

When She Stops Playing Nice

Posted by **Audition Villa**, 58 Views, Released on May 25, 2024

Chapter 16

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'Pursue me?' Gina thought. That's because they want me dead. As for those who wanted to court her, there weren't many after Olivia tarnished her reputation. Gina was thankful anyway. It saved her the trouble of dealing with them.

"No," Gina denied lightly.

"You must be modest." Neil didn't believe it. He glanced at Gabriel, whose eyes were glued to Gina. An idea came to him. "Gina, let Gabriel accompany you. I'll go chat with my buddies." Neil signaled to Gabriel to seize the chance before leaving.

"So it was you who saved Dad. Fate really draws us together," Gabriel remarked.

Fate? Gina replied, "Just a coincidence."

Gabriel served Gina some food. "Is the food to your liking?"

"It's not bad," Gina remarked.

Gabriel went on, "What do you like? I'll make a note and tell the kitchen next time..."

"Hold on," Gina was confused. Gabriel was going too far. "What do you mean next time?"

"When you come as a guest next time... or not," Gabriel stated vaguely. Gina could come as family next time too. Gabriel smiled.

Gina frowned. She felt she needed to talk to Gabriel. "Mr. Jackson, we're not very familiar, right? Are you usually so friendly?" He didn't look like it.

Gabriel raised his brow. "Have you forgotten?"

"About?" Gina was confused.

Gabriel leaned forward seemingly to whisper in her ear. His warm breath fell on Gina's delicate neck, making it itch. "Silver Grand Hotel. Room 6069..."

Memories flooded Gina's mind. She was drugged by Olivia that night and Ethan accused her of seducing him. Her family had berated her and driven her out, saying she couldn't eat with them. Gina went to the Silver Grand Hotel to treat herself. She was given room 6066 but went to the wrong room. Someone was already in there.

"That was you?" Gina was surprised..

Gabriel grinned. "Yes. You kissed me, and..."

"Stop. Gina's ears turned red. She was under the influence of the drug then. After she suppressed the effects with her willpower, nothing happened.

"What? You're not gonna take responsibility? Gabriel asked.

Gina looked at him awkwardly. "Well, it doesn't matter, right?"

I am a very traditional man," Gabriel spoke seriously.

The going to put up a chaste act?' Gina turned away. "It's the 21st century now. You can be more open

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Gabriel fell silent. He felt sad. Was Gina rejecting him? He looked at Gina. They had known each other much earlier, but Gina didn't seem to remember. Or was she pretending not to? Gabriel couldn't figure it out.

"Did you have amnesia?" Gabriel asked suddenly.

This question was abrupt, but Gina felt so. But she had checked herself. She did not have any brain injury.

Gina didn't answer. It was private. "You ask too many questions."

"I'll stop," Gabriel complied readily.

Everyone found it odd when Olivia returned before the party was over. Furthermore, Olivia's eyes were red. Everyone was

nervous.

"Honey, what's wrong?" Ella asked concernly.

Olivia couldn't tell them. It was too embarrassing.

Noah's face turned ugly as he looked at the phone. Word had spread in their circle. Many mocked their family for buying a fake when they couldn't afford it.

Noah handed the phone to Ella. Ella's eyes went wide. "Honey, what's this?"

Olivia quickly concocted a story. "When I was buying the painting, Gina said she had a way to get it. I believed her. Today, she pointed out that it was a fake before everyone. Although Olivia's lie had many loopholes, her family believed her.

Noah sighed. "Olivia, she's clearly lying. What does a hillbilly like her know?" He didn't expect Gina to also humiliate their family publicly.

Noah wished Gina would die. Gina had caused much trouble. James was in the hospital. Noah clenched his fists.

"I didn't expect this. I'm sorry, Olivia said.

Ella couldn't bear to blame Olivia. She wiped away Olivia's tears. "It's not your fault. It's all that damn Gina's fault."

Noah suddenly realized something. "Why was Gina at the party?"

Olivia wasn't sure, but she remembered Neil saying Gina was his honored guest. Olivia didn't want her brothers and mother to know and lied, "She sneaked in dressed as a maid just to embarrass me. I can understand. Maybe Gina thought Mr. Jackson would dislike me, and she could become Ethan's fiancée again."

"She can dream on!" Ella burst out furiously. But she soon worried about the engagement. Would Neil end the engagement because of this? Ella didn't want to jeopardize it, for the good of their family. "Honey, what did Mr. Jackson say?" she asked. anxiously.

Olivia shook her head. "He didn't say anything."

Ella was relieved. It seemed that the engagement was not at risk.

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Ella's chest heaved. If Gina ruined the engagement, she would tear her to pieces with her bare hands.

Noah cursed. "I'll kick her ass whenever I see her. I'll even cut her tongue. Let's see how she can lie after that."

Olivia bowed her head, hiding her smirk. "Gina, your family is on my side. How can you fight with me now?"

Gabriel offered to send Gina back after the party,

Neil waved goodbye to Gina reluctantly. "Come visit soon, Gina."

However, Gina was busy. I'll come if you need me. But I hope you'll stay healthy.

Neil was touched. Gina was too nice. His wish for her to become his daughter-in-law soared.

Neil watched Gina get into the Rolls Royce with Gabriel. At least Gabriel had come to his senses. Neil felt relieved. All Gabriel had to do was do his best to court her.

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Gina was afraid Gabriel would want to chat. She spoke first. "I'm tired. I'm going to nap. Wake me up when we arrive." She shut her eyes.

Gina hadn't slept well lately and had a recurring dream. It felt real. The man in the dream towered over her as he choked her, his breath sounding heavy... Gina wasn't sure if it was a dream or a memory. As she wondered, Gina drifted off.

The car swayed slightly. Gina fell toward Gabriel. Her smooth cheek was pressed against him, her long eyelashes resting serenely on her face. Gabriel's Adam's apple bobbed.

"Drive slower, Gabriel told David.

"Yes, sir." David looked in the rearview mirror and was shocked. Was Gabriel looking indulgently at Gina?

David had worked for Gabriel for eight years and had never seen Gabriel treat a woman like that. David couldn't figure out why Gabriel was so drawn to Gina.

Half an hour later, Gina woke to realize they had stopped. "Why didn't you wake me?" Gina quickly moved away from Gabriel

"I wanted you to rest more," Gabriel said gently.

It was the first time David heard Gabriel speak so tenderly. Perhaps Gina had special treatment.

After Gina got off, Gabriel said reluctantly, "Goodbye."

Gina nodded indifferently and left.

Gabriel chuckled. No woman would be so indifferent to him. Gina was unique.

David looked at the time. "Mr. Jackson, it's almost time for the hospital appointment."

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"Let's go then, Gabriel said.

"Yes, sir," David responded.

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Gina turned after walking a distance. The Rolls Royce had driven off. Gina stopped. She took a cab to the outskirts and arrived at the Prover Hospital.

Although the hospital was only established three years ago, it had the best medical doctors and excellent facilities. As a result, the hospitalization costs were expensive. Its patients were either rich or affluent.

Before heading in, Gina bought a piece of bread from a nearby shop.

Gina went straight to the inpatient department, took the elevator to the 8th floor, and went to room 808.

The woman lying on the bed lit up when she saw her. "Gina! You came to visit,"

"Ruby." Gina's expression softened. She looked happy.

Ruby Parker appeared quite well. After careful care, she seemed more plump. However, Ruby had toiled on the farm for years and appeared older than her peers. Her wrinkles showed when she smiled. Her hands were covered in calluses.

Ruby had found the unconscious Gina while foraging in the mountain. She brought Gina to the hospital and took her to live in Xax Village. Ruby was widowed early and lost a son later. She treated Gina as her daughter during the three years in Xax village.

When Ruby had stomach cancer, Gina spared no effort to save her. Afterward, she sent Ruby to Prover Hospital for rehabilitation.

“You bought bread. I could smell it. Gosh. I’m dying for it. You’re so sweet, Ruby gushed. The hospital meals cost quite a penny and Ruby couldn’t bear not to eat it. But the snacks and nutritious meals outside cost a lot too.

“Don’t rush,” Gina told her, “Eat slowly.”

“I know.” Ruby ate and eyed Gina. “You seemed to be thinner. Gina, are your parents nice? How’s life at home? Good?”

When Ella came to Xax Village to bring Gina back, Ruby was already undergoing chemotherapy. Gina only told her about it after her health improved.

Gina raised her gaze and spoke calmly, “I cut all ties with them.”

Although Gina didn’t elaborate, Ruby could guess it hadn’t gone well. She knew Gina’s family had adopted another daughter but didn’t understand how they could favor her over Gina.

Ruby’s heart ached for Gina. Despite Gina’s maturity and intelligence, Gina yearned for family and affection deep down.

Ruby held Gina’s hand. Her calluses abraded Gina’s palm but it felt warm. Gina’s heart calmed down.

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“Since they’re not nice to you, let’s forget about them,” Ruby said furiously.

Gina smiled. She held Ruby’s hand.

Ruby continued, “If you don’t mind, we can be a family.” She touched Gina’s smooth cheek affectionately. “I always wanted to have a daughter...

Ruby was also pitiful. Her closest relatives had passed away. Gina never heard her talk about her son and husband and wouldn’t bring up such a sad topic.

Then you can be my mum from now on,” Gina spoke seriously.

Ruby was surprised and delighted. “Really?”

“Mum,” Gina called out.

Ruby covered her mouth joyfully. “Aye. She paused then continued. “By the way, I’ve something to discuss with you. This hospital must cost a fortune. Can you transfer me to somewhere cheaper? I’m better now, so staying here is unnecessary.”

This hospital had specialized medical attendants constantly available, offering various services like massage and walks. It was too costly for a student like Gina.

Gina shook her head. “Don’t worry about that.”

Ruby hesitated, trying to find the right words.

Gina spoke, “Mum, just speak your mind.”

“Gina, be honest. Where did you get the money for my medical bills?” Ruby was worried that Gina might go down the wrong path. It wouldn’t be worth it.

Gina calmly replied, “I worked part-time. I drew some designs for a jewelry company, and they sold well.”

Ruby had seen her drafts. Although she didn’t understand it, she thought it was excellent. “Don’t work too hard. And don’t spend it all on me. Save it for yourself.”

Gina smiled and didn’t speak.

After visiting Ruby, Gina went to the sixth floor to another VVIP ward and looked at the man on the bed through the window. He was her biological father, Phillip Miller.

Gina hadn't planned on staying, but she sensed something wrong. Phillip's face was gray.

Gina walked in and examined Phillip. He was suffocating.

Gina eyed the oxygen mask and yanked it off. There was a problem with the oxygen. Or, someone had tampered with it to kill Phillip.

Soon, Phillip started breathing, and his complexion improved. However, he remained in a coma.

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Suddenly, a cry came from the doorway. "Miss Miller, what are you doing?"

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Lucas pointed at Gina with wide eyes. "Why did you remove Mr. Miller's oxygen mask? Are you trying to kill him? This is outrageous!"

"If I don't do it, he'll die," Gina said coldly. "Get someone to replace the oxygen tank."

Lucas was displeased. "Who do you think you are? You're a nobody now. You don't get to boss me around."

Gina sneered. Lucas had never respected her. He always sided with Olivia to frame and harm her.

Ella appeared at the doorway. When she saw Gina, her face changed, and she scolded, "Why are you here? Have you come to beg us to take you back?" Ella seemed to forget Gina was the one who severed their relationship.

Lucas complained, "Madam, Miss Miller pulled off Mr. Miller's oxygen mask."

"You bitch. Ella's eyes went wide. She ran to look at Phillip anxiously, ordering Lucas, "Hurry! Get the doctor now."

"Yes, madam." Lucas left.

When Gina was leaving. Ella shouted, "Stop. Are you trying to run off after trying to kill your father? Is it because you get a share of the assets? I'm going to call the police and throw you in jail. She blocked Ella's way.

Dylan Thomas arrived. He glanced at Gina and greeted, "Miss Miller.

Gina acknowledged him.

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Dylan grew sullen when he addressed Ella, “What happened?”

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Ella gritted her teeth. “It's outrageous, Dr. Thomas. This brat isn't our daughter anymore. And she just pulled out her father's oxygen mask. Since her father had a stroke, he needed a ventilator. She's trying to kill him. What a bitch.”

Dylan frowned. There must be a reason she did that. Shouldn't you find out what happened first?”

Ella didn't understand why Dylan, a doctor who returned from overseas, would speak up for Gina. Ella glared at Gina. “Are you saying she's being helpful?”

Dylan snorted. “Miss Miller is the one who visits Mr. Miller the most, and...”

Gina interrupted, “Stop.”

Dylan could only shut up. The Miller family didn't appreciate what Gina had done for them. Gina had wasted her efforts.

Cina didn't want to argue. “The oxygen tank isn't pure.” They would have to verify what was mixed in.

Dylan had someone replace the oxygen tank, checked it, and put the oxygen mask back on Phillip.

The original oxygen tank was found to contain methane, a toxic gas that could cause suffocation: Dylan said coldly. “If not for Miss Miller, Mr. Miller would have died.”

Ella's heart skipped a beat. She felt guilty momentarily.

Cina mocked, “Still want to call the police, Mrs. Miller?”

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Ella sneered, "Not this time. I may have misunderstood but ask yourself why. You're always up to no good. You've caused us so much trouble since you returned. James had a car accident from a brake failure two days ago." Ella looked at Gina with intense hatred.

"Who's he? I don't know anyone by that name," Gina retorted coldly.

Ella was infuriated.

"If he's in an accident, it's his fault. Don't blame me for everything. Gina stated, looking unaffected.

Dylan couldn't stand it and spoke to Ella, "Apologize to Miss Miller."

Ella was taken aback. Apologize? Impossible! Why was Dylan speaking up for Gina? What did Gina do to charm Dylan into taking her side?

"Never mind." Gina didn't care. She had other ways to make Ella pay. Since Phillip was fine, she didn't want to stay. She didn't care about the culprit responsible for tampering with the oxygen tank.

Ella snorted at Gina's departing figure.

Dylan soon received a call from the head of the hospital. His tightly furrowed brows relaxed. Gina finally cut ties with her family. It was excellent.

Dylan returned to the ward to continue Phillip's examination.

Ella put on a flattering smile. "Dr. Thomas, my son has severe leg fractures from the car accident. I'm hoping to transfer hi here. Can you help?

Prover Hospital had limited beds. Ella thought they were able to secure a bed for Phillip because Olivia was about to marry into the Jackson family. It should be a breeze to secure another one.

"Apply for it. Don't tell me. Dylan was impatient. Without Gina's help, the Miller family could only dream on.

“But we’re familiar with you, Dr. Thomas. You can tell the hospital head. It’s less fuss, Ella suggested.

Dylan frowned. “What do you mean?”

Ella took out a bank card and handed it to Dylan. “Dr. Thomas, if you help us, we’ll be thankful. This is a gift for you. There are several thousand dollars here.”

Dylan’s face was cold. “Hospital rules state that I can’t accept gifts. Are you trying to get me fired?”

-Ella was infuriated. Why was he so stubborn? She refused to give up. “Dr. Thomas...”

“Hold on. I’ve something to tell you first,” Dylan interrupted.

Ella shut up.

This ward costs 600 thousand dollars each month. In addition, the other costs for Mr. Miller amount to 10 million dollars monthly. The use of the ward is about to end, and you need to pay them soon. Don’t forget, Dylan stated coldly

Ella was startled. “Dr. Thomas, are you mistaken? It wasn’t so high previously. They had paid six thousand dollars for the ward and ten thousand dollars for the expenses last month,

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“No. It used to be cheaper because someone was helping you out.” Dylan was unwilling to tell them because Gina didn’t want them to know.

“Someone? Could it be Ethan? Or someone from the Jackson family?’ Ella thought. She couldn’t think of anyone who would be so generous. But why did they suddenly stop? Could it be because of the fake–painting incident that angered Neil? Ella cursed Gina silently.

“If you didn’t pay on time, it’ll be considered as applying to be discharged.” With that, Dylan left.

Ella was put on the spot. It was heart–wrenching to pay such a big sum monthly.

Her phone rang then and Ella answered. It was Olivia. "Mom, I'm at Vegate Central Hospital taking care of James. I heard from Lucas that Gina went to remove Dad's oxygen mask. Is it true? Is Dad okay?" Olivia's voice was choked.

Lucas told Olivia about it so quickly? Ella was surprised but didn't think much about it.

Ella thought Olivia was scared. "Your father's fine, honey. Don't worry. Gina... Ella paused. "She didn't do it deliberately. Someone tampered with the oxygen tank and she saved him." Although Ella didn't want to admit to it, it was true.

A calculative gleam appeared in Olivia's eyes. "Is that so? How coincidental. Dad's oxygen tank has been fine. Why did it go wrong when she was there? I don't mean anything by it. But it was too coincidental."

That's right. Was Gina trying to win us back by putting on a show?' Realization dawned on Ella. Thank God I didn't apologize to her. Gina's so scheming. Of course, she would be up to no good. How could Gina be so wicked? That's cold-blooded:

The more Ella thought about it, the angrier she became. "This ingrate is going too far. I will put her in jail sooner or later."

Olivia continued to soothe Ella. "Mom, don't be too angry. In any case, Dad is fine."

Ella's mood improved. "Honey, ask Ethan when our families can meet for a meal. We should apologize for what happened at the birthday party!"

Olivia acted again. "It's my fault. If it weren't for me..."

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“Don’t blame yourself. You were also deceived. The Jackson family must be upset too. After all, word has spread. The most important thing is to mend the relationship quickly.” Ella said.

“Yes, I understand,” Olivia answered in false docility.

At the same time, in a hospital corridor, Gina called Michael. “Withdraw the investment.”

Michael was thrilled. Finally, Gina. I’m on it.

Ginà responded indifferently. She would gradually take back the benefits she had given the Miller family because of their relationship.

After hanging up, Gina noticed a familiar figure in another corridor. It was Gabriel.

Gina didn’t know how to face him after that incident at Silver Grand Hotel. She felt awkward. It had been dark in the room. so she hadn’t recognized Gabriel as that man.

I’ll pretend I didn’t see him. Gina looked away and quickened her pace.

Gabriel flexed his fingers. His right pink was still stiff and showed no improvement. The current treatment could only slow down the muscle atrophy.

Prover Hospital was excellent at confidentiality, so Gabriel came here for secret treatment.

David, standing nearby, suddenly spoke, “Mr. Jackson, that seems to be Miss Miller.

Gabriel looked up. It was indeed her. Gabriel’s cold face warmed slightly. He quickly caught up to her.

David’s eyes widened. He had never seen Gabriel approach a woman. He hurriedly followed.

When Gina heard footsteps, she cringed. In the next second, Gabriel’s voice came. “Gina.”

Exasperated, Gina turned. “What’s up?”

Gabriel smiled faintly. “You haven’t texted me yet. Gina had promised to text him on WhatsApp after Gabriel gave her his number in the car.

“I forgot” Under Gabriel’s expectant gaze, Gina took out her phone and messaged him.

“Why are you here?” Gabriel was worried.

“Visiting” Gina responded casually. She paused and added, “What about you?”

Was she concerned? Gabriel’s eyes lit up. “I’m also visiting.”

“Who? Grandpa Neil?” Gina frowned. Why didn’t Neil tell her if he was unwell?

“No,” Gabriel clarified.

Gina’s frown relaxed. She didn’t ask. “Well, goodbye then.”

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“Hold on, When are you free? Let’s eat together.” Afraid Gina would decline, Gabriela added, “Grandpa is coming too. He misses you.”

Gina thought Gabriel was being absurd. Didn’t they just part ways?

Gabriel continued, “How about tomorrow?” He hoped to see Gina every day.

Gina thought about it and agreed.

Gabriel was happy. “I’ll arrange the time and place.”

“Tomorrow night,” Gina suggested. She wanted to buy a gift as she went empty-handed to Neil’s birthday party.

Gabriel nodded.

“Is that all? Can I go now?” Gina asked.

Gabriel felt exasperated. Was she in such a hurry to leave?

They said their goodbyes and Gina left.

Gina’s phone rang when she reached the hospital entrance. She answered it. “Caleb.

“Gina, how have you been? How’s it been with your family? Good?” Caleb Miles was concerned.

“It’s been fine. I just left them, Gina told Caleb.

“Left?” Caleb was surprised. His tone became serious. “It’s their fault. Forget about them.”

Gina laughed and changed the topic. "Why are you calling, Caleb?"

"Well, the national college jewelry design competition concluded a while ago, remember? The winners have been selected. Do you have time? You still have to choose the top three works," Caleb informed her.

Every year, colleges would hold various competitions. As the president of the Judges' Association, Gina participated in the judging of competitions such as design, art, painting, and computing

"Sure. Send them to my email, Gina said.

"Good. Let's find time to eat together," Caleb suggested.

"Okay." Gina agreed and chatted a bit more before hanging up.

At Vegate Central Hospital, James gritted his teeth. "Mum, you must find a way to transfer me to Prover Hospital. Otherwise, I'll be crippled

Every time he went close to Cina, something bad would happen. James regretted looking for Gina at school. He should have stayed away. First, the tires were punctured, then the brakes failed, and now his legs were fractured. The thought of being crippled made James go insane. He should have driven faster and run down Gina that day.

Ella knew James was upset. "Don't worry. I'll find a way. I'm having dinner with the Jackson family tomorrow. I'll get them to

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help you. It won't be a problem."

James was relieved. Luckily, he still had Olivia and Ethan. Otherwise, he would be at wit's end.

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Ella frowned and sighed. "Prover Hospital isn't cheap. It'll cost us over 20 million dollars monthly if both of you stay there... Ella thought that the Jackson family with Phillip being admitted there. But with what happened at Neil's birthday party, Ella didn't dare ask them to help with the expenses.

The pair exchanged a glance and reached an agreement.

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