

Chapter 66 Archie Defended Kimberly

Colin's abrupt outburst took the entire Holden family by surprise, particularly his final comment. It implied that Kimberly wasn't welcome in her own home without a gift for him.

How could that make any sense?

After all, this was her home!

Kimberly laughed, though her frustration was apparent as she broke free from Colin's grasp. Her eyes sharpened, her voice laden with sarcasm, saying, "I've never before encountered someone who felt so entitled to demand a gift."

Gia quickly moved to stand protectively in front of Kimberly, her gaze filled with scorn as she looked at Colin. "What's gotten into you, Colin? Kimberly has just returned, and you're pushing her away. Have you forgotten how to behave?"

Colin appeared undisturbed by the confrontation, perhaps because his feud with Gia was a well-known fact within the Holden family from the day they first met.

"Gia, be quiet! Leave!" Colin screamed, his eyes fixed on Kimberly, fists clenched at his sides. "Why does she receive a gift, and I don't? Aren't we supposed to be treated equally, being cousins?"

He was simply seeking fairness.

While Colin and Gia rarely saw eye to eye, he genuinely admired Kimberly. However, witnessing Kimberly's warmth towards someone he disliked, contrasted with her coldness towards him, stirred feelings of envy.

Kimberly remained unbothered, her gaze aloof. She tilted her chin up slightly and responded to Colin's frustrated expression without hesitation. "The choice of whom I give gifts to is mine alone. It's irrelevant to you."

It was almost comical. Had Colin approached her respectfully, she might have considered commemorating their first meeting as cousins

with a gift. But his entitled attitude only inspired her to rebuff him more sternly.

"You!"

Colin sputtered in anger. As he was about to retort, Theodosia stood and approached him with a critical smile. She then turned to Kimberly, her dissatisfaction clear.

"Kimberly, this isn't criticism, but since Colin has been abroad and is meeting you for the first time today, shouldn't you show a little more kindness?"

Theodosia glanced at the bracelet on Gia's wrist, her voice soft yet cutting. "Furthermore, you've gifted Gia but not Colin. Do you hold a grudge against your Uncle William and me?"

Her smile remained pleasant, which to the uninformed might seem like friendly banter. Yet, each word subtly expressed her displeasure with Kimberly's behavior.

Theodosia was accusing that Kimberly was fostering discord within the family and undermining sibling unity.

Kimberly's expression darkened slightly. In the past, she might have overlooked the implications of Theodosia's words. When her parents were still alive, the Holden family always maintained harmony.

"Theodosia, what exactly are you implying?" Kimberly responded, her tone steady but firm. "I returned spontaneously and wasn't aware that Colin was even in the country. You didn't tell me. How could I possibly have prepared a gift not knowing he would be here? Moreover, it appears that my cousin doesn't even want me around. He explicitly stated that if I didn't bring him a gift, I shouldn't come back."

Kimberly noticed two figures making their way down the spiral staircase. She adopted a pained expression and said, "Perhaps Uncle William and you would prefer that I wasn't here."

Theodosia was visibly startled, her gaze fixed on Kimberly in surprise. Since when had Kimberly become so bold and outspoken?

And why did she seem so distressed?

"You..."

Before Theodosia could respond, a loud thud resonated through the room as a cane struck the floor with force. Everyone stopped and turned



towards the noise. There, on the landing, stood Archie, dressed in a black suit, his white hair perfectly groomed. He leaned on Mabel for support, his sharp gaze directed at Theodosia.

"Who would dare to make my beloved granddaughter feel unwelcome?" he demanded.

Despite his age, Archie's stern demeanor and authoritative tone were as strong as ever.

"Grandpa!"

Kimberly's eyes welled up slightly, as though she were fighting back tears. She quickly approached Archie and linked her arm with his, effectively cutting off any further grievances from Theodosia.

"I wasn't aware that Colin had returned," Kimberly said, her voice reflecting her confusion. "I had a gift prepared only for Gia. But Colin insisted that if I hadn't prepared a gift for him as well, I shouldn't even be here."

Upon hearing this, Archie's face hardened and looked quite stern. He issued a command, his voice echoing through the room. "Absurd! Kimberly is my eldest granddaughter, and I am very much alive! Who would dare mistreat Kimberly?"

Archie's fury was like a tempest, his influence sweeping across the room like a fierce windstorm, affecting everyone except Kimberly and Mabel, who stood steadfastly by his side.

Kimberly and Mabel shared a look. Hidden from the others, Kimberly allowed a small smirk to cross her face, as though saying, "Pretty effective, huh, Aunt?"

Mabel, taken aback momentarily, soon let a sly smile spread across her face and discreetly offered Kimberly a thumbs-up in approval.

Since the loss of Kimberly's parents, the Holden family had lacked a definitive leader, leading to their decline. Archie himself had become tired of the continuous disputes and had often refrained from getting involved.

Mabel had taken the initiative to lead, despite being the youngest of the four siblings.

Christian preferred to stay out of the fray, maintaining a neutral stance and not siding with anyone.

William, however, stood apart from the rest. His drive for power had



become increasingly apparent following the death of Kimberly's parents.

Archie, however, retained significant influence. He owned forty percent of the Holden Group's shares, a larger portion than anyone else, cementing his status as the family patriarch.

His anger was overwhelming, a torrent no one dared confront, especially William, who had long eyed Archie's shares with envy. Seizing a moment of tension, William rose abruptly and marched over to his wife and son. Without a moment's hesitation, he kicked Colin in the knee.

Colin screamed in pain and crumpled to the floor.

"You fool! You've just returned, and already you're causing trouble with your cousins. You would have been better off staying abroad!"

William then fixed a harsh stare on Theodosia, who seemed ready to object. He said bitterly, "And you, this is the consequence of your terrible parenting!"