

When She Stops Playing Nice Chapter 21

Posted by **Audition Villa**, 55 Views, Released on May 25, 2024

Chapter 21

James cleared his throat. "Since Dad is stable now, why don't we transfer him here?" This way, there would be a vacancy at Prover Hospital. They could then ask the Jackson family to transfer James over.

Ella nodded. "That's what I think too."

The phone rang suddenly, interrupting them. It was from James's secretary. "Mr. Miller, Dale Group just said they wanted to end the collaboration."

"What?" James's eyes went wide in disbelief.

Dale Group had twenty-nine diamond mines globally, making it the largest and most renowned company, and involved in many aspects of the industry. It was also the supplier for the internationally renowned Quaria.

A year ago, Dale Group proposed a collaboration with Miller Jewels, offering a discount on their supply. Ella and Phillip thought Dale Group recognized their potential. Perhaps they would be an internationally renowned luxury brand like Quaria.

Since then, Miller Jewels had grown significantly. The termination would have a significant impact on Miller Jewels.

"Why?" James demanded.

The secretary was startled by James's frantic tone. "I—I don't know."

James shouted, "You didn't ask? Did I pay you to loaf around?"

The secretary stammered, "Mr. Miller, I did ask, but they didn't explain. They even..."

James barked out, "What? Spit it out."

The secretary stuttered. "The person said it was great. They hated seeing how we ruined their exquisite handpicked gems by turning them into ugly and tasteless jewelry. They said we have no aesthetic sense"

James had to rein in his fury.

"Mr. Miller... Are you there? Should I continue?" the secretary asked cautiously.

"Go on," James ground out.

They said that only the Wish collection was good. The rest is rubbish. They suggested we treat that designer well. Or we are done for," the secretary said.

Gina designed the Wish collection. Even if James and Noah attributed it to Olivia, it didn't change this.

"Mr. Miller, what should we do now?" the secretary questioned nervously.

James didn't know either. His mind was in chaos. "Negotiate and see what we can do so they will reconsider."

Yes, sir, the secretary said and hung up.

James rubbed his throbbing temple.

Ella had also heard. She was puzzled. She thought after Gina left, things should have improved. But things seemed to have

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worsened

Ella was superstitious. While they brought Gina back a year ago, they weren't close to Gina as they didn't rear her. However, Ella encountered a fortune teller when she went to the church to pray for Olivia. The fortune teller told her Gina would bring bad luck and they shouldn't get too close to her. Thus, Ella let Gina board in school.

After consideration, James decided to call the CEO of Dale Group, Elsen Frost. However, he received the message "I'm sorry but the number you dialed is currently busy."

After calling several times in vain, James realized Elsen had blocked him. Enraged, James threw his phone on the ground.

Ella quickly calmed him down. James, chill. Focus on getting better. Noah's handling the company stuff for now. He'll deal

with it.

James's expression changed slightly as he agreed reluctantly.

Night fell. Gina returned home and lay down on the bed after a shower. She discovered dozens of messages from Gabriel. Why was Gabriel so chatty? Her intuition told her he wasn't talkative.

Gabriel had sent several restaurants for her to choose from and inquired about her preferences, dietary restrictions, and various little things. He was meticulous.

However, since Gina hadn't checked her phone, his last message stated: [Why are you ignoring me?]

Gina replied: [I didn't check it earlier.]

Gabriel responded quickly. [So? Have you chosen where to go?]

Gina chose randomly. [Let's go to that one with spicy wings.]

Gabriel: [So you like spicy food?]

Gina was speechless. Was Gabriel trying to find out what she liked? She replied: [Yeah.]

Remembering she hadn't checked the email Caleb sent her, Gina messaged Gabriel: [It's late. I'm gonna rest.]

Gabriel: [Okay. Goodnight then.]

Gina: [Sure.]

Gabriel thought Gina would reply "Goodnight" to him. Everything she did was beyond his expectations.

To Gabriel, saying goodnight was intimate. Besides, Gina could start by saying goodnight and move on to say "I love you".

Gina was the one woman Gabriel had ever said it to.

"Mr. Jackson, we're here. David's voice pulled Gabriel back to reality.

Gabriel had just finished working and asked David to drive him home.

David asked curiously, "Mr. Jackson, were you chatting with Miss Miller? Why else would Gabriel be smiling as he looked at his phone!

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"Yeah, Gabriel responded coldly.

Gabriel returned to his decisive and dominating, yet cold and aloof demeanor. With his ability to freeze anyone to their bones, few dared to look at him directly. However, Gabriel made an exception for Gina and would become gentle.

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David remembered their meeting with Gina at the hospital and asked curiously, "Mr. Jackson, perhaps you can consider telling Miss Miller about your condition?"

As Gabriel's confidant, he had learned about Gabriel's illness recently. "Miss Miller saved Mr. Neil. Perhaps she might be able to cure you. After all, there hasn't been any news of Dr. Genevieve. You can't keep dragging it on." David was worried.

Gabriel didn't tell Gina earlier because it wasn't the right place. If someone overheard them, the news would get out.

"Not right now. She seemed busy." Gabriel didn't want to exhaust Gina.

David was shocked. How considerate was Gabriel of Gina!

"Increase the reward posted on the hacker network. We must find Dr. Genevieve," Gabriel instructed.

"Yes, sir," responded David.

On the other hand, Gina opened Caleb's email. It contained the list of winners for the national jewelry design competition. The first prize was Olivia.

Gina didn't look at the other winners. She looked at Olivia's entry and smirked. Her mind was decided.

The next day, after breakfast, Gina set out to buy a gift for Neil. She headed straight to Quaria's store. Their business was always booming, with people lining up to enter.

Gina had privileges and could enter through the VIP channel. However, someone walked past her and bumped into her. Gina's arm felt cold. Gina realized a well-dressed woman had spilled her coffee on her.

"You bumped into me," Gina spoke displeasably.

Jasmine Bush, wearing a long dress and a coat, with curled long hair and numerous jewelry, looked wealthy. She turned and lowered her sunglasses, scrutinizing Gina from head to toe.

Seeing Gina in a plain top and sportswear, with no discernable brand, Jasmine's gaze grew disdainful. "So what? You're in the way. This is the VIP entrance for Quaria. Or are you the security?"

"Shouldn't you apologize for bumping into me and spilling your coffee on me? Where are your manners?" Gina retorted calmly.

Jasmine found it amusing. 'Who does she think she was to judge me?

Jasmine glanced at the spill on Gina and took out 400 dollars. She threw it at Gina condescendingly. "Take it. This is enough to buy another outfit from the thrift store. The money fell on the ground.

Gina stepped on the notes and looked sharply at Jasmine. "I told you to apologize."

Jasmine was irritated. "How dare she take that tone to me? Jasmine raised her hand to slap Gina. "Disrespectful bitch

Gina grabbed Jasmine's wrist.

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Jasmine couldn't free herself and was infuriated. "Let go." Gina's strength frightened Jasmine, especially because Gina's eyes were icy. "How much do you want? I'll give you. Or are you going to hit me?"

Gina found her ludicrous. Jasmine was the one who tried to hit her first. 'I told you to apologize."

Jasmine exclaimed exaggeratedly. "Ouch! Let go first. You're hurting me."

Gina could control her strength well. Gina knew she wasn't hurting Jasmine and Jasmine was only pretending. Still, Gina let her go.

Jasmine rubbed her wrist. When the store manager stepped out to welcome them, Jasmine complained, "You need to increase your security. You can't let anyone come in. Don't just stand around. Kick her out. I've spent more than 4 million dollars here. I'm your VIP"

The manager frowned. "I'm sorry. Miss Miller is our VIP too. You can't ask her to leave."

Jasmine was shocked. Gina didn't wear any Quaria jewelry and looked like she couldn't afford any. Jasmine argued, "I don't care. She just tried to hit me. If you don't deal with this, my family will kick you out of Wrinster."

The manager wasn't intimidated. She laughed. "Miss Bush, you're joking"

Gina said calmly, "Why make things difficult for her? Let's call the police. There are surveillance cameras here. It'll be easy to know what happened. I won't settle."

Jasmine felt uneasy. Why is she so hard-headed?

Jasmine had learned from her sources that she won second place in the national jewelry design competition. She planned to reward herself with some jewelry from Quaria. She didn't expect this to happen.

Jasmine became cautious. She looked at the manager. "Did you say she's a VIP? Did she spend 4 million dollars here?"

The manager shook her head.

Jasmine laughed. "No?" She felt smug again and turned to ridicule Gina.

Then, the manager said, "It's more than that."

Jasmine couldn't believe it. "How much? 40 million dollars?"

The manager smiled meaningfully. "I'm sorry. We can't disclose information about our customers."

Jasmine swallowed. Her family dominated in real estate in Wrinster. She grew up in the lap of luxury. Still, she couldn't simply spend 40 million dollars carelessly. Jasmine thought, Who was she? Besides the Jackson family, who would have more money than my family?"

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Jasmine became more cautious at the thought of the Jackson family. After all, she wanted to marry into that family. If this bitch was connected to them, Jasmine couldn't afford to offend her.

Jasmine ground her teeth resentfully. She had never been treated so badly.

The manager asked, "Miss? Are you apologizing or would you like to call the police?"

Jasmine forced out, "Apologize." She turned to Gina. "I'm sorry. Is that okay?"

Gina stated coldly, "It's insincere. I won't accept it."

Jasmine was close to losing it. What more did she want? Jasmine breathed in deeply and reined in her temper. "I'm sorry."

Gina raised a brow. "Continue. You can stop when you mean it."

Jasmine was dumbfounded. Was she messing with her? She clenched her hands tightly and repeated it until her throat felt like it was on fire.

Eventually, Gina spoke. "That's enough. She didn't want to waste time on Jasmine. "Remember to pick up your money. It's not right to litter."

Gina left. The manager followed Gina.

Jasmine was furious. Her mood was ruined and she was no longer in the mood to shop. Jasmine was also angry with the snobbish manager. When I find out who the bitch is, I'd crush her after I marry Gabriel, she thought.

Jasmine picked up the money on the ground. Thankfully, no one was around to see how pathetic she was. Jasmine

revenge.

As Jasmine left Quaria, her mother, Hannah Bush, called “Honey, how’s your shopping?”

Jasmine stomped her foot and could barely speak.

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Hannah thought Jasmine was upset about getting second in the competition. She consoled, “Honey, second is excellent too. Besides, I think your work is the best. The work that came in first was trash. The judges must be blind. Anyway, I heard she was Olivia Miller. Her family was nothing compared to ours. She’s just lucky.”

Jasmine was quite happy with being second but after just now and what her mother said, her mood plummeted. Why was she second to someone inferior?

‘Hold on. Did Mum call her Olivia Miller? Jasmine seemed to recall the manager calling that bitch “Miss Miller. Could it be so coincidental?’

Jasmine frowned. “Mum, do you know anything about her?”

“Her? She’s also an Arts major at Trowell University like you. What’s wrong, honey? Hannah asked.

Jasmine asked tentatively, “Is she related to the Jackson family?”

Hannah didn’t ask but she snorted. “She’s engaged to them. It went back a few generations.”

Jasmine was almost sure that the woman she just encountered was Olivia. How could she be engaged to the Jackson family? Jasmine was furious and worried. “Who is she engaged to?”

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Hannah replied, “Ethan.”

Jasmine was relieved. As long as it wasn’t Gabriel. That bitch wasn’t worthy of Gabriel anyway.

Flames lit in Jasmine’s eyes. ‘Olivia? Just you wait!

Olivia sneezed twice inside the Mercedes, making Ella nervous. “What’s wrong? Did you catch a flu?”

Olivia shook her head. “No, Mum. My nose just itches.”

Ella was relieved. She was going to Grand Restaurant with Noah and Olivia to meet Ethan’s parents and Neil. Ella was anxious. After all, she was asking them for a favor. Ella didn’t feel good about having to do so.

It was all Gina’s fault for what happened.

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At the same time, Gina arrived at Grand Restaurant. She got out of the taxi and saw Gabriel waiting at the entrance. “Have you been waiting long?” Gina asked.

Gabriel replied, “No.”

David answered, “Half an hour.”

Gabriel shot David a glance. David made a gesture to zip his mouth.

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Gina looked at the time. She wasn’t late. “Thanks for waiting,” she said politely.

“It’s nothing.” Gabriel smiled.

David had never seen Gabriel smile so much before. Gina only needed to stand there and Gabriel would be happy. Was this... love? David never thought Gabriel would find a girlfriend before him. “Would I be the only bachelor left?” The thought saddened David.

Gabriel noticed the small delicate gift box in Gina’s hand. “What’s this?” He looked expectantly at her.

Gina replied calmly, “It’s Grandpa Neil’s birthday gift.”

Gabriel’s dark eyes filled with disappointment. He thought it was for him. “Will you give me a gift on my birthday?” Gabriel asked suddenly.

Gina wondered, ‘Am I mistaken? Is Gabriel jealous?’ Gina didn’t like to give presents or receive them. She found it troublesome. Besides Ruby, Neil was the second person to receive a present from her. She had considered giving the Miller family birthday gifts, but they never told her their birthdays.

Since Gabriel asked, it didn’t seem nice to reject him. After all, he had helped her, even though she didn’t ask. Gina pursed her lips. “Yes.”

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Chapter 24

Gabriel's mood improved significantly. He took Gina's hand. "Let's go. Dad is waiting."

Gina was taken aback by how presumptuous he was. By the time she recovered, Gabriel was already holding her hand. It felt soft and tender. He didn't want to let go.

Gina tried to pull away. "What are you doing?" She was used to being on her own. Holding hands was too intimate. She felt uncomfortable.

"Can't I hold your hand? Do you not like me?" Gabriel sounded sad.

David bowed his head to hide his shock. Was Gabriel acting coy?

Gina went speechless. Although she didn't like to deal with social niceties, not letting him hold her hand seemed like she was rejecting him. She didn't mean that. "It's okay... You can hold it, Gina agreed eventually.

Asly gleam flashed across Gabriel's eyes. They entered the Grand Restaurant. Their attractive looks drew attention immediately.

One of them whispered, "I can't believe it. Is that Mr. Jackson? This is the first time I saw him here with a woman."

Another added, "Mr. Jackson is so dashing. That woman is also beautiful. They're so compatible.

Some secretly took out their phones to photograph them and posted them on their social media with the caption, "Such a beautiful couple!" The photos spread quickly. Some recognized Gabriel but he blocked Gina, making it impossible to tell who she was. It sparked a round of jealousy.

Gabriel brought Gina to the first Phoenix room.

Grand Restaurant, with its century-long history, was a high-end establishment. The First Phoenix room had its history too. Many important people used to have meals and discussions there. The room had antiques and paintings left by them.

Customers had to have a net worth exceeding 600 million dollars to dine there. Each customer was limited to one companion.

The room was spacious and there was a small rock formation and fountain in it.

Neil looked up when the door opened and his jaw almost dropped at their enjoined hands. How did Gabriel move so quickly?

Neil had thought his son might remain single for life, It turned out that Gabriel hadn't met someone he liked. Now he was making the moves. Despite Gabriel's flaws, Neil admitted Gabriel had a good taste like him.

Neil smiled fondly. "Gina, you're here!"

Gina felt a bit awkward with his address but since Neil was older, she didn't correct him. It was a small matter anyway.

"Come on, sit. Neil invited warmly, gesturing to the seat beside him.

Gina sat and handed the gift box to Neil./This is a present for you. To make up for your birthday."

Neil hadn't told Gina about it being his birthday yesterday and so hadn't expected it. He accepted it happily. Thanks, Gina

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Seeing that Neil didn't open it, Gina asked, "Aren't you going to see if you like it?"

Of course, I'd like it," Neil declared decisively. He would like whatever Gina gave him. He didn't open it because he thought Gina would be hungry.

But since Gina said so, Neil decided to open it. It was an pearl ring resting on top of medicinal herbs. The faint aroma of the herbs wafted out. Neil questioned, "Gina, why put the herbs in there?"

"Grandpa Neil, you can put the ring into the box at night and wear it in the day. It'll smell like the herbs and calm your mind. It's also good for your body," Gina explained.

Neil's eyes lit up. Tll remember that. Thanks, Gina. I really like it."

Gina's heart warmed too. Neil made her feel cherished and valued, something she had always wanted from her family.

"You're welcome."

Neil waved at them. "Come, let's eat."

Neil and Gabriel took turns serving food to Gina. Soon, her plate was piled up with food. She probably couldn't finish it. "That's enough." Gina said, stopping them.

Neil laughed. "Eat more, Gina. You're too thin now. Are you secretly dieting? You're already slim. There's no need to lose anymore."

Gabriel chimed in, "Are these spicy enough for you? Do you need them to be spicier?"

"It's good." Gina eyed Gabriel's empty plate. "Aren't you eating?"

Gabriel picked up his fork to eat. Soon, his face turned red. His lips swelled. He drank some water but couldn't get rid of the burning sensation on his tongue, so he gulped the whole glass of water. Sweat appeared on his nose.

Gina was stunned. "What's wrong? Was there something wrong with the food?"

Neil explained, "Gina, he's fine. He can't handle spicy food."

Gina's eyes went wide. "Why didn't you say so?" Gabriel should have mentioned it.

Gina grabbed a tissue for him. "Wipe your mouth."

Gabriel took it. The spiciness was worth it if Gina cared.

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Chapter 25

When Gabriel recovered, he said. "You wanted to eat it and I wanted to accompany you

Gina was at a loss. "But you don't have to force yourself.

"I'm not." Worried she didn't believe him, Gabriel emphasized, "Not at all." He even enjoyed it.

Exasperated, Gina poured Gabriel a glass of water. "Rinse it first before you eat. It won't be so spicy then."

Gabriel grinned. "Okay."

"Perhaps I shouldn't have come. Neil thought. He had assumed Gabriel needed his help courting Gina. However, Gabriel turned out unexpectedly good at it. He needn't worry.

On the other hand, Ella and the others arrived at Grand Restaurant. After getting out of the car, Ella looked at the majestic gold sign of the restaurant and her heart ached. Reserving a room cost her six million dollars. Ella wouldn't bear to come here usually.

They entered the private room first. The Jackson family arrived ten minutes late. Though displeased, Ella still greeted Ethan's parents, Clinton and Abbie Jackson, with a smile. "Clinton. Abbie.

Abbie's expression changed. "Mrs. Miller, you're joking. It's too soon to call me by my first name, right?"

Ella felt awkward. She knew Ethan's parents were dissatisfied with the marriage. Their attitude was even colder before, and only improved after the Miller family became the wealthiest in Wrinster. Otherwise, they might not have agreed to come today.

Being wealthiest in Wrinster meant nothing to the Jackson family. After all, Gabriel was the wealthiest in the world.

Sensing the awkwardness, Olivia signaled to Ethan. Ethan spoke to smooth things over. "Mom, it's just a matter of time. Aren't we having the engagement party soon?"

Abbie glared at Ethan.

Clinton interjected politely, "Let's sit."

Ella nodded with a smile but kept glancing at the door. She asked, "Is Mr. Neil coming?"

Ethan explained, "Grandpa said he has to treat someone important today, so he can't come."

The Miller family was shocked. Olivia wondered who it was.

Ethan intended to sit beside Olivia but his father coughed meaningfully, Ethan sat beside Abbie.

Ella felt difficult. "We intended to apologize to Mr. Neil for what happened at the birthday party. Please let him know it wasn't deliberate. Olivia was deceived." Ella didn't go into the details because she didn't feel right to air their dirty laundry in public.

Ella signaled to Noah who took out a present. "Mr. Jackson, we bought this bottle of wine from the well-known Castel Winery abroad. Hopefully, it will make up for the present."

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Clinton and Abbie had heard of the winery. It was renowned internationally and often supplied wine to royal families worldwide. However...

Abbie sneered, "Such a well-thought-out present. Too bad Neil can't drink it. He just got out of the hospital recently and can't drink alcohol. Because Olivia's incident had embarrassed them, Abbie's tone was sarcastic.

The atmosphere grew more awkward.

The Miller family only knew Neil's health wasn't good. Although they had an engagement with the Jackson family, they weren't close..

Olivia asked awkwardly. "Mr. Neil was hospitalized? Where did he stay? We didn't know before. How is he now?" Olivia remembered seeing Neil at the birthday party. He seemed robust.

"He was already discharged from the Prover Hospital," Abbie stated.

Olivia and Ella exchanged glances. When Neil was hospitalized, they must have discovered Phillip was also there. They probably took care of their expenses, as that amount was nothing to them.

Olivia continued, "What is he in there for?"

Abbie answered impatiently. "Heart disease. He had it for a long time. He went out on a stroll and had a heart attack. A student saved him. He was admitted to the hospital for

observation, not treatment. As he was fine, he was discharged soon.” Neil hadn’t told them anything else.

Ella was envious. Who was the student? By becoming Neil’s savior, the student could reap all the advantages of the Jackson family. Ella thought of Gina. Gina only brought them bad luck and caused them embarrassment and disgrace. She was worthless. Thank god Olivia was still good. News had spread that Olivia won first at the national jewelry design competition.

After discussing the incident at the birthday party, Ella had Noah give presents to Clinton and Abbie. Clinton got an antique vase and Abbie got a diamond necklace from Quaria’s new line. Ella didn’t give Abbie something from Miller Jewels because she knew Abbie would look down on it. Abbie preferred an internationally renowned brand.

Abbie liked the necklace. Her stern expression softened, and she raised an eyebrow. “Mrs. Miller, what does this mean?”

Ella was nervous. “Mrs. Jackson, frankly, I have a favor to ask.”

Abbie’s face darkened. She knew they must have a hidden agenda. Still, she appreciated the jewelry and decided to rein in her impatience. “What favor?”

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