

Perfect Match: Irresistible Desire For You – Chapter 41 - Tips

As Joseph walked closer, he confirmed that it was indeed Ashley. At that moment, Ashley was sitting all by herself on a sofa in the corner, holding a glass in her hand. She lazily swirled the wine in her glass as she looked at the people and the furnishings around her. Her delicate side profile in the dim light caught Joseph's eye, and he was helplessly being drawn towards her like a moth to a flame.

Without hesitation, he strode to Ashley's side. However, someone seemed to have taken a step ahead of him. Seeing this, he stopped in his tracks and watched how the otherwise peaceful atmosphere around Ashley was going to change. He was quite good at judging a person's character just by observing them, and he could feel it in his bones that this person was definitely up to no good. So, he wanted to see how Ashley was going to react.

A handsome man walked up to her and casually asked, "Why is a pretty lady like you sitting here by yourself? Would you mind having a drink with me?" Before Ashley could even give him a response, he took a seat next to her and swirled the wine in his glass in front of her.

As soon as the crowd dispersed, the man began looking around, hunting for his "prey" at this high-end party. In a nutshell, he was one of those men who came here hoping to get hitched with a rich lady. When Ashley, who was sitting all alone in a small corner, caught his attention, he decided to approach her without delay. As he inched closer towards her, he saw how beautiful she was. As it turned out, she was exactly his type, and he couldn't help thinking that she would suit him well. Not only was she beautiful, she looked so elegant as well. It seemed like she was a sheltered woman, which was the easiest to manipulate. As a matter of fact, even if they couldn't really end up with each other, it would still be worthwhile just to have a one-night stand with her. The man had these impure thoughts, thinking how easy it would be for someone as handsome and rich as he was to get a woman like her. He was a run-of-the-mill playboy.

Ashley wanted to stay away from the noise of the party while waiting for her brother to come back. Needless to be said, she had no interest in talking to this peacock of a man. Judging from the look on his face, she could tell from a

single glance what he was thinking. Of course, she didn't want to waste her time talking to someone like him. After all, it would be better to avoid getting into any trouble when she was in public. With that in mind, she stood up at once and flatly replied, "Be my guest. You can sit on the sofa for as long as you like."

When the man saw that Ashley was planning to leave as soon as he got there, he sprang up from his seat and quickly tried to grab her hand. Unfortunately for him, Ashley was more agile than he was. She managed to swiftly dodge and avoided having any physical contact with the man next to her. Then, she shot daggers at him and warned in a cold tone, "If you are sensible, you shouldn't..."

Seeing the cold look in her eyes, the man was stunned for a moment. However, he managed to pull himself together almost instantly, thinking that she was just an unarmed and weak woman. As a devilish grin crept onto his face, he said, "Oh, I'm so scared." Then, he looked at Ashley from head to toe, checking out her attractive figure, with an indecent look in his eyes. "You have such a good figure. How can I possibly let you go?" After saying this, he reached out his hand to grab her.

The mischievous man wasn't fazed by her warning at all. Not only was he looking at her with lecherous eyes, he also wanted to take the opportunity to take advantage of her. Ever since she was a child, Ashley had always followed the principle not attacking anyone unless she was attacked first. Since the man was being rude, she wanted to teach him a lesson. Without a warning, she threw a punch between the eyes of the impudent man. Caught off guard, the hard and fast punch made the man cry out in pain, "Oww..."

The man screwed up his eyes in pain and covered them with his hand. Realizing that he had just been sucker-punched by a woman, he was fuming with anger due to embarrassment. He raised his hand and wanted to slap her in the face to get back at her, but Ashley managed to dodge it again and slapped him in the face instead, making the man even more furious. He cursed, "Bitch, I have never been slapped by a woman in my life. Who the hell do you think you are?" As he said these words, he lunged at her with full force. The conceited man felt so humiliated because of what the woman did to him, so much so, that he didn't show any signs of holding back at all. After Ashley dodged him, he came at her with everything he had.

If it weren't for the man standing so close to Ashley, and her dress making it difficult to move around, she would have already beaten the bastard with a

few whirlwind kicks. The man kept on relentlessly coming at her, and all she could do was try to avoid getting hit. In the end, she found herself backed up against a wall and was about to get hit. At this point, she didn't know what to do anymore, so she just bent down and covered her face, but the man didn't seem like he was going to hold back at all and was about to kick her.

She braced herself, thinking that she was about to get kicked, but the pain she was expecting didn't come. Instead, she heard the sound of someone falling to the ground and screaming in pain. Raising her head to check what happened, she saw a slender figure kicking the man on the ground without mercy. When she looked up, she found out that it was Joseph who came to her rescue at such a critical moment. With a grim expression on his face and a terrifying look in his eyes, he furiously glared at the man trembling at his feet and said in a forbidding tone, "Get out of my sight!"

When the man looked at the tall and ruthless man in front of him, his face turned white as a sheet. He recognized in an instant that this man was the legendary Joseph, who had just caused a commotion earlier. He felt so horrible deep inside. Almost everyone knew that they should not provoke Joseph, the "yama" of the business world. Otherwise, they would die without knowing what hit them. The cold and ruthless words Joseph uttered felt like he had been given a reprieve. In the end, the man couldn't do anything but endure the piercing pain and got out of his sight at once. The man was wondering what he had done to provoke Joseph. Was it because he didn't like how he was going to lay his hand on a woman? However, Joseph didn't seem like he was the type who would meddle with other people's business.

The loud noise attracted many people's attention. When they turned to look, they saw a man who looked like he got beaten to a pulp and was leaving in such a hurry, with his tail between his legs. Moreover, they saw Joseph staring at a beautiful and elegant woman in the corner. After witnessing this, everyone started to whisper and wonder what had just happened here. Noticing this, Joseph looked at the onlookers with such disdain. Those who knew better walked away one after another after feeling his intimidating gaze since it was quite obvious that Joseph didn't like them watching. Of course, the main reason was that no one wanted to risk getting on his bad side. After all, they couldn't bear to imagine the consequences if they offended him.

At that moment, Joseph was standing more than ten meters away from Ashley. Ashley, on the other hand, had already gotten up from the corner of the wall. She calmly straightened her clothes off and walked towards Joseph. When she was about two meters away from him, she said in a sincere tone,

“Thank you.” She was really grateful for his help and for dismissing the onlookers. She had always made it a point to keep public interests separate from private interests, but she wouldn’t hesitate to express her gratitude for things she should be thankful for.

From the look in her eyes, he could see her sincerity. The scuffle earlier didn’t damage her fresh and beautiful image, and she still looked as elegant as before. She didn’t seem to be shaken up by what happened just now at all. He felt so glad that she was talking to him normally.

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Joseph appreciated that Ashley stayed calm in the face of danger. She was fearless when dealing with the shameless man. However, as the only witness of the whole incident, he didn’t think that it was the right way for a woman to fight alone. If he wasn’t there watching over her and went to help in time, she’d have been injured. The thought alone that Ashley might get hurt made Joseph feel anxious. Out of the corner of his eye, he glanced at the filthy man who fled to the door. A trace of viciousness flashed through Joseph’s eyes. Just because he didn’t want to embarrass Ashley in public, he let that man go for now. As the man dared to provoke Joseph, he would definitely make him pay a painful price for that.

Joseph shifted his focus to Ashley and took a closer look at her. Ashley was standing not far away from him. He had to admit that she looked charming tonight. Being deliberately dressed up, her good figure and beautiful face were standing out in the crowd. But since Ashley looked very seductive today, Joseph had an impulse to cover her up so that no other men would covet her. As soon as the thought crossed his mind, he said to her quietly, “If your dress was more conservative, you wouldn’t have to encounter this kind of trouble.”

Hearing this, Ashley was stunned. ‘What? My dress was not conservative enough? How could that be?’ Although her dress was a little more gorgeous and revealing than usual, the style was quite conservative and decent. If her dress wasn’t conservative enough, then those women who were wearing low cut slip dresses would be regarded as scantily dressed. Ashley really didn’t understand why this indifferent man in front of her was suddenly bothered about her dress and said such shocking words.

The air between the two seemed to get frozen for a while. When Joseph realized what he had just said, he grimaced. He was also stunned for a moment for what he had just blurted out. Looking at the stunned expression on Ashley's face, he felt embarrassed. Ashley was about to say something, but a roar of laughter caught their attention.

The two of them turned their heads and saw a tall, handsome man laughing loudly looking at them. He was none other than Zachary.

As soon as Zachary entered the party, he found that Joseph, who was supposed to be walking in front of him, was missing. Zachary looked for him for a while but couldn't find him anywhere. Then he heard the chaos and followed the crowd to see what was happening. That's when he saw Joseph was beating someone mercilessly while a beautiful woman was standing in the corner. Zachary overheard the gossipers and found out how a hero saved a beauty. He felt it was incredible. As far as he knew, Joseph was not the kind of person who would meddle in other people's business. Moreover, he was born with a cold personality and was not at all a helpful personality.

He watched the man running away after getting beaten by Joseph. Joseph yelled at him coldly, "Get out of my sight!" Then, he drove the crowd away with his intimidating eyes before focusing on the beautiful lady. Zachary realized that he shouldn't miss witnessing this unusual behavior of Joseph. So, he stood in the corner and witnessed everything happening before his eyes. When the woman approached Joseph, Zachary realized that she was the beautiful manager of the Synder Group, who had been to their company before. In fact, he had recommended her to Joseph. What she wore today was not a usual business suit but a beautiful dress, which made her look extremely charming. Zachary guessed, either his friend didn't want to see this beauty being bullied by someone or the two already knew each other secretly. Zachary remembered that Joseph had met this woman alone before. So, he decided to wait and see quietly.

Therefore, he overheard everything the two were talking about. Also he noticed their not so professional expressions. At the beginning, when Zachary heard that Ashley thanked Joseph politely and the latter kept silent, he thought his first guess was right. But in the end, the cold and ridiculous words from Joseph made Zachary think twice. What was wrong with him to say that her dress wasn't conservative enough? Zachary sensed jealousy in Joseph's tone. 'The two must be in a secret affair!' This was the first thought that came

in Zachary's mind. He wasn't expecting to find his friend in such a situation, so he couldn't help but laugh aloud.

However, when Joseph's serious eyes shifted to Zachary, he felt the temperature around him suddenly dropped. The smile vanished from his face in an instant, and he made his way to the front. He looked seriously between Joseph's disdainful face and the beautiful woman. Zachary knew he had to watch his own words while talking. If he said something carelessly and provoked Joseph, he would be in trouble.

"Hello, sister-in-law! I'm Zachary Estrada. Nice to meet you." Zachary chose to talk to Ashley, because she looked much 'harmless' and if he could get along well with her, Joseph would not make things difficult for him.

Ashley looked at the tall and handsome man in front of her. He spoke to her with a warm smile on his face and his tone was very modest. But she really couldn't understand why he called her that. Ashley was speechless for a moment. 'Why did he call me sister-in-law? When did I become his sister-in-law?' she wondered.

Out of politeness, she shook hands with Zachary and said in a courteous but firm tone, "Hello, I'm Ashley Guzman. But, I don't know your brother. I am not your sister-in-law."

Zachary didn't expect that she would talk to him in such a firm tone. He didn't know how to answer, but he quickly reacted. He glanced at Joseph, whose expression had softened slightly, and replied in an equally firm tone, "You will be my sister-in-law soon."

Since Joseph was a year older than him, Zachary had always regarded him as his elder brother. Although Joseph had always been cold, after getting along with him for many years, Zachary knew that he was not ruthless in his heart. It was just the way he expressed his feelings, was a little different from ordinary people. Now there was finally a woman who could make this aloof man take the initiative. Of course, this woman would be his future sister-in-law. But he couldn't rely on Joseph. He had to take action himself. Zachary feared that since Joseph wasn't very good at expressing himself, he might frighten her away.

Zachary didn't realize that the firm and indifferent Ashley felt nothing but awkward and helpless at his straightforward words. Hearing what Zachary

said with certainty, she stared at him uneasily. She didn't even know who his brother was. Why was he talking so absurdly?

Joseph felt ignored standing next to them. When Zachary called Ashley as his sister-in-law, it pleased him greatly. So, he didn't interrupt their conversation and only listened attentively. However, her negative answer made him frown slightly. He was standing right in front of her. How could she say that she didn't know him? But it wasn't necessary to point that out now. Just as Zachary said that she would be his wife soon, he would make it happen. As the thought crossed his mind, Joseph's expression returned to normal.

"Go and focus on your own business," Joseph said to Zachary.

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Thanks to Zachary's sudden interruption, the tension between the two had been defused. At this point, Ashley felt like she already said her piece. Facing these two men with completely contrasting personalities by herself, she had nothing left to say. More importantly, there were a lot of watchful eyes around them. So, of course, she wouldn't want to be taken to task by everyone. After all, in the eyes of some of these onlookers, she had monopolized these two handsome men's attention.

Gently nodding her head, Ashley greeted the two of them and wanted to leave as soon as possible. However, after she had taken a few steps forward, a familiar voice came from behind and called out to her, "Ashley, there you are. What happened? Is everything all right?"

It was Mike. He went to the restroom earlier and had to answer a phone call that was related to business. The conversation lasted for over 20 minutes. When he hung up the phone and was about to walk back inside, something happened from out of the blue. Someone stole a kiss from him! Because the area was dimly lit, he couldn't make out the face of the woman who kissed him from out of nowhere before running off. The woman's distinctive scent made his body turn stiff, and his heart almost leaped out of his chest. However, when Mike finally came back to his senses and tried to run after the slender figure who stole a kiss from him, she disappeared in the blink of an eye, and he couldn't catch up to her. He tried to look for her in the lush garden at the back, but she was nowhere to be found.

Mike bent over backwards to find her, but to no avail. In the end, he decided to go back to the party and see if he could find her there. She was the first woman who had ever dared to do something like that to him and disappeared without a trace. Because of this, he was determined to find her no matter what so that he could let her know the consequences of provoking him. He walked around the party for a while, but he still couldn't find the woman, nor did he see Ashley. Knowing that his sister didn't like being in a big crowd, he checked the corners of the venue to look for her. When he saw his sister talking alone with two tall men who didn't seem familiar, he quickly walked up to them.

"Nothing. Let's go." When her brother came over and asked her looking so confused, Ashley told him that it was nothing. After all, she didn't want to get him involved and thought it would be better to just walk away with him.

As if Joseph had read her mind, he took the initiative to introduce himself to Mike and explained the situation to him, "Mr. Guzman, I'm Joseph Marshall. Your sister was being harassed just a moment ago. We just helped her out a little."

At that moment, Mike was a bit worried about his sister, so he didn't really see the faces of the two men who were talking to her. Hearing Joseph's deep and strong voice, he shifted his gaze towards the handsome man in front of him, and a hint of surprise flashed across his eyes. As it turned out, it was Joseph, a legend in the business field who was revered by almost everyone. Being the head of a big enterprise himself, although they belonged in different business fields, Mike really admired him a lot because of his achievements and his unique style.

They had already met at a high-end business party once. Be that as it might, at that time, he only saw Joseph from a distance. And he really seemed as cold and intimidating as the rumors said. Now, he was standing face to face with this talented man. What was more, Joseph even took it upon himself to introduce himself to him. Because of this, Mike couldn't help feeling a little flattered. As for the reason how Joseph knew that Ashley was his sister, Mike assumed that it was probably because Ashley had already introduced herself to him earlier. 'Anyway, Joseph has a powerful information network, so it shouldn't be surprising for him to know who she is,' Mike thought to himself. After getting caught in a daze for a while, Mike finally came to his senses and

replied, “Mr. Marshall, I’ve heard so much about you. I would like to thank the both of you for helping Ashley.”

Mike was completely clueless as to why Joseph wanted to explain the situation to him. In truth, Joseph was only planting a seed for his future. Since he wanted to make Ashley his wife, her brother, Mike, would be his future brother-in-law. For this reason, he wanted to leave a good first impression on him. Although Joseph would usually be very indifferent towards other people, he knew how to carry himself well. So, Zachary thought that Joseph was going to be just fine, and there was probably no need for him to worry about him.

That being said, when Zachary saw that the man who suddenly appeared looked so handsome and even seemed to be very familiar with Ashley, he thought that Joseph had met a formidable rival in love. ‘He hasn’t even had a chance to make a move yet.’ At this moment, Zachary couldn’t help feeling sorry for his friend, completely oblivious of the fact that Mike and Ashley were actually siblings. Looking at Mike, Zachary cudged his brains for information about this so-called ‘Mr. Guzman’. He assumed that this man, who seemed to be very close to Ashley, must be the CEO of the Guzman Group, Mike Guzman. Mike also happened to be a powerful man in the business field. Thanks to his modest appearance and his decisiveness, the Guzman Group had seen a lot of development in recent years. At any rate, Zachary couldn’t deny the fact that Joseph’s eyes were as sharp as usual. ‘He finally has his eyes on a woman, who not only looks so beautiful, but has a strong background as well.’

“No need to thank us. We’ll gladly help a beautiful lady if she is in trouble,” Zachary replied with a smile.

Zachary saying this in a playful tone helped lighten up the mood around them. Since Mike also didn’t want to stay with the big crowd, after asking Ashley if it was okay, the four of them sat down on the sofa where Ashley was sitting before. Joseph might be one of the best in the business world, but he was a man of few words. Luckily for him, Zachary, who was usually the life of the party, was there to keep the conversation going. Sitting next to Mike, Ashley would also join in on the conversation from time to time.

After a while, the dance ball had finally gone under way. The loud voice of the host echoed throughout the venue, “Let’s keep this party going! It’s time for the ball!”

Ashley had no interest in dancing, and she didn't want to go and have fun with everyone. Instead, she found herself feeling a little hungry. After telling Mike in a low voice that she was going to get something to eat, she walked towards the dance floor.

Moments after Ashley stood up and left, Joseph excused himself and followed her into the dance floor. With just one glance, he found Ashley's unique figure in the crowd right away. She seemed to be talking with another woman. Joseph couldn't see the expression on Ashley's face, but the other woman seemed to be irritated for some reason.

Joseph quickly walked over towards them. When Ashley felt the presence of a tall figure standing behind to her, she and Lina turned to look at him at the same time. Seeing the blank expression on Joseph's face, Ashley averted her gaze and went back to getting a slice of cake. When Lina saw the man standing in front of her, she was stuck in a daze for a moment. He was the most handsome man she had ever laid her eyes upon. When she first saw him earlier, she already felt like he was out of her league. But, now that he was standing in front of her, she realized that he looked even more perfect up close. However, it was said that Joseph was so intimidating that people didn't dare to look at him directly. True enough, Lina felt so intimidated by him and soon looked away.

Joseph didn't pay attention to Lina at all. All this time, his eyes had been glued to Ashley, who was busy deciding which food to take. Lina could feel the obvious difference between Joseph's attitude toward her and Ashley. Honestly speaking, she didn't think that she was inferior to Ashley in any way, but all the remarkable men only seemed to care about her, including the man who was rumored to have no interest in women. This only made her feel even more jealous.

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Before the party officially began, Lina saw Joseph with Ashley. Everyone was astonished to see the hero saving the beauty. But they didn't dare to provoke him, so they stopped talking about it after a while. As soon as Lina saw Ashley was tasting the food alone while Charlie was talking to people elsewhere, she walked up to Ashley. 'After breaking up with Charlie, she went shopping with another handsome man, and now she is trying to hook up with Joseph, the outstanding man who has ranked first among the Golden Bachelors.' Lina

envied Ashley a lot. However, Ashley never took her seriously, which made her even more infuriated. She wanted to have a conversation with Ashley, but Joseph appeared in front of them and the silence ensued immediately.

Now that the two of them appeared in public together, Lina was sure that they had a close and secret relationship. With a perfect smile on her face, Lina pretended to be kind. "All that glitters is not gold. Someone you're interested in has been with a lot of men already. Don't misunderstand me, Mr. Marshall. I'm your well-wisher."

Of course, Ashley knew what Lina meant. She said it on purpose to let Joseph know about her past. Ashley used to feel helpless about this woman who had been against her since they knew each other. But nowadays, she just ignored her. Her attitude towards Lina didn't differ this time also. There was no reason for her to explain anything because her character was clean. Ashley knew that her explanation would be useless in front of such a jealous woman who only enjoyed others' misfortune. So, Ashley continued to do what she was doing.

However, listening to her words, Joseph took a closer look at the coquettish Lina and asked, "Have I asked you Miss to meddle in my business?" His voice was extremely cold.

When Lina realized that he stressed the word 'Miss' on purpose, she didn't know if he was deliberately satirizing her. As a smart woman, she understood that Joseph had purposely shifted the key focus of their conversation. But she didn't dare to express any objection to his conscious partiality to Ashley. She could only smile and mediate. "Mr. Marshall, you're getting offended unnecessarily. I'm just a nobody. How could I make any comments on your personal business?"

Joseph didn't anymore respond to the nosy woman. Instead, he turned around and followed Ashley, who had already left to look for food elsewhere. Staring at his tall and straight back, Lina clenched her fists. First being ignored by Ashley and then by Joseph, Lina felt both embarrassed and exasperated. 'Ashley, let's wait and see!' Lina thought to herself before turning around to look for Charlie.

Joseph watched Ashley walking around and eating as if nothing could attract her attention except for the delicious food. He felt helpless under the curious

gaze of the public. He created quite a stir after showing up in the party and his forceful momentum made many people stand in awe. With his close follow-up behind Ashley, many men who wanted to accost her dared not approach her rashly.

Ashley knew that Joseph was behind her. She didn't know what he wanted from her. It was strange that he followed her all the way but said nothing. She wanted to ask him to come over and share some delicious food with her. But before she could ask him why he was following her, a bright sp0tlight focused on her. Then the host announced cheerily, "Now our sp0tlight is on this lucky woman. Let's warmly welcome her to perform a dance on the stage." After the host finished his words, there was warm and long applause all around. Seeing that the response was very lively, the host added, "Anyone from the gentlemen present here can sincerely invite this lucky beauty and share a dance with her." The atmosphere turned warmer, when everyone saw the beautiful woman standing under the sp0tlight. When the men heard that they could dance with her, they were even more excited.

In the meantime, Ashley stood frozen under the sp0tlight. She was stunned. She was just hungry and wanted some food. Why were they forcing her to do something else? Was it wrong to taste delicious food? Why did this so-called 'lucky' turn out to be the real bad luck for her? Under the blazing gaze of the crowd, Ashley knew she couldn't just refuse such a grand invitation. Although she preferred to be quiet, dancing was easy for her. But the problem was, who would be her partner? At the thought of this, Ashley hesitated. She walked towards the center of the stage while the crowd kept cheering for her. On the way, she looked for Mike in the crowd, hoping that her brother could help her out. She didn't want to dance with just any stranger.

However, she didn't find her brother anywhere, and she couldn't even call out his name. Because it'd be too awkward to ask for his help directly before so many people. She calmed herself down thinking it was just a dance and continued to walk to the stage calmly and elegantly. Suddenly, a strong hand grabbed her arm. Ashley turned around and found it was Joseph. 'What is he doing?' Ashley couldn't help but frown.

Joseph saw the confusion on her face. In fact, he didn't know exactly what he was going to do either. Joseph was also surprised when the sp0tlight suddenly focused on Ashley. By the way Ashley looked around nervously, Joseph knew that she didn't want to dance alone on the stage. Additionally, when he saw that she was being followed by the covetous stares of the countless men, Joseph sensed a strong feeling of unhappiness.

'Even if she wants to dance, her partner could only be me.' Joseph followed his heart's desire and walked up to Ashley to hold her arm. He looked into Ashley's confused eyes and said, "Let me dance with you."

Surprise flashed through Ashley's eyes hearing Joseph's words. She had thought this noble man only acted disdainful in front of public. But compared with other people as her dance partners, Joseph was a much better choice. So, she nodded at him.

To be honest, Ashley's character study of Joseph was true in a sense. But, the recent behavior of Joseph was different than usual. In fact, it was his unique way of showing his love for her. He wanted to be exclusive and announce his ownership at the same time. That was his real purpose, which was also in line with his usual dominance.

Those who had planned to attract this beauty with their personal charm, were stunned to see her getting on the stage with Joseph. In every aspect, be it appearance or family background, Joseph was far superior to them. So, those men could only watch Joseph and Ashley stepping onto the stage in silence.

At this time, some officious women among the crowd raised an objection. "So, it's not true that Joseph doesn't like women. But why did he suddenly invite this woman to dance?" A round of murmur rolled out in the crowd. The question caused a lot of hot discussions. Some people engaged in the news industry even took out their phones to secretly take photos.

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Because of the loud music playing, Joseph and Ashley couldn't make out the whispers of the crowd. However, they were aware that some people were taking pictures of them. Despite this, Joseph didn't do anything to stop them. As far as he was concerned, these photos could help to improve his relationship with Ashley. Rumors could spread like wildfire as soon as news about it was released. At the thought of this, he felt like people gossiping about their relationship wasn't a bad thing. Considering how Joseph didn't seem to be bothered by being photographed, Ashley decided to just keep silent. After all, her words wouldn't be as convincing as Joseph's. Besides, if she was to try to stop them, it would just look as if she was desperately trying to hide something.

The two of them walked towards the dance floor one after another. Bowing slightly to her, Joseph extended his right hand in front of Ashley and courteously said, "May I have this dance?"

Hearing his invitation to dance, a graceful smile appeared on Ashley's face, and she placed her hand on the palm of his to accept it.

Holding her slender hand, Joseph led Ashley to the dance floor.

In the eyes of everyone watching, these two beautiful people looked as though they were a prince and a princess who came straight out of a fairy tale. As they started to dance, the other guests burst into a warm applause. Watching the two of them dancing so gracefully, the crowd started looking for their own partners one by one. With that, the dance ball went underway.

When the music stopped playing, Joseph and Ashley walked off the dance floor together. Although the two of them didn't really talk much while dancing, it seemed that Ashley was starting to see Joseph in a different light. This time, Joseph didn't mention anything about the one-night-stand, nor did he make such an unreasonable request like he did last time. In fact, he acted like a perfect gentleman and even came to her rescue a number of times.

Little did Ashley know, Joseph's actions tonight were actually part of a well-thought-out plan. When he saw Ashley and Mike having dinner together at the restaurant last time by chance, he asked someone to have her investigated at once. From this, he discovered a few things about her, including her family background, what she had been up to these days, and what kind of personality she had. Although she had been born into a wealthy family, Ashley had always kept a low profile. Despite this, she had always been proud.

Through the investigation, Joseph found out that he couldn't treat Ashley the same way he treated other women. As it turned out, she was not like other girls. She had no interest in money or material things, which was probably the reason why his request to make her his woman had been turned down despite it being proposed by such a rich and powerful man like him. Truth be told, he considered looking for a way to force Ashley to agree to his request, but that might change who she really was and cause her to become submissive. This was something he couldn't bear the thought of. Thinking of this, he made up his mind to just "fish for a long time". Meaning to say, he couldn't rush things; he had to take his time and be patient. In the words of Zachary, the saint of love, if he wanted to make women fall head over heels for him, he had to steal their hearts.

Having said that, meeting Ashley in this party tonight wasn't really a part of his plan. He had originally planned to start making a move in a couple of days and take his time in achieving his goal, which was to make Ashley willingly agree to marry him, not because he was in love with her, but because she was the only woman he had ever shown any interest in so far.

As soon as Joseph and Ashley left the dance floor, two tall figures walked towards them. Zachary gave the two of them a meaningful glance and said with a smile, "You danced well! Joseph, I never knew you could do that." Zachary couldn't help teasing Joseph a little. After all, he really had no idea that his friend could dance so well.

When Joseph stood up and left the corner, Zachary immediately made up with an excuse to keep Mike occupied so that his friend and Ashley could be alone. He deliberately approached Mike and started talking a lot about business to keep him distracted. That way, the two would get a chance to know a little more about each other.

When the first song ended, the two of them decided to go to the dance floor to check up on Ashley and Joseph. As soon as they reached the middle of the dance floor, they found Joseph and Ashley dancing there. Compared to the other pairs dancing around them, the two of them really stood out. The way they danced, along with their exceptional appearances and personalities, made them seem as if they were made for each other, and everyone looked at them in admiration.

Hearing Zachary's teasing, Joseph let out a soft chuckle but didn't give any response. Throughout the years he had stayed abroad, he had attended all kinds of social gatherings. In fact, he was a man of many talents and was proficient in all aspects. However, he never really got the chance to show it, nor did he ever want to.

Mike walked up to Ashley and looked at his sister's beautiful face glowing in the light. Seeing this, he couldn't help sighing in his heart, 'There's no doubt that a lot of people think my sister and Joseph look perfect for each other. But, when I see the indifferent expression on Joseph's face, it makes me feel as if he doesn't have any feelings for her at all. I can't tell what's going on inside his head. But, considering his aloof personality, why would he spend time alone with a woman? Both of them don't seem to be interested. I wonder if it's a good idea for them to be together.'

It wasn't that he didn't think it would be a good idea, it was just that he was worried about his sister's marriage. No one could deny the fact that the two of them would be the perfect couple. However, he found himself caught between a rock and a hard place, because he had already found a good man for his sister.

Noticing that Mike was looking at her and seemed to be at sixes and sevens, she gently tugged his sleeve and said, "Let's go. I'll go with you to meet other guests."

After saying goodbye to Joseph and Zachary, they left to rub elbows with the other guests.

When Ashley and Mike walked away, Zachary nudged Joseph beside him with his elbow and teased again, "What's the matter? Haven't you captured the beautiful lady's heart yet?"

As a matter of fact, he indeed hadn't captured Ashley's heart yet. This was the first time Joseph had ever felt so frustrated. Ashley had always been by herself and wasn't taking him seriously. It was starting to get under his skin. Since he had already made up his mind to fish for a long time, he couldn't just go after her so shamelessly. For now, all he could do was wait for the next opportunity to get close to her. Of course, there was no way he could say this to Zachary, who seemed to find what was happening quite amusing.

"Where's your fussy woman's look?" Joseph suddenly asked Zachary, his eyes filled with contempt.

When he entered the party, he noticed right away that Zachary seemed so down in the dumps. He shot him a quick glance and saw the look of disappointment on his face. At that moment, he remembered how happy Zachary looked when he came back from Olkfield a few days ago. There was such a stark contrast between his attitude back then compared to now. Zachary must be going through something, and it was written all over his face. Since he couldn't possibly be worrying about his career or money, it must be something about love.

Truth be told, he wanted to wait until Zachary was ready to talk about it. But, since the latter thought it would be a great idea to poke fun at Joseph for his failed attempt to win the girl's heart, he couldn't blame him for rubbing salt in his wound.

Zachary was caught off guard, as he did not expect that Joseph would give him such a response. When he found out that Joseph was planning to save the beautiful lady like a hero, Zachary, who had always enjoyed watching a good drama, started to look forward to watching it from the sidelines. And when he heard Joseph tell Ashley to wear more clothes, he couldn't hold back his laughter. This helped him to take his mind off things, and his sadness had been swept away. Zachary wanted to make fun of Joseph's slow progress, but karma bit him back instead. It reminded him of his own problems again.