

## **Perfect Match: Irresistible Desire For You – Chapter 71 - Tips**

“Why are you here looking for him so early in the morning?” Patricia said, her tone clearly displeased. She glanced sideways at the clock on the wall and saw it was only seven o’clock in the morning. If it had been someone else other than Yasmin, she would have been furious.

Yesterday, Patricia had been utterly exhausted both mentally and physically. She wasn’t planning to go out today and had decided instead to sleep in all morning. Not that that was going to happen now. Seeing Yasmin wide awake and primly dressed in front of her, she felt a pang of resentment.

As Patricia frowned at her from her doorstep, Yasmin decided not to beat about the bush. She rudely barged right in past Patricia.

Yasmin looked around the apartment. She made a point to ignore Patricia, who was standing in stunned silence at her rudeness.

Yasmin meant business, and immediately searched the living room before surveying the bedroom in turn. She was relieved to see that there were only men’s dirty clothes in the bathroom and that Zachary was nowhere to be seen.

Yasmin looked back at Patricia, who had been following her like a hawk. Apart from the wrinkles on her pajamas, there was no sign of their relationship. She saw that Patricia was puzzled, which confirmed to her that Zachary didn’t stay there at night. This cheered Yasmin up considerably.

“This is really a lovely apartment!” Yasmin said as she wandered round.

Zachary’s apartment was decorated with brand-new furniture. The floor was clear and everything was tidy and clean, unlike in her own apartment. Her praise was sincere, and not just an attempt to justify her intrusion.

Hearing this, the corners of Patricia’s mouth twitched. ‘Is Yasmin here this early merely to see the apartment? So, why did she say she wanted to see Zachary? It’s pretty obvious she’s lying.’

Patricia was not easily fooled. She looked over at Yasmin, who was sitting on the sofa with her legs crossed, and repeated the question firmly, “Tell me why you want to see Zachary?”

“Since he’s not here, there’s no point going into details. Little girl, why don’t you come and sit down with me? We’re neighbors now. I’m here to thank you for last night.” As Yasmin spoke, she gestured at Patricia to come sit down by her. After a pause, she continued to say kindly, “How about I treat you to breakfast?”

As the saying goes, keep your friends close and your enemies closer. Faced with her rival in love, Yasmin decided the best thing to do was to act friendly. ‘If I’m going to win Zachary from her, I need to understand how her mind works first,’ she thought.

Yasmin had called Patricia a “little girl” because she gave off a certain innocence, and wore no heels or make-up. Her short, messy hair and big doe eyes made her look like a young girl. At the same time, Yasmin was trying to convey her superior maturity. There was a saying that a mature and sensible woman is a more attractive woman.

“Don’t patronize me, please. I’m 23 and have been an adult for some time.” Patricia did not appreciate being looked down on like this, and wanted to make sure Yasmin knew it.

She hated that people looked at her and saw a child. ‘Why is that?’ she thought. ‘Is it because of my child-like face or maybe because I’m short?’ Yesterday, in preparation to play the role of Zachary’s girlfriend, she had specially put on make-up, high heels and a long, wavy wig. She certainly thought she’d looked the part, but now, fresh out of bed with no accessories, she felt the insecurity return.

After listening to Patricia, Yasmin looked at her up and down and saw that she had a point. Indeed, even if Patricia wore the pajamas of a mature woman, it couldn’t conceal her pretty, youthful face. With her short black hair and height, as well as the pout she currently wore, she certainly looked more than one year younger than Yasmin.

Yasmin was abruptly aware that her rival in love was weak competition. ‘Was Zachary only with her because he liked his girls young and pretty?’

Patricia, in her opinion, was not up to the job of being Zachary’s girlfriend. Most people might be put out by women showing up early in search of their boyfriend. Patricia, however, who Yasmin had just met last night, seemed

surprisingly calm and collected. Her confusion at Yasmin's appearance was genuine, and she did not seem on the defensive.

"Well, forget it." Yasmin said to Patricia, "Let's keep chatting. How about I treat you to breakfast?"

The conniving smirk on Yasmin's face confused Patricia. 'What is going on? Where was this sudden enthusiasm coming from?'

"Okay! It's settled then." Patricia was still disheveled from jumping out of bed, and Yasmin gently directed her to the bathroom. "You should probably wash first. I'll wait for you outside."

Just 10 minutes later, Yasmin and Patricia went downstairs to have breakfast together.

Yasmin took this opportunity to politely ask about how Patricia first met Zachary and she was rewarded with a touching love story. They had met at a dinner quite some time ago, and she had been immediately taken with his looks and confidence. She had decided then and there that they would be together, and had pursued him until she got her wish.

Patricia was tense as she finished recounting this perfect, but totally invented, love story.

She began to have her suspicions that Yasmin was pumping her for information, although she couldn't discern her motive. So as not to waste her previous efforts, she responded to every question, but invented a false answer each time.

She had finally fully woken up, and was able to navigate the conversation skillfully. She enumerated all of Zachary's best qualities, which came across as boasting on her own behalf. Then she gave Yasmin more details to make the love story she was spinning seem even more credible. She wanted Yasmin to be jealous of her.

Patricia ended with a final question, in hushed tones that Yasmin leaned in to hear. "When you really like someone, you need to be brave enough to pursue them, right?"

Patricia had a secret motive in asking Yasmin this. She hoped Yasmin would be brave enough to pursue Zachary if she had true feelings for him. Then, Patricia's work would be done.

"I think you're probably right." As Patricia's love story came to a close, Yasmin lowered her head deep in thought. 'I think I might just take your advice, and be brave enough to pursue him myself,' Yasmin repeated in her heart of hearts.

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Yasmin lowered her head while speaking, so Patricia couldn't see how the expression in her eyes changed. Besides, her voice gave nothing away. Patricia thought that the reason why Yasmin would voluntarily ask something about Zachary out of nowhere was because she had already realized that she had feelings for him.

If her assumption were true, her emotions would give her away. However, Yasmin was like a closed book, her emotions hiding so deep inside her that they were impossible to read.

Nearing the end of their breakfast, she decided to try again. "I'm going out with Zachary tomorrow. He said that he will show me around Ariosa. Do you want to come with us?"

Patricia's mission was to find out, once and for all, whether Yasmin had a crush on Zachary. Only in this way could she find a solution to the problem. As an impartial observer, she needed to be around the two of them so she could actually gauge the situation and figure out how to help Zachary out more efficiently. Now that she had extended the invitation, she could only wait for Yasmin's response.

"I'm free tomorrow. You are new here, so you probably don't have any friends around. I can be your tour guide for free." After wiping her mouth with a tissue, Yasmin continued, "Just ring my doorbell when you're ready to go tomorrow."

'Just kidding... How could you two be out on a date without me?' she thought. Yasmin accepted Patricia's invitation for a good reason.

'You have to go. Now that the big fish has taken the bait, all that's left is for Zachary to behave himself.' Hearing her ready agreement, Patricia beamed widely at her and said, "Got it! I'll call you tomorrow."

Yasmin looked at her watch and saw that it was almost time for her to go to work. "I have to leave for work now. Stay here and head back once you're done. I'll take care of the bill." With that, she picked up her bag and said goodbye to Patricia.

"Okay, bye. Be careful on your way!" Patricia waved goodbye in return.

Lost in thought, Patricia watched until Yasmin disappeared out of sight. In the time she spent with Yasmin, she found the other woman to be funny and eloquent. Moreover, her bright eyes charmingly sparkled with intelligence and zest for life. Patricia was definitely looking forward to the trip with the three of them in the next two days.

After breakfast, she went back to the apartment and called her aunt Juliet to report the current situation. Every detail was mentioned, including the events of last night and today, her evaluation of Yasmin, and their schedule for the coming weekend.

On her end, Juliet felt relieved to hear that her niece had cleared the first round. After instructing Patricia in some dos and don'ts and giving her encouragement, she ended the call with a satisfied smile on her face.

Ashley planned to go to Mexico in two days. Mike was completely supportive of her idea to spend some time in another country to relax and get started on her childhood dream of traveling around the world. She had spoken to her open-minded parents about her plan, to which they enthusiastically endorsed. Regrettably, their schedules didn't align—they had just been to Mexico and had finalized their plans to return home; otherwise, they would have accompanied her.

Ashley planned to set out on the day after tomorrow. After packing up the clothes that she needed for the trip at her apartment, she trudged down the stairs with her suitcase. She was planning to stay at home for two days before her departure so that she could do the necessary preparations for the trip and take care of Mike's daily life as he had requested.

Mike told her not to drive home by herself. He was free that day, so he offered to pick her up and buy other travel necessities. After finishing up, Ashley went out to wait for her brother at the gate of the community.

The last thing Ashley expected was to be mobbed by reporters arriving one after the other. Then, a luxurious car stopped in front of the gate, and James, the Synder Group's CEO, emerged from it and walked toward her.

The CEO wanted to personally make the public apology to Ashley. Besides, he wanted to meet her in person—he found himself curious about the manager who had attracted the attention of Joseph and turned down the Synder Group's offer without hesitation.

Last time, Charlie wanted to settle things with Ashley in private, but the woman adamantly refused his request. With his tail tucked between his legs, he went to report this to his father, embellishing his story by a certain degree. Charlie repeatedly emphasized that he had strictly followed James's instructions in his attempts to negotiate with Ashley. It never occurred to him that Ashley would turn him down without even allowing him to come in the house. Moreover, she was set on having the Synder Group issue a public apology. In his story, Charlie made Ashley look like an arrogant, mercenary woman that the usually proud, in-control James felt a twinge of anxiety.

However, now that the Empire Group took advantage of the chaotic stock market situation of the Synder Group in order to launch an overt, tough acquisition strategy, James had run out of better ideas.

The recent issue besetting the Synder Group had caused the stock price of the company to fall sharply, and the company's image had taken a severe blow. Then, after giving the required compensation for the last breach of contract incident, the Synder Group's liquid assets had been seriously depleted, as well. Opting for "stock repurchase" to resist Empire Group's malicious acquisition would not only put the Synder Group into worse financial constraints but also hinder the subsequent development of the company. Besides, stock repurchase needed a large sum of money which, at this point, the Synder Group had in short supply. Surely, the strength of the Empire Group was not something ordinary companies could overcome.

After some thought, James decided to comply with Joseph's requirements so that the Empire Group would ease their attack on his company. If he didn't miss his guess, James would say that the Synder Group's slander of Ashley was the trigger to Joseph's attack. If he managed to handle this matter well,

maybe he could make Joseph stop—after all, it was not an easy thing to annex the Synder Group. Besides, nothing else could explain the man’s behavior.

Since Charlie, his heir, had failed, James cursed the woman’s bullheadedness and then decided to meet her in person. ‘I’m sure she would treat me with some respect. Everything will be fine once I’ve issued a public apology.’

A deep frown marred Ashley’s forehead as a veritable swarm of reporters bearing expensive camera equipment flocked toward her. Then, suddenly there was James approaching her with every purposeful step.

Ashley knew that James wanted to publicly apologize, but she didn’t mean something like this—a media circus. Besides, he actually invited a group of reporters to block the gate and take photos. A sincere public apology should not be handled in this manner. Suffice it to say, Ashley was not satisfied by James’s attempt.

“Miss Guzman, can you give us your thoughts on the CEO of the Empire Group, Mr. Marshall, clearing your name and demanding a public apology from the Synder Group?” one reporter asked.

“How do you feel now that the CEO of the Synder Group is publicly apologizing to you?” questioned another reporter.

“Miss Guzman, the CEO of the Synder Group is showing great sincerity by apologizing to you in front of everyone. As a former employee of the Synder Group, will you forgive what your previous company has done to you?” Yet another reporter threw the question at her.

Ashley was speechless.

Without even giving her the chance to respond, the reporters crowded in on her, ruthlessly firing one question after another.

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Ashley was smart enough to realize the true purpose of the reporters. She suspected that they had been hired by James for two rather obvious reasons. Firstly, in the normal course of their work, reporters would refrain from directing successive questions to the interviewee without affording them the

opportunity to answer their initial question. Secondly, the reporters had asked her if she had forgiven the Synder Group yet. Why would the reporters ask this question when the Synder Group had not yet offered her an apology? It was as if they had been briefed with specific information that only James could have provided to them.

Ashley raised her hands to signal the reporters to be silent. She responded, "My dear friends, I have a question for you. Since Mr. Synder has not yet offered me an apology, how will I be able to answer the question of whether I forgive the Synder Group?" After ending her statement, she looked through the crowd of reporters and stared directly at James, who was not too far from her.

Hearing Ashley's shrewd question, the reporters, who had just been overflowing with questions, were now struck dumb. The once buzzing scene was now dead silent. At a loss for what to do, many of them looked to James, seeking some sort of guidance from him.

Realizing that Ashley had the keen ability to quickly turn the tables on them, James had to admit that she had something special about her, apart from her beauty and charm.

An ordinary woman of her young age would have caved under the pressure of the reporters. Ashley didn't just observe and internally draw conclusions from the scene, she had decided to forget the passive approach and act directly, facing the situation head on.

James had sourced these reporters from some lesser known newspapers in advance. His purpose was to catch Ashley off guard, causing her to lose her train of thought and undertake openly that she had forgiven the Synder Group and would therefore not take action against it for its defamatory comments against her. He would apologize after-the-fact, and find someone to edit the video to make it seem as though it was one flowing occurrence, wherein it appeared as if he apologized first and she accepted.

James was of the belief that it was beneath his position as CEO of the company to publicly apologize to an ordinary employee. He still, however, had to provide Joseph an explanation so he had come up with this idea to satisfy both himself and Joseph. To his surprise, however, Ashley had easily seen through this ruse.



Feeling Ashley's gaze upon him, James looked at Ashley head on while walking towards her.

Ashley was casually dressed and had her hair tied into a ponytail. Her attractive, slender figure was apparent in this outfit. 'Apart from her exceptional beauty, she is nothing more than an average young woman who is still wet behind the ears,' he thought about her.

He stood directly in front her and said, "I have heard a lot about you, Miss Guzman. I am James Synder, the CEO of the Synder Group. I am here to offer an apology for your unjust dismissal from the company."

Seeing that Ashley was unmoved by his apology, James squinted his eyes and continued, "I hope you can find it within yourself to so graciously bury the hatchet."

To Ashley, James looked out of shape, carrying extra weight on his frame. He wore a sharp suit and a pair of genuine leather shoes. Time had left its mark on his dignified and composed face. He exuded a sense of superiority. Ashley had seen this same sense of superiority in Charlie too.

James' words of apology did not match his cold tone, which almost had a note of threat underlying it. Ashley couldn't help marveling at how the apple had not fallen far from the tree. The father and son were so similar, especially in the way they offered so-called apologies.

Ashley scoffed at the insincerity of the apology. She said, "It's a pleasure to meet you. I was hoping to deal with this matter soon. But I have suffered significant damage to my reputation due to the Synder Group's conduct. While I appreciate that you have come in person to apologize, I hope you can find it within yourself to ensure your company offers me a more sincere apology."

Not deterred by the icy expression which came across James' face upon hearing her response, Ashley continued calmly, "For the sake of the image of your company, I think it would be wise that you take my advice."

Ashley was rubbed the wrong way by James' devious conduct which aimed to hide the truth from others. He had apologized with no humility and this arrogance had irked her. As the saying goes, a crooked stick will have a crooked shadow — like father like son.

Noting that Ashley was picky about the way she wanted him to apologize, James felt affronted and as if she were disrespecting him. 'How dare such a feeble young girl show me such irreverence?' he thought indignantly. He stared directly at her and said in a hostile tone, "You silly little girl, a person with sense would not push it this far. I have apologized, and whether or not you are happy with the manner I did so, this matter is effectively over." Noticing that Ashley was completely unfazed, James added icily, "Have the sagacity to conduct yourself properly."

His words were heavy with warning. In his opinion, she had already overstepped the line by disrespecting his authority and superior position. Seeing that she was not willing to cooperate, he took a harsh stance. It would be a piece of cake for James to ensure an ordinary employee like her would never be given a job by anyone in this business again. In his anger, James had forgotten his original purpose and also had forgotten that this woman had the backing of Joseph. He was infuriated by her conduct and his new purpose was only to put her in her place for her insolence.

"Well, Mr. Synder, I will just have to wait and see." Ashley was not afraid of James' threats in the least bit and responded bluntly.

"As will I. Let us wait and see." From not too far off, a clear male voice could be heard. It was only then that the crowd had realized that a tall, handsome man had entered the scene.

"It's a pleasure to make your acquaintance, Mr. Synder. However, I did not anticipate that the first time we came face-to-face, you would be threatening my sister. Are we the young people not worthy of your respect?" Mike had walked up to the pair and addressed James with this frigid comment.

When Mike had arrived in the area, he noticed that reporters were swarming around. He alighted from his car, and entered the buzzing scenario without drawing any attention to himself. Then, he heard the words of threat James directed at his sister.

Mike could not tolerate that his sister was being strong-armed by this man. The incident of slander by the Synder Group had not been dealt with yet and now the CEO of the company had the audacity to openly threaten her. It seemed that Mr. Synder thought that he could walk all over the Guzman family. Having been provoked by James' conduct, Mike immediately defended his sister to show the unity and strength of the Guzman name.

The reporters were dumbstruck when Mike had made his appearance. They were shocked that this beautiful woman who they had just interrogated was none other than the sister of the CEO of the Guzman Group, Mike. Caught up in their own disbelief and busily whispering about this unexpected development among themselves, the reporters actually forgot to record this breaking news.

James was taken aback by this unanticipated development. He had no idea that Ashley was part of the Guzman family. Judging from Mike's protective behavior over her and the similarity in appearance between the two of them, it seemed to be true.

James felt flustered. The Synder Group had already provoked the Empire Group and now the Guzman Group, which was a formidable company indeed. The future of the Synder Group looked bleak.

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Considering the circumstances, James immediately smiled at the tall, handsome man before him and said, "Mr. Guzman, I am ashamed of what has transpired. It was just a mistake. I didn't mean to offend your sister. Please forgive me."

Seeing that James' attitude had made a complete one-eighty, Mike let out a snort of derision, and said, "I am completely competent to see and hear for myself, and I can come to a logical conclusion. Mr. Synder, do you doubt my ability to clearly read an obvious situation?" In the face of the James' duplicity, Mike decided to directly criticize him.

The Guzman family had a principle: 'If you do not attack me, I will not attack you. But if you attack me, I will attack you and make you pay double.' What the Synder Group had done now was the absolute last straw for Mike. So, he attacked James for his ingratiation without restraint.

"Mr. Synder, Ashley and I have a matter to discuss. Until we meet again." Ignoring the livid look on James' face, Mike led Ashley through the crowd of reporters and left.

Watching the departing figures of Mike and Ashley, James clenched his fists and his face became menacing. This was the first time that James had been

completely disregarded and cast aside so rudely. Mike was just a newcomer in the business world yet he had the audacity to challenge James with such arrogance. 'Let us wait and see how this ends,' thought James resentfully.

Realizing that the person who had caused such a scene had got into his flashy Lamborghini and left, the reporters turned their attention to the man who had been left standing there. Their cameras flashed continually in James' face and he was about to lose control. He burst out, "Stop in this instance! If any one of you dare report this incident in the news, I will ensure that the newspaper that person works for is shut down. Do not take my threat lightly for I am a man of my word."

The terrifying look on James face, coupled with the fire in his eyes, truly frightened the reporters. They stopped in their tracks and became very quiet. Finally, James walked through the silent scene and left with an air of conceit.

After the apology incident with James, Ashley's cheerful mood had disappeared without a trace. When she suggested to Mike that they head straight home, he had no objection. 'My secretary can assist and buy Ashley's travel essentials for her trip. As for the Synder Group, I will take drastic and forceful measures to deal with this company for causing my sister such distress. I must return to work to make preparations for this,' thought Mike.

After taking Ashley home, Mike returned to his company. He planned on executing a thorough plan in respect of the acquisition of the Synder Group which he had discussed with Joseph yesterday. This would catalyze the Synder Group's self-destruction.

When Mike had initially spoken to Joseph about the acquisition plan with Joseph, he had planned to offer his support and assistance only as thanks for Joseph's effective steps in clearing Ashley's name. Now, however, he also wanted to ensure the Guzman family taught the Synder Group a hard lesson. During their discussion the previous day, Joseph had insisted that the Empire and Guzman Groups were now officially partners in this endeavor. Therefore, the Guzman Group should share equally in the rights of the Synder Group upon acquisition. Despite Mike's assertion that he would refuse any shares or rights in the Synder Group, Joseph insisted. Eventually, they came to a compromise of sharing a seventy-thirty interest in the Synder Group.

Although Mike didn't understand the purpose of Joseph's insisting on this, he decided that he must be available to assist at any time since he had agreed to these terms. He also believed that it was important that the first business dealing between the Empire and Guzman Groups should be amiable and pleasant, while the Synder Group faced only tribulation.

The day had passed in a blink of an eye. The next morning was beautifully sunny. An unknown threesome appeared in the famous amusement park in the city.

A tall woman adorning a peaked cap was following a man and woman who were both exceptionally attractive. She carried two backpacks, one strapped to her front and the other to her back. She also had another bag in her hands and a camera dangling around her neck. This woman paid rapt attention to the man and woman she followed, occasionally murmuring something in response to them. She would sometimes take a moment to readjust the many bags on her person. Passers-by were amused by this scene. It was clear that they thought it was unusual for a couple to bring a personal assistant with them to the amusement park.

The personal assistant in question was none other than Yasmin. The couple she followed so attentively was Zachary and Patricia. As for the reason for Yasmin becoming their assistant, she was the one who was solely responsible for this.

Yasmin needed a legitimate reason to follow Zachary and Patricia around so that she could ensure they did not get too comfortable or close to each other. Yasmin thought of an innovative idea: assist them with carrying their bags. Yasmin kept all of their important things together including wallets, purses and phones. This way, they could not leave her. This was Yasmin's plan.

Patricia had booked the amusement park. She wanted to have fun and experience the thrill of the exciting rides so she chose this as her first site to see in the city.

It was also because she thought it was a romantic place for a couple to go together on a date. This would be helpful in ensuring her plan to make Yasmin uncontrollably jealous worked.

Zachary tried his best not to glance back at Yasmin. He heeded Patricia's advice, "Today is the opportunity to uncover Yasmin's true feelings. Your task is to pretend to be cozy and intimate with me. Only when she is

overcome with jealousy, will she show how she truly feels.” So even though Zachary knew that Yasmin followed so closely behind them, he pretended to be indifferent. He walked in front of her casually while he chatted and joked with Patricia.

“Hey, let’s go on the pirate ship ride!” Pointing at the pirate ship which was moving at high speed under the blue sky, Patricia shouted excitedly at Zachary and Yasmin.

“You go ahead without me. Enjoy the ride,” he responded. Taking advantage of this opportunity, Zachary walked up to Yasmin and asked her if he could take the bags.

Actually, both Zachary and Patricia didn’t know why Yasmin insisted on helping them carry bags. Although the bags were not heavy, it was not appropriate for a girl to carry so many things. In the end, however, Yasmin quashed their protests with the excuse that it was her preference to carry the bags.

Yasmin looked at Zachary who was standing before her in the sunlight, asking if he could help with the bags. She felt excitable. It was true that beauty was in the eye of the beholder. Since she had realized she liked him, she had thought he was handsome from any angle.

Before Yasmin could respond to him, Patricia rushed towards them and interrupted them. She took his hand and said, “Zachary, I want to give this ride a try. Please come with me?”

Hearing the sweet voice Patricia purposely put on, Yasmin was disgusted. Zachary was just about to unconsciously refuse when he remembered that he had to stick to the plan. He quickly responded, “Okay.”

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According to the love strategy that Patricia spent the night working on, if a man constantly showered affection on a woman, she would, subconsciously, take it for granted. Therefore, regardless of how much he wanted to, Zachary couldn’t show his affection to Yasmin today. Instead, he needed to direct his affections towards Patricia in hope that this would provoke feelings of jealousy in Yasmin.

In Yasmin's eyes, however, Patricia reminded her of the evil mistress in a soap opera. She would suddenly appear out of nowhere with the sole purpose of hindering the emotional development of the hero and heroine. Watching Zachary and Patricia leave hand in hand, Yasmin steeled her heart and quickly followed the two.

"Wait for me. I want to play too." Yasmin shouted to the backs of Zachary and Patricia.

After queuing up for a while, the three of them sat down at one of the amusement park's famous rides, the Flying Pirate Ship. They belted up as they waited for the ship to sway into the air, going higher each time. During this very exhilarating ride, Patricia's screams could be heard echoing through the park. They were loud! Meanwhile, Yasmin and Zachary just sat there silently and appreciated the moving scenery from the various heights. After the thrilling ride, they quietly watched as Patricia bent over, clutched her stomach and hurled, "Hey, you're so weird. You didn't even react. No screaming, no cheering. You did not even feel sick. If you don't enjoy such exciting ride, then why join me at all?" Patricia egged Yasmin and Zachary on between deep breaths. Zachary and Yasmin both stood next to her with their hands behind their backs, listening to her.

"We are not weird at all. I think the real issue here is that you are too timid. You simply cannot handle the ride." Yasmin knew she spoke the truth. The pirate ship was a piece of cake for Yasmin, who was famous for her adventurous streak. She truly believed that Patricia, on the other hand, just did not have the stomach for real adventure. She was too timid.

Yasmin's words stung a little and Patricia gave her a weak glare. Turning to Zachary, she held her waist, like a spoiled little child and urged, "Zachary, I want you to yell out with me. You must scream out loud with me on the next ride. That's what makes it interesting."

Patricia had thought that after the ride, Yasmin would be so frightened that she would seek some comfort from Zachary. Everything would have fallen into place and Zachary could then win Yasmin's heart. However, she didn't expect Yasmin to be such a strong person. On the contrary, it was Patricia, herself, who turned out to be the chicken when it came to such rides. Not only did she vomit out her last meal, she also somehow annoyed Yasmin who started to show Patricia her displeasure.

Since Patricia failed to get Yasmin to throw herself into Zachary's arms, she felt she had no choice but to continue with Plan A. Zachary and Patricia had to continue to make a show of their love for each other. She planned on making fun of her cousin at the same time.

According to Patricia's instructions, Zachary was well-behaved today. Since he learnt of the relationship expertise from the 'senior love sage', Patricia, he had been obediently following her plan, which was touted as the fastest way to fall in love ever. He ought to be caring towards his 'girlfriend' when she was in need.

Needless to say, Zachary also paid close attention to Yasmin. He watched her quietly. Yet, the more he observed her, the more conflicted he became about this plan. He wasn't sure if it was working. She didn't show any signs of envy, nor did she voluntarily try to separate him from Patricia. Instead, she remained on the sidelines, reserved.

Truth be told, Yasmin was quiet because she felt helpless seeing the "love" between Zachary and Patricia. She was unsure if she should even come between them. The determination to take Zachary away from Patricia somewhat wavered today. Who was she to separate two people who seemed to truly care for each other?

Seeing both Zachary and Yasmin lost in thought, Patricia, who had regained her strength, quickly pulled him to the next ride.

Yasmin, who was standing just a few meters away, watched as Zachary bent over and whispered something to Patricia. After a few minutes, he looked over to her and then smiled.

Yasmin couldn't hear what the two were discussing, but she could hear whispers and giggles. This seemed to be an intimate exchange between the couple, which made her feel down. 'It wasn't meant to be,' she thought to herself as she shook her head and followed the two of them.

The rest of the rides they went on were equally, if not more, thrilling than the pirate ship. Patricia screamed at the top of her lungs at every ride. Yasmin decided to join in, if only as an outlet to vent her gloomy feelings.

It was annoying to like someone. She remembered that one time when she had a crush on a senior. She often pretended to run into him on campus. Timing it right took a lot of work, but she succeeded almost every time. When



she finally mustered up the courage to approach him to confess her feelings, it turned out to be too late. It was not her fault. She had no idea he left for further study overseas just the day before. Alas, she missed her chance then. Now she would miss her chance again. It was a complicated situation for Yasmin. The man she had a crush on was not only another woman's boyfriend, he was also her partner. Yasmin let out a disappointed sigh at her bumpy journey of love.

Noticing the change in Yasmin, Patricia and Zachary were in good spirits. According to Patricia's love strategy, Yasmin was reaching the point of restlessness with regards to her feelings for Zachary. This meant that their goal would soon be realized.

Patricia predictably threw up after every ride, and yet a few minutes later, she was always ready for a new challenge. Yasmin gradually let go and indulged herself in the screaming and cheering while Zachary chose to remain quiet.

Finally, at the end of the evening, Zachary sent Yasmin and Patricia, both of whom were overcome with exhaustion, back to their respective apartments.

He put Patricia to the bed first. She seemed to have used up all her strength by the end of the night. In a hurry, Zachary pulled the covers over her. She called out to him with a wink and a meek cheer of good luck before he headed out.

Before Yasmin went to her apartment, she had whispered to Zachary, "I have something to tell you. Come and see me after you put Patricia to bed." Zachary walked quietly towards Yasmin's apartment door. He could feel the anticipation build up. He couldn't wait to hear what she was going to tell him.

He speculated that Yasmin's strange behavior today meant that she was affected by his and Patricia's 'relationship'. Thinking that she would finally express her feelings for him, Zachary could barely contain his excitement.

"Come in and have a seat." Yasmin opened the door slightly and ushered Zachary into the living room.

The two sat opposite each other with an elegant glass table between them. "What do you want to tell me?" Zachary asked earnestly as he took in Yasmin's beautiful face.

She didn't answer immediately. Instead, she pushed a piece of paper towards Zachary.

Confused, he picked it up and began to scan its contents. Yasmin said, "As of today, our agreement is cancelled. From now on, we are no longer partners."

He stared hard at the partnership agreement signed by both of them on their blind date. Zachary heard Yasmin's words but didn't understand them. "What do you mean?"

Seeing his bewildered look, she elaborated slowly this time, with more clarity, "According to the second clause of our partnership agreement and given the current situation, the agreement is now invalid."

Zachary carefully pored over the agreement which he had initially thought was extremely interesting. The second clause was written in elegant handwriting. It stated that "During the contract period, should the woman find a lover other than the man involved in the agreement, she will be free to dissolve the agreement. Similarly, the man can dissolve the agreement should he decide to reveal his sexual orientation to his parents."

'According to you, what exactly is the current situation that makes this clause moot?' Zachary stared at Yasmin with a troubled look, begging her to go on.

## **Perfect Match: Irresistible Desire For You – Chapter 76 - Tips**

"Now that we both have our own lovers, we should stop speaking to each other." Yasmin took a deep breath and said this in a serious voice.

'Sure enough, she has a lover now.' Hearing Yasmin answer with the words he had feared, Zachary stood up indignantly and asked bluntly, "Who is this partner that you're talking about? Just tell me!"

It was the first time that Yasmin had seen Zachary on the verge of anger. Sensing the morose tone of his question, she lowered her eyes and thought for some time. She eventually raised her head and replied, "You don't need to know. I just want to tell you that you and I will have nothing to do with each other in the future."

After careful consideration that day, Yasmin had decided to give up on her plans. It was immoral for her to poke her nose in the relationship of others.

Therefore, in order to prevent herself from falling in love with Zachary more deeply, and give him full freedom to love others, Yasmin decided to tell him the truth. Whether he was in agreement or not, she had decided they would no longer see each other.

Hearing the heartless words of Yasmin, Zachary felt resentment in his heart. 'My deep love for you is in vain. You have fallen in love with someone else.' This was what Zachary had rationalized in his mind. It only made sense that she had fallen in love with another man, so she wanted to end her contact with him.

'I can't deny what she's saying. She doesn't have to tell me because I have no right to know.' Zachary looked down at Yasmin seated before him, and repeated her words in agreement of her request. "We will have nothing to do with each other from this moment on." And then, with a slam of the door, he was gone.

Being caught up in their own confusing emotions, they both failed to notice the reluctance and pain in the other's eyes.

Yasmin kept her head down to hide the struggle in her eyes so she had completely missed the anguish which had been written across Zachary's face. Zachary had gone from eager anticipation to utter disappointment. Yasmin's words had struck him down to rock bottom, so he too did not recognize the emotion in her eyes.

Once again, the two of them had parted way on a tumultuous note.

The next morning, Ashley boarded her flight to Mexico, after Mike had seen her off.

Ashley's first stop was the capital, Mexico City — "the sleepless city". She arrived around eight o'clock in the morning, according to local time in Mexico, which was ten o'clock at night in Beijing time.

As soon as she landed, she called Mike in Ob.raria to let him know she had safely arrived.

Her next call was to her friend Yasmin, letting her know that everything was going well. Yasmin excitedly asked her to take many pictures, send postcards

and even advised her to make acquaintance with as many handsome men as possible. After a good chat, Ashley ended the call.

Mexico's autumn weather was brilliantly sunny, there wasn't even a single cloud to be seen. Wearing a traditional Mexican sombrero, and a simple, full-length dress, Ashley walked through the bustling city streets, with her luggage in tow.

Occasionally, she stopped to ask a passer-by or a shop owner to point her in the right direction. Enthused by being addressed by a beautiful, Asian woman, the people were more than happy to guide her to her destination. She was looking for the locally-renowned hotel she had booked online, and which would be her temporary home for the duration of her stay.

Following the directions of the locals, Ashley took just over twenty minutes to find the hotel. It was just as impressive as had been described online and the location was convenient for travel and exploration of the area. It had every facility a person could desire as well as considerate and warm service from the employees. After checking in, Ashley settled herself in the room and unpacked her things. She wanted to first sleep for a while so that she could relieve her tiredness and jet lag. The flight had been over ten hours, it had really drained her.

She woke up a while later, had lunch at the hotel and was just about to set out on an explorative walk. Noticing that she was on her own, the attentive and eager hostess suggested an employee accompany her. After expressing her gratitude but kindly declining the offer, Ashley embarked on her walk.

According to the travel schedule she had put together, she called a cab and made her way to the famous La Catedral de Mexico in the heart of the city. She was taken by its grandeur and magnificent architectural style, which showed its deeply steeped religious and cultural elements. She ensured she took photographs as she toured the site. Coincidentally, a grand wedding was being held in the cathedral. Ashley stayed to watch the proceedings. Night had already fallen when she left.

Her tour of this amazing place left her in good spirits. Met by the sight of the bustling Plaza da la Const!tution, which was next to the cathedral, she decided she would visit this place, too.

The square was crowded with people. Listening to host introducing the invent, she realized that this was the city's annual singles' party. Most of the people in

attendance were young locals. As per the description provided by the host, this was an opportunity for young, single people to meet others.

The perimeter of the square was occupied by food stalls, offering a variety of local and international cuisines. The center of the square was alive with activities. The catchy music drew more and more people towards this area.

Ashley picked up her camera and filmed the grand scene. Then she paid attention to the food around the square, which would be her dinner. She walked along the stalls, nibbling on a few snacks along her way. Not only was the food mouth-watering and authentic, it was quite affordably priced. She genuinely enjoyed this gastronomic experience.

Although she was only really concerned with the food, many eager young men approached her upon noticing her beauty and charm. Seeing that she had such a keen interest in the food, some of the men even offered to buy her something tasty to eat. Taken aback by the situation, she didn't know whether to cry or laugh.

She thought they seemed quite harmless and were just eager to make the acquaintance of new people. Since this was a rare opportunity to see the world and different cultures, she decided to mingle, chatting and sharing jokes with them. After some time, they bought food and sat in a group in a cozy spot in the southwest corner of the square, chatting and eating together for quite some time.

The conversation was rather casual; they briefly introduced themselves to each other. Ashley asked the locals about interesting sites to see in the area and they were all too happy to each make a few recommendations. She made notes of the places as they spoke to her. Some of the people were curious about what Ob.raria was like, and she obligingly answered their questions. Everyone seemed to take to her beauty and charm. Apart from suggesting a few sites and popular local dishes, they joked with her, and even shared some cultural legends and beliefs.

While they gleefully chatted, a dark shadow shrouded their group. Looking up, they took in the sight of a tall, strikingly handsome foreign man. In the dim lighting of the square, he gave off a strong and dominant aura. The man fixed his eyes directly on Ashley, who was preoccupied in conversation with these men.

While she was eating Mexico's scrumptious tacos, she saw the man. She unconsciously paused for a while. Astounded by his presence, Ashley put her food down and stood up from her seat on the ground. After dusting herself off, she walked over to the man. "Joseph, what are you doing here?" she asked, in confusion.

## **Perfect Match: Irresistible Desire For You – Chapter 77 - Tips**

It was none other than Joseph, here in Mexico. "I'm just passing by." Joseph's tone was indifferent as he responded to the look of surprise across Ashley's pretty face.

Ashley pretended to believe him and acted as if he were indeed on a business trip and their meeting was a total coincidence. Having been surrounded by people with blond hair and blue eyes all day, for the first time ever in Ashley's life, she was very happy to see Joseph and came up to greet him.

"This is a friend from my country. He's just here on a business trip." After some small talk, Ashley turned around and introduced him to the young Mexican men, who were all fluent in English.

Everyone stood up and greeted Joseph warmly, but Joseph stood beside Ashley in stony silence.

Ashley stepped in to break up the awkwardness. "Please don't mind my friend. He suffers from facial paralysis and struggles to talk to others."

Everyone nodded in concerned understanding and smiled at Ashley, showing they didn't mind.

Joseph's handsome face, on the other hand, immediately darkened at her words. He was clearly not happy with her explanation.

'What on earth is she talking about? How does she have the nerve to say I have facial paralysis? I just can't stand here and watch her chat with these five cheery blue-eyed men. I can tell they are only after one thing. She's normally far more astute than this, but she doesn't seem to have a clue.' As he thought this, Joseph fixed his cold eyes on Ashley again.

'My instinct was right that it isn't safe for a woman to travel alone. It didn't even take her a day to be preyed on by these men.' Joseph's thoughts on the matter were unshakeable.

In fact, after learning from Ashley that she decided to travel to Mexico, Leonard hatched a plan for Joseph to follow her. He felt sure he would protect her. However, there had been a company emergency that Joseph had had to deal with in person, so he hadn't got around to filling Ashley in on his plan.

Leonard sneakily bought Joseph a ticket to Mexico the very night Ashley visited him. The old man had called Ashley in advance to get the precise date. Joseph was overwhelmed by his grandfather's foresight and compassion. That night, Leonard solemnly told Joseph that he wanted Ashley to be his granddaughter-in-law. He asked Joseph to marry her as soon as possible.

Joseph hurried to arrange for the Guzman Group's cooperation and to organize the company's affairs in the space of two days. He left the company in Zachary's hands. To everyone's surprise, Zachary gave a sly smile and accepted the responsibility of acting CEO without hesitation. "Don't worry. I will take care of the company."

After saying goodbye to Zachary, Joseph grabbed the plane ticket Leonard bought him and headed off in hot pursuit. Joseph had already arranged for someone to track down Ashley's exact location. As soon as his flight touched down in Mexico City in the afternoon, he received an instant message from his subordinate in Mexico, giving him Ashley's whereabouts. He immediately hurried to meet her.

When Joseph arrived at the Plaza de la Constitution, his dark, attractive eyes scanned the crowds for Ashley.

Tall and handsome, Joseph stood out among the crowds of young people. Some bold and enthusiastic girls approached him, but turned away when they saw the coldness of his eyes. He thought Ashley might be avoiding the crowds, and began to search around the square for her. Finally, he found her in the middle of a bustling group of people.

He saw she was surrounded by a group of foreign men, happily chatting as they ate. Despite all reason, Joseph's blood began to boil. He turned to face

Ashley and looked into the eyes of the woman he had been seeking with a harsh expression on his face.

Ashley was observant, and immediately felt the coldness in Joseph's eyes. She couldn't help but feel a little scared. She admitted that she shouldn't have insulted him in front of everyone. It may have dispelled the awkwardness, but it had incited his anger.

Then, Ashley reached out her slender hands and took hold of Joseph's arms. She looked up at him apologetically and said, "Hey, don't be angry with me. I admit that I was wrong. Shouldn't I be trying to make new friends?"

Feeling the warmth of her arms and of her expression, Joseph began to calm down. "What are you apologizing for?"

Joseph wanted Ashley to admit that she should never have talked to other men so casually, but Ashley didn't know what he was driving at. She just answered plainly, "It was rude of me to say you had facial paralysis."

Hearing this, Joseph's face darkened a little, but he saw her heart was in the right place and tried to hold back his anger. "And what else?" he went on.

Ashley didn't know what he meant. 'What is going on? How could I have insulted him in more ways than one with a single sentence?' At that moment, she felt like meeting an overly serious man like Joseph had been the biggest mistake of all.

Of course, she couldn't say this to him, or she would risk being frozen to death by the iciness of his eyes. She thought a while, but still didn't know what she had done wrong. She shook her head honestly and said to Joseph, "I don't know." After pausing for a moment, she continued, "Mr. Marshall, I imagine you are busy at work. Please go on without me and don't worry."

If she had stopped there, Joseph would not have got so angry, but he couldn't stomach the idea of her sending him away.

Seeing he was angry once again, Ashley really felt the situation was getting out of control. 'Why is he constantly angry with me?' Ashley couldn't figure it out. 'All I said was that, as the president of a big international enterprise, he must have a lot of things to deal with. Surely he doesn't want to waste time here with me?'



“Now that we have run into each other, what shall we do?” Joseph asked, his teeth gritted. Ashley frowned and said nothing.

She simply couldn't follow Joseph at all. 'What on earth would we do? Do you think I want to spend time with you?'

## **Perfect Match: Irresistible Desire For You – Chapter 78 - Tips**

After considering the situation, Ashley sensed that Joseph wanted to stay there with her, so she said, “Let's sit down and have a chat. How about making some new friends?”

Joseph heard what she said but remained silent. He stepped forward and addressed the five, foreign men in a distinctly icy tone, “Hi. I just lost my fiancée in the crowd but now that I've found her, we'll be going elsewhere. Goodbye, then.”

The men felt the change in atmosphere and sensed that there was something between Joseph and Ashley. They thought his explanation was believable, considering the circumstances. Feeling threatened by the power and iciness of his aura, they nodded in silence. Joseph then picked up Ashley's bag and put his arm around her. The men couldn't do anything except silently watch them depart.

Before Ashley could recover from the shock and confusion of Joseph's reference to her as his “fiancée”, he had removed her from the scene and had placed his arm around her.

“Hey! What were you talking about? Who exactly is your fiancée?” Once Ashley had recovered from the initial shock, she quickly broke free of his warm embrace, and directly put this question to him.

Ashley was quite confused by Joseph's inexplicable words and actions in front of the group few moments ago.

“First of all, my name is not “hey”. Second, whoever asks this question is my fiancée,” Joseph said indifferently, without answering her question directly.

Before Ashley could protest and ask for clarity, Joseph took off his coat blazer and placed it gently on her shoulders. He repeated, “You claimed to have studied the travel guides on Mexico, yet you don't even know what the

weather is going to be like. It is usually hot during the day but cools down quite significantly at night. It seems I can't stop worrying about you."

Night had fully fallen now and, just as Joseph had advised, the night brought cold with it. A gentle breeze could be felt against their skin. Ashley had a flimsy, long-sleeved blouse on; she couldn't help but shiver. This small movement indicating her discomfort was immediately noticed by Joseph, who had been studying her closely. So Joseph covered Ashley with his coat, without a second thought.

His affection for Ashley had begun to affect his behavior towards her, without him even being cognizant of it. She was the first and only woman he had ever wanted to take care of in this manner, in his life thus far.

Registering Joseph affectionately placing his jacket on her while expressing words of concern for her wellbeing, Ashley was astounded. It was as if an alien had taken over his body; this was so uncharacteristic of him. She could not believe that this very man, showing her such tenderness and care, was also known as "Poker Face Yama".

Ashley couldn't help but blurt out, "Wow, you actually are able to speak so much in one go."

Upon hearing the genuine shock in her comment, Joseph was struck dumb. It was clear that she thought he was a man with facial paralysis. He didn't think the case was that bad. He was a little cold to people, and tended to speak less than the average person, but this was just how his personality was.

He truly did not know how to respond especially since he thought she was colder and less romantic than him. 'Can't this woman feel the tenderness and affection that I am showing for her? Or is she naturally slow at realizing what is happening?' he thought, bemused.

Noticing his sudden silence, Ashley realized what she said had been slightly inconsiderate, and that anyone would react as he did now. She felt so disappointed and embarrassed that she could make such a stupid comment after they had begun getting along so well.

She noticed Joseph's pursed lips, so she tried to salvage the situation, and said, "Let's just forget this, shall we? Where to next?"

After her comment, she decided to accept his coat to warm her. Due to his dominant character, she knew that Joseph would be greatly offended if someone refused his kindness. She reluctantly drew the coat closer towards her, warming her chilled body.

The cold wind wh!pped them from every direction. She could feel Joseph's residual body heat in the jacket. It seemed to penetrate through her which stirred a steamy feeling in her. She looked up at him, looking for his reaction to the situation. He looked directly into her deep, dark eyes.

Her soft hair blew gently in the wind, framing her pretty face. Although the square was bustling with people and activity, it was as if time had frozen when their eyes had met.

'I want to give this woman every that I have.' This thought flashed across Joseph's mind of its own volition. At the same time, Ashley imagined their future, a life filled with affection and beautiful moments, as she gazed into his sparkling, dark eyes. She suddenly broke eye contact.

"Let's go get something else to eat, shall we?" she said, while turning her head away and ignoring the feelings that were so strongly rooted in her heart.

Joseph's tall 1.87m height greatly dwarfed her petite 1.70m frame, especially since she was wearing flat shoes. Flustered by this interaction, she averted her gaze and tried to change the topic.

"You're the boss," replied Joseph, quietly. Joseph was not thrilled that Ashley had averted her gaze but he did like that she had used the word "we" to refer to the two of them in her beautiful voice. There was no one else, just the two of them.

Taking in her slender figure donning his blazer, he thought that he could definitely spend his life with her this way. 'Perhaps,' he thought, 'marriage is not as restrictive and horrible as it's made out to be. Perhaps love isn't that hard to accept.'

He enjoyed spending time with her, she had let down all her walls. He didn't try to shut down the feelings he had for her. He thought that maybe his life could benefit from a dash of love. Joseph couldn't help smiling when he thought that he would have such a beautiful and intelligent women like Ashley as his life partner in the near future.

Noticing that Joseph hadn't followed her, Ashley turned back to look at him. She hadn't expected to see his face with such a smile on it. It took her breath away. A smile like this on his handsome, usually serious face, made him absolutely captivating. He could win the heart of innumerable women, they would be helpless to his arresting good looks.

Even Ashley, who was not particularly enticed by men, found him irresistible. She flirted with him as he slowly walked towards her, "Turns out you're quite handsome when you've got a smile on your face. Let me see it again." She smiled playfully, and beckoned him with her finger.

It wasn't Ashley's first time being so playful with a person. She usually teased Yasmin this way. But now, the other party was none other than icy Joseph, who could freeze a person to death with just one look.

Realizing her silly behavior, she covered her mouth in embarrassment, her eyes wide with shock. Petrified, she thought, 'Now I am really done for! I am probably the first person to have dared to so openly flirt with him. This surely is going to have serious consequences.' Ashley couldn't bring herself to look at his face on. She covered her face, awaiting his reaction.

## **Perfect Match: Irresistible Desire For You – Chapter 79 - Tips**

Ashley might have been the first person who had dared to talk to Joseph in such a presumptuous manner, but Joseph couldn't deny the fact that Ashley, who took off her mask and revealed her true face in front of him, just looked so cute.

She finally showed him the real her, warts and all. Despite this, Joseph didn't come to dislike Ashley's free-spiritedness in any way. In fact, he was actually quite pleased.

Joseph walked closer towards Ashley and gently took away the hands she was covering her face with. As Ashley was trying to avoid meeting his gaze, he softly said to her, "Let's go. I'll take you somewhere to eat."

At that moment, Ashley felt as though she would never be able to keep up with Joseph. The words he said left her utterly dumbfounded once again. 'How can he let it go so easily? And on top of that, he's acting like a total

gentleman right now.' For this reason, Ashley began to wonder why Joseph was acting like a completely different person.

Needless to say, she had already heard a lot of stories about Joseph's ruthlessness. Truth be told, she had even tried searching online to verify those claims. From there, she found that things didn't end well for those who had offended him. 'Could Joseph be planning to torture me slowly?'

It was bothering her so much that she came up with all sorts of guesses. Since her head was in the clouds, she didn't even notice that she was walking hand in hand with Joseph on the busy foreign square at this moment. Their exceptional appearance made them look like they were made for each other, and they stood out among the crowd, causing a lot of heads to turn. Because of this, the passers-by looked at this foreign couple in admiration.

These two people who just looked so perfect seemed to make everything blend into the background. It painted such a beautiful scene that a random passer-by couldn't help taking out his camera and taking a picture of them.

Noticing what the stranger did, Joseph grabbed Ashley's hand and politely asked the man if he could give him the photo in exchange for money. The man happily agreed to give the photo to Joseph. After repeatedly expressing his gratitude to the man, Joseph took Ashley's hand and left.

As soon as Ashley came to her senses, she took the photo from Joseph and looked at it carefully. The stranger took such a beautiful shot. The background was a towering church with what looked like a holy and white light shining in the dark. She and Joseph were walking side by side and hand in hand as the breeze blew in. Their faces could clearly be seen in the photo, and it was quite obvious that her mind was elsewhere, while Joseph's firm and handsome face looked so soft. Overall, both the background and the main subject were so striking.

When he realized that Ashley had been staring at the photo for some time now, Joseph reached for the photo and said in a soft tone, "This is mine." Then, he put the photo in his pocket and continued to walk forward as though nothing had happened.

Hearing this, Ashley was left at such a loss for words. She just wanted to take a good look at the photo. It wasn't like she was going to take it away.

That being said, the photo was really good. Meeting a familiar face on a trip was such a rare thing, so taking a photo to remember it wouldn't be a bad idea. Thinking of this, she said to Joseph, "Let me take a couple of photos for you as a souvenir. What do you say?"

Ashley grabbed the mirror-less camera on her chest and was about to take a shot. After turning silent for a moment, Joseph said, "Let's take a photo together. Otherwise, I won't take any photos."

Hearing Joseph say these brief and straight-to-the-point words in a cold tone, Ashley felt like he had reverted to his usual cold self. Knowing full well that he wasn't going to take no for an answer, Ashley fiddled with her camera for a while, moved closer towards him, and then turned on the selfie mode.

"Are you ready? One, two, three. Say cheese!" Standing beside Joseph with the camera in her hand, Ashley looked at the camera lens and said this.

When she heard the shutter click, Ashley immediately browsed the album and checked the pictures. The photo she had just taken was a portrait of them. In it, Ashley wore a smile on her face. And although Joseph wasn't smiling, his eyes were filled with gentleness. In the high-definition photo, the two of them looked like they were in perfect harmony.

"Do you want to take a few more photos?" Ashley asked Joseph as she turned off the album mode.

"No, I'm good. Let's go get something to eat," Joseph flatly replied.

As far as he was concerned, they didn't have to take a lot of photos. One should be more than enough for him. Now, he had two photos, both of which were good to keep to remember this precious moment. In fact, the main reason why Joseph said no was because he had never really been fond of taking photos. And the only reason he agreed to take photos with Ashley just now was that he wanted her to also have a souvenir of this time they spent together.

After an over ten-hour flight and keeping Ashley company for a long time, Joseph was already feeling hungry, so he really wanted to have something to eat right now.

Finally, the two of them entered a buffet restaurant on the nearby commercial street. After picking some of their favorite food, the two of them started to eat in silence.

From the expression on Ashley's face, she seemed to be enjoying the food here. Seeing this, Joseph thought that she probably had a good appetite. He had already seen her stuffing her face with some local food on the square before, and now she seemed to be enjoying the buffet.

When they were almost done eating, Ashley suddenly asked Joseph what he was doing here again. However, Joseph's answer was still the same as before, "I'm just passing by. I stopped when I saw you."

Judging from the look on Joseph's face, he seemed to be telling the truth. Despite this, Ashley couldn't help feeling like he was hiding something from her. After all, she found it hard to believe that the president, who was busy every day, especially came to see her. So, there must be something he didn't want to tell her.

"Is that so? Then, where are you staying?" Since he was insisting that he was just passing by, Ashley got a bit curious as to where Joseph was staying.

Noticing that Ashley was rolling her dark eyes and that she was getting a little suspicious, Joseph said nonchalantly, "I'll stay wherever you're staying."

Hearing Joseph's response, Ashley thought that he was just messing around, so she decided not to say anything more.

First of all, Joseph probably had no idea where she was staying at the moment. Second, even if he knew, he wouldn't go so far as to lower himself and stay in a small hotel instead of a luxurious hotel. Bearing this in mind, Ashley didn't take his words seriously.

For some reason, Joseph decided to show off his gentlemanly side and insisted on sending her back to her hotel. It wasn't until he booked a room next to hers that Ashley realized that he wasn't joking at all.

'Perhaps Joseph won't be in Mexico City tomorrow anymore. After all, successful people rarely stay in a strange place for too long.' After taking a shower to freshen up, Ashley lay on the bed, stared blankly at the ceiling, and let her mind wander off.

Today was the first day of her trip and she had a good time. Not only was she able to take a lot of photos, but she also came across Joseph in a foreign country. At first, she assumed that with Joseph accompanying her, she wouldn't be able to enjoy herself. But, much to her surprise, after spending the entire evening with Joseph, Ashley found out that he was actually not that difficult to get along with. On the contrary, in spite of the usual cold aura he gave off, he was an easygoing man.

Looking back on everything that had happened between her and Joseph tonight, Ashley felt so confused and was at a loss a few times, but there were also moments where she felt a little moved. These were emotions she had never felt until Joseph came into her life. Then, she thought of his sometimes cold and sometimes gentle handsome face, as well as the smile that crept onto his face in the dim light, and the words she never thought she would hear him say. This left her mind in such a mess...

With these thoughts running in circles in her mind, Ashley, who had a very long day, finally hit the sack.

## **Perfect Match: Irresistible Desire For You – Chapter 80 - Tips**

On the second morning since her arrival, Ashley's sleep was broken by a rap on the door, early in the morning. She opened the door and was met by the sight of Joseph with milk and sandwiches in his hand.

Still in a bit of a daze, Ashley couldn't think straight just yet. 'When did the handsome Joseph become a waiter? Or am I imagining things?'

Noticing that Ashley was looking at him thoughtfully with her big, sleepy eyes, Joseph ruffled her messy hair with a free hand, and said gently, "What are you thinking about? Wash up and have breakfast. What adventure will be going on today?"

Seeing Ashley's cute face put him in a good mood. He had wanted a good reason to interact with Ashley this morning, so he had decided to fetch two breakfasts from the hotel hostess.

Ashley was still enjoying the intoxicating feeling of Joseph being tender towards her, but she was eager to spend time with him, so she answered him quickly, "Okay..."



She followed his instructions and went into the bathroom to wash up. She dressed herself neatly, all the while reminding herself not to become distracted, and walked out of the bathroom.

She was met by the sight of Joseph watching the morning finance news from a seat beside the bed, with breakfast having been neatly laid out on the side table.

The city was already in full swing at this time. The sound of people making the way through their day, and walking and chatting outside, could be clearly heard. Sunlight shone in through the window onto Joseph's chiseled face. Basked in this golden light, he looked so handsome that it was unearthly, as if he were a God who had accidentally wandered into the world from his rightful place in heaven.

After appreciating his beauty for a moment, Ashley walked to the table and took her seat to have breakfast. While they eat, she asked him, "Will you be staying in Mexico today? What about your work?"

"I am taking annual leave." Joseph replied to her enquiry with just five words.

This was a convincing explanation, she couldn't find fault with it. She asked, "So where will you be going on vacation?"

"I'll go wherever you go," with his eyes still on the television, Joseph replied without missing a beat.

Ashley felt helpless when she heard his response. She felt interacting with Joseph was very stressful. He could sometimes be frigid and miserly with his words, but other times, he could be so loving. She became flustered by his change in attitude. She had not been prepared to face such an unusual change in his behavior.

"May I ask why?" Ashley asked directly. She didn't know why Joseph made such a plan for his vacation, just as she hadn't known why he had been so affectionate previously.

"This way, I can have a vacation without having to attend to all the plans. Besides, I can protect you. Do you have a problem with this?" Registering the

confusion in Ashley's tone, Joseph turned to look at her and replied, indifferently.

Apart from the excuse that he had just been "passing by" which he had given yesterday, Joseph had answered every question Ashley had directed at him, truthfully. He hadn't been passing by, he had specifically come to Mexico to spend time with her. Of course, this truth could not be revealed at this time. The reason she had brought up this topic was because she was still unsure of him. Telling her this now, would just make her withdraw from him.

'So he followed me because he doesn't know or want to plan where to go for himself.' Thinking this, Ashley felt some of her tension release. Feeling the gaze of Joseph on her, Ashley looked back at him and said with a smile, "I see. I have no objection."

After all, it was somewhat dangerous for a woman to travel alone. With such a powerful presence with her, she would not need to worry about her safety. 'Besides, the more the merrier,' she thought. Plus, the way Joseph raised his eyes when he asked whether she had a problem with his presence or not, no one would dare say that they did.

Ashley's smile was sugary and dazzling in the morning light. It made Joseph's heart skip a beat.

You could not deny that Ashley could drive men crazy with her looks. She had a stunning face and exquisite features. Even without makeup, she was gorgeous. Especially now, when she smiled so sincerely, she was as pretty as a picture. Joseph suddenly had this overwhelming feeling that he wanted to hide Ashley from the world, keeping her to himself.

"Let's finish up breakfast first. We'll go to the Pyramid of the Moon a little later," she advised. After letting out a sigh of relief, Ashley retrieved the travel guides from her bag. She was looking at it, so she had not noticed that Joseph was in a welcome, yet rare, distraction.

Following her direction, Joseph picked up a sandwich and started eating. He glanced at the guides that Ashley was reading. The details of tourist spots to see during the trip had been jotted down in the most elegant hand-writing.

"Have you been wanting to come here for some time now?" Joseph asked, noticing the great detail in the notes in her hands.

“Sort of. When I was in college, I had planned on visiting places that have deep historical significance and rich culture.” Reminiscing, Ashley began to share the dreams she had in her youth. “I often watched travel documentaries and tourist programs. It really ignited my desire to travel at that time. I wanted to see those historical sites with my own eyes, eat all kinds of new dishes, and meet a handsome new man...” Realizing that she had said too much, Ashley trailed off.

“All your wishes have been fulfilled.” After listening to what Ashley had said, he made this comment.

After considering what he said, Ashley replied, “Well, I haven’t met a handsome man yet.” This was a dream she really wanted to realize. Now that her friend, Yasmin, had also instructed her to fulfil it, it meant even more. After recalling her experiences from the previous day, Ashley sighed, “I met some handsome men last night, but unfortunately I didn’t get a chance to take pictures.”

Joseph’s face darkened at her words. ‘Does she find those bastards handsome?’ Joseph was put off by Ashley’s pathetic standard when it came to looks. How could this woman fail to recognize him, a truly handsome man?

“Finish your breakfast and gather your things. We will leave as soon as you are ready,” Joseph responded and abruptly walked out of her room.

Noticing the sudden coldness in Joseph’s tone, Ashley looked at his departing figure and felt that she couldn’t keep up with his rapidly changing moods. ‘Did I offend him?’

While she packed her things, she replayed the morning she had spent with Joseph in her mind, recalling each little detail as it happened. She focused on the point when his face had become shadowed with darkness. It took her a while before she realized that she had not given him recognition for being a handsome man that she met last night. But in her eyes, the handsome man she wished to meet in a far-off land did not refer to someone from Ob.raria like her, but someone of a different background, someone truly foreign.