

Chapter 54 Can't Indulge Her Any Longer

Kimberly studied Chris carefully for a moment. Observing his sincere and serious expression, she sensed his honesty, and her initial unease dissolved. Kallie was not his girlfriend, after all!

A slight smile crossed Kimberly's face. "Then, I must have been mistaken. Camila mentioned a girl named Kallie Braxton."

Chris, unflustered by the mention of the name, remained composed. In a rare proactive gesture, he said, "Kallie is like a sister to me, nothing more. Don't worry about Kallie. I'll manage that situation."

"That's relieving to hear." Feeling comforted, Kimberly offered a small smile. "It's getting late, I should head to bed. Good night, Mr. Howard."

"Good night." Chris's gaze was soft and caring as he watched Kimberly walk back to her room. He only left once he saw her door close.

Then his phone rang. He looked at the caller ID and saw it was a subordinate, and his expression became slightly troubled as he answered. "What's the matter?"

His team knew not to call at this late hour unless it was important.

"Mr. Howard..." The voice on the other end was filled with concern. "We were preparing to send Camila back to Javille, but Miss Braxton intervened, requesting that she stay on the cruise. She insisted on discussing it with you, despite knowing it was your order."

The "Miss Braxton" mentioned was, of course, Kallie.

Chris sat on his bed, his frown deepening at the update, and he gave a stern command, "Disregard her wishes. Ensure Camila is returned to the Webster family. Inform Caligae Webster to better control his daughter. I won't be so forgiving if this repeats."

Chris had always been more lenient with her than with her own brother, Rocco. Yet tonight, due to some photographs taken by Camila, he was adamant about sending Camila back to Javille immediately. She had begged Chris for leniency, but he was resolute, even insisting that she delete the photos.

And was all this really because of that married woman, Kimberly?

"Chris, you're aware of Camila's challenging situation. Her attendance at this party would have helped her socially. I was feeling ill and seasick, so I let her use my invitation."

Chris gazed at Kallie through the screen, his expression unreadable, filled with disappointment at her actions tonight.

Kallie, five years younger than Rocco, was only about three years old when she and her brother were taken in by the Howard family. She had endured the turmoil of the Braxton family's decline and was born with a severe heart condition that weakened her considerably.

Chris had always longed for a younger sister. He discovered later that his mother had been expecting a girl when she died saving him. His feelings of regret for his mother and the sister he never met were transferred to Kallie, whom he treasured deeply.

However, he had not anticipated how much Kallie would change in his absence. She had formed a friendship with Camila, who was born out of wedlock. Despite being aware of Camila's clandestine photographs, Kallie continued to advocate fervently for her.

Indeed, Chris had been more forgiving than usual. Had he employed his usual methods, both Camila and the Webster family would have faced significant consequences.

"Chris..." Kallie's anxiety intensified as she observed Chris's unusual stare and prolonged silence. "Why aren't you speaking?"

"What do you expect me to say?" Chris's gaze was fixed on Kallie, his voice devoid of emotion. "Everything I could say seems to upset you, and you don't seem to want to listen. So, what else is there for me to discuss?"

Before Kallie could respond, Chris interrupted her, his voice carrying an authoritative edge that left no room for debate. "This time, I'll overlook the issue with the invitation, but I cannot permit someone with dubious ethics to remain on this cruise. There are others on board, and I must safeguard their privacy and security.

Kallie, I cannot continue to accommodate your requests on this matter.

it to her, wasn't it?"

Before, Kallie hadn't considered the gravity of giving out an invitation; it seemed a minor thing. However, the visible disapproval on Chris's face made her feel increasingly aggrieved.

Chris had always been more lenient with her than with her own brother, Rocco. Yet tonight, due to some photographs taken by Camila, he was adamant about sending Camila back to Javille immediately. She had begged Chris for leniency, but he was resolute, even insisting that she delete the photos.

And was all this really because of that married woman, Kimberly?

"Chris, you're aware of Camila's challenging situation. Her attendance at this party would have helped her socially. I was feeling ill and seasick, so I let her use my invitation."

Chris gazed at Kallie through the screen, his expression unreadable, filled with disappointment at her actions tonight.

Kallie, five years younger than Rocco, was only about three years old when she and her brother were taken in by the Howard family. She had endured the turmoil of the Braxton family's decline and was born with a severe heart condition that weakened her considerably.

Chris had always longed for a younger sister. He discovered later that his mother had been expecting a girl when she died saving him. His feelings of regret for his mother and the sister he never met were transferred to Kallie, whom he treasured deeply.

However, he had not anticipated how much Kallie would change in his absence. She had formed a friendship with Camila, who was born out of wedlock. Despite being aware of Camila's clandestine photographs, Kallie continued to advocate fervently for her.

Indeed, Chris had been more forgiving than usual. Had he employed his usual methods, both Camila and the Webster family would have faced significant consequences.

"Chris..." Kallie's anxiety intensified as she observed Chris's unusual stare and prolonged silence. "Why aren't you speaking?"

"What do you expect me to say?" Chris's gaze was fixed on Kallie, his voice devoid of emotion. "Everything I could say seems to upset you, and you don't seem to want to listen. So, what else is there for me to discuss?"

Before Kallie could respond, Chris interrupted her, his voice carrying an authoritative edge that left no room for debate. "This time, I'll overlook the issue with the invitation, but I cannot permit someone with dubious ethics to remain on this cruise. There are others on board, and I must safeguard their privacy and security.

Kallie, I cannot continue to accommodate your requests on this matter. You need to consider why you choose to associate with such individuals. I expect you not to have any further contact with her. Do you understand?"