elisa's face in her hands. "Just look at yourself. You have such beautiful features and smooth skin. You're like a goddess descended from the heavens."

Elisa started laughing. "Aren't you being a bit too dramatic?"

Rachel looked serious. "I'm not exaggerating at all. If you don't believe me, you can ask Bella to come and see."

Bella came over when she heard her name mentioned. She carefully scrutinized Elisa's face for a while, then nodded seriously. "Rachel is right in her description."

Elisa's skin was naturally flawless. If she had joined the entertainment industry instead, she would likely have risen to prominence.

It was little wonder she was considered a beauty with her excellent facial features and flawless skin.

Bella and Rachel couldn't help but think God played favorites.

Elisa laughed, not caring about those things. To her, it didn't matter.

She thought her friends were also quite good-looking. If they were together, especially with the men, they would attract attention whenever they went.

The only one in the group who was lacking in the appearance department was Kaylee.

Though beautiful, she lacked a certain grandeur. Her beauty was of the more modest, homely kind. It was due to her semi-circular double eyelids and a not-so-prominent nose bridge. All in all, she was visibly attractive but lacked a memorable feature.

Moreover, having grown up in the mountains and facing harsh weather conditions without skincare, her skin was dark and rough.

That could've been a memorable feature of her appearance. However, to fit in with them, Kaylee chose to hide it, which made her facial features generic and hard for people to remember her.

If it weren't for the lack of time, she would probably have come to learn about aesthetic medicine and change her face completely.

Rachel wanted to continue her rant but was interrupted by a nudge from Elisa. In response, she turned around and saw Kaylee.

She came over because she was embarrassed by Vincent's question.

Of course, she felt even less welcomed there.

However, Kaylee was quite sensible. She merely passed by and did not get into the pool.

Despite that, she still couldn't help but feel a bit embarrassed by the attention.

As she moved, the three women stared at her. Concurrently, Rachel and Bella move along with her.

Kaylee felt greatly pressured and hurriedly went to the nearby pool.

The distance between the two pools was not insignificant. There was a faux mountain standing in between, which actually made Rachel feel quite refreshed.

It was a pool of fresh rose petals.

#### [Chapter 2028 The Unexpected Kiss](#)

Just when the three of them were discussing where to go for fun when spring arrived the next year, someone started sneezing. "I-I'm so cold."

Glancing in the direction of the noise, they spotted Vincent, dressed in a bathrobe, strolling toward the pool.

It appeared that he was carrying something on his chest, causing his belly to protrude.

"This is the rose pool. Would you two like to take a dip as well?" Rachel asked Vincent, who was still standing by the pool.

At this moment, Gareth had also just arrived. He exchanged a glance and a smirk with Vincent as if they were plotting something. "Three, two..."

It seemed as if Elisa had discovered something. She shouted out, "Watch out! They've brought weapons!"

Vincent's countdown had drowned out Elisa's reminder.

Immediately after. Vincent and Gareth jumped into the rose pool, took out their water guns, and started squirting water at them.

The three of them were forced to flee in disarray.

It seemed Vincent had marked Rachel as his target. There was no way she could dodge the attack.

A stream of water gushed forth, drenching her face entirely.

Rachel was relieved that she did not put on any makeup. Otherwise, even the most waterproof cosmetics would not have withstood such an onslaught from Vincent.

The water gun had a gentle spray, and Vincent kept a safe distance from her to ensure it did not cause any discomfort when the water made contact with her body.

Nevertheless, Rachel was irritated, as her meticulously styled bun was messed up. She put her hand in front of her face, then bravely faced the challenge, ready to snatch Vincent's water gun.

"Hey, hey, hey, what are you doing? I paid for this!" Vincent exclaimed.

Rachel retorted, "I don't care if you've paid for it. Just give it to me!"

While the two were wrestling with each other, Gareth, armed with another water gun, continued his search for Elisa.

In the midst of the chaos, Elisa and Bella got separated.

Holding her breath, Elisa submerged herself underwater and used a veil of rose petals to conceal her location, making it difficult for Gareth to pinpoint her whereabouts.

By the time he reacted, Elisa had somehow managed to grab his water gun.

Of course, Gareth would not readily relinquish his water gun. That was why they decided to face off against each other head-to-head.

Seeing that her sneak attack was unsuccessful, Elisa sprang up from the water.

The moment Elisa surfaced from the water, she found herself mere centimeters away from Gareth, their faces so close they could almost feel each other's warm breath on their skin.

Gareth was so stunned that his eyes nearly popped out. At this moment of distraction, Elisa seized the water gun.

She took a few steps back, trying to maintain a distance between them.

After regaining his senses, Gareth lunged toward Elisa, and together, they plunged into the depths of the water.

As they confronted one another, the gap between them was steadily diminishing. Beneath the water's surface, Gareth observed Elisa's hair floating, her vibrant eyes, and her face gradually enlarging before his gaze.

A warm, tender sensation enveloped his lips as Gareth unintentionally kissed Elisa!

Both of them were stunned.

Elisa attempted to rise, but she struggled since she was lying flat in the water, unable to get up without external support.

It was Gareth who, with one hand supporting Elisa's waist and the other hooked onto the nearby artificial mountain, helped Elisa to stand upright.

With a smack, Elisa's slap sent Gareth's face turning to the side.

Gareth stared blankly at Elisa, who was also taken aback.

Elisa's response was instinctive, as she probably did not know how to handle the situation.

After offering a hasty apology, she was prepared to leave the pool, but Gareth grabbed her arm all of a sudden.

Elisa turned around, and their gazes collided.

### [Chapter 2029 A Chance Encounter](#)

Meanwhile, it seemed Bella was spared from the attack as she was not their target.

Seeing that no one had noticed her, Bella moved to the furthest step, ready to depart from this "battlefield."

As she was about to leave the pool, she could not help but take one last glance behind.

She was not running away. In fact, she was heading to buy a water gun.

With just one glance backward, she collided with a muscular figure.

Bella cried out. "Ouch!" Immediately following, her hand instinctively pushed against the man.

Her forehead was throbbing with a painful bruise.

While massaging her forehead, Bella reluctantly muttered an apology.

The sound of that person's laughter echoed from above, carrying a hint of familiarity. "Ms. Wickam, what a coincidence to run into you here."

Upon hearing the words, Bella was completely taken aback, immediately lifting her head to look at the person.

The man opposite her was wearing shorts, baring his well-built upper body. His eight-pack abs were prominently defined. The corner of his lips curled into a mischievous grin, radiating an aura of playful charisma.

He was also wearing a very artistically designed necklace. That must be Mike. Who else could the man be?

Since the day Bella was rescued, she had been recovering at Elisa's house. Bella had considered leaving, but Elisa simply would not hear of it.

That was why she had been staying there for quite some time.

Nevertheless, she maintained regular contact with Mike, who frequently shared intriguing updates about the company.

When Mike noticed that Bella was absent, he proactively provided her with company updates, concerned that she might struggle with the workload after recovering from her injury.

Over time, sharing company updates had transformed into him sharing his personal stories.

He would regale Bella with tales of the delectable meals he enjoyed, the fascinating people he encountered, and the close calls he had with arriving late for work.

It was clear that he no longer viewed Bella as an outsider.

Initially, Bella felt a bit uneasy as Mike appeared to divulge every minute detail of his life as if he were delivering a comprehensive report.

Eventually, she got used to it.

Sometimes, she would also update him about her life.

All in all, the two had engaging online conversations, but their joyful interactions were confined to the virtual world.

It had been a while since they last met, so meeting face-to-face felt somewhat awkward.

"H-Hey, Mike." After a brief pause, Bella finally called out the other person's name.

Simultaneously, her gaze swept over him in disbelief, inevitably fixating on his well-defined abs.

She remembered the moment she accidentally bumped into him earlier, and she found the contact with his body quite pleasant.

However, that was not what Bella wanted to convey. She cleared her throat, attempting to push those thoughts from her mind.

Turning to Mike, she asked, "What brings you here? What a coincidence."

"I came here to relax." Mike shrugged his shoulders. "I didn't expect to run into you, Ms. Wickam. Did you come alone?"

In contrast to Bella's startled reaction, Mike appeared much more composed and naturally initiated a conversation with her.

Bella opened her mouth, intending to speak, but Mike silenced her before she could utter a word.

"It must be cold just standing here like this. I can see you're shivering. Let's chat in the water," he suggested.

Bella nodded in agreement, but she had no desire to return to the rose pool since she did not want to be ambushed while chatting with him.

The two of them went to the small pool nearby instead. It was quiet with hardly anyone around, a perfect place for a chat.

Upon entering the water, Bella could not help but shiver from the cold.

### [Chapter 2030 Together](#)

Bella must have been frozen stiff earlier. Now that she suddenly came into contact with hot water, she felt shivers run down her spine, and there was also a scalding sensation on the top of her feet.

Seeing the situation, Mike gave a smile.

"You haven't told me yet; how did you end up here? Are you really here to unwind?"

Evidently, she didn't believe that such coincidences could happen in this world.

His mouth opened to reveal eight teeth as he smiled brilliantly.

"If not?" he countered, leaving her at a loss for words.

As Mike moved closer again, Bella crossed her arms over her chest and watched him warily, asking, "What are you doing?"

He looked her up and down. "Surely you don't think I'm here to stalk you, do you, Ms. Wickam?"

Her face turned slightly red, and her voice didn't sound natural either.

"N-No." Staring at him, she emphasized again, "I don't think that way."

Mike shrugged and created some distance between the two of them. Only then did Bella feel a sense of relief.

Then, he said, "It's indeed a coincidence, but I'm quite happy to have met you here."

Her pupils dilated a little.

It was an hour later when they exited the hot springs. It was not advisable to soak in the hot springs for too long, so an hour was pretty much the limit.

The group appeared in synchrony at the fish spa.

The little fish here, who nibbled on skin, were changed daily. It was said that they feed on dead skin.

It was quite a ticklish sensation. The bites of bigger fish would sting, but they were bearable, all within acceptable limits.

The indoor fish spa had a heater, and everyone was still draped in bathrobes. Hence, even though they were only immersed up to their lower bodies in the room-temperature water, they didn't feel cold.

The group had already ceased fighting, but due to the events that had transpired, everyone felt a bit uneasy, creating an awkward atmosphere.

That was particularly apparent between Elisa and Gareth. It seemed as if the Milky Way separated them, drawing a clear boundary between men and women.

To the left of Elisa was Rachel, far to her right was Gareth, and to the right of Gareth was Vincent.

As nobody spoke, the atmosphere was rather odd.

Seeing Bella arrive, Rachel invited the former to sit down quickly while her gaze shifted toward Mike.

Lowering her voice and with a mysterious expression, she asked Bella, "Do they also offer that kind of service here?"

Bella blinked, looking at Rachel with a somewhat puzzled expression. "What kind of service?"



Just as Rachel was about to say something, Elisa poked the former, so Rachel reluctantly shut up.

Elisa looked at Mike. "What a coincidence to run into you here."

He politely nodded to her. "Indeed, Ms. Benett. What a coincidence."

With a half-smile, Elisa peered at Mike, probably thinking that such a coincidence was unlikely.

He, too, maintained a neither supercilious nor obsequious demeanor.

This so-called coincidence is nothing more than one's intentional arrangement.

However, Elisa didn't voice her thoughts, for from what she could see now, Mike didn't seem to have any ill intentions.

Just let him be, then.

At last, Rachel had a realization. "Oh! So he's an employee of your company? That's indeed quite a coincidence. How about we spend the rest of our itinerary together?"

Before Mike could respond, Vincent couldn't help but interrupt, "What's left on the itinerary? Aren't we leaving after the soak?"

Rachel rolled her eyes, clearly still upset about him using a water gun on her earlier. "I just decided. Is there a problem? If you have something else to do, you can always leave first, Vincent the Great Lawyer. No one is stopping you."