

Reborn And Remade: Pursued By The Billionaire

Chapter 7

“Chris Howard?”

The name hit Declan like a blast of cold water. His anger instantly froze, and he stared in disbelief at the calm and poised man before him.

This was the renowned Chris Howard of the Howard family.

“Mr. Howard, I apologize for my behavior earlier. Please, don’t take it personally...”

Declan’s face changed from red with anger to pale with fear, his attitude changing swiftly. He then forced a smile.

He took on a submissive, flattering attitude, like a creep eager to please.

After all, offending Chris, the prized heir of the Howard family, was not something Declan could afford to do.

Chris remained cool and detached, regarding Declan as if he were beneath his notice. His gaze, filled with mild contempt, drifted to Declan's hand still clutching Kimberly's wrist, raising his eyebrows in question.

“Could you let go of her now?”

Startled as though shocked by electricity, Declan quickly let go of Kimberly. In Chris's presence, he dared not behave aggressively, hiding his anger with a strained smile. “I'm terribly sorry, Mr. Howard. I was merely joking with my wife. It's just a little romantic joke we have...”

Earlier, he had nearly been escorted out of the banquet by the Howard family's butler after an argument with Kimberly. He had learned from that close call that the Howards prized decorum.

Now, facing Chris, he couldn't risk any disrespect towards Kimberly, fearing it might lead to him and Valerie being expelled.

Tonight's event was packed with prominent figures from the domestic business community, including real estate tycoons and rising stars in finance. The top ten richest people in the country were present.

Being thrown out in front of everyone would ruin the Walsh family's reputation and put their ongoing new energy project in trouble!

“Romantic joke?”

Kimberly couldn't stand it any longer. Seeing Declan's fawning face made her feel completely disgusted. Suddenly, a large hand reached out, offering her a pack of wet wipes. Without looking, she took it, pulled out a wipe, and scrubbed her wrist vigorously where Declan had touched her.

She crumpled the wipe into a ball and tossed it at Declan, a mocking smile forming on her lips.

“Mr. Walsh, we’ve been married for a year, and we haven’t even consummated our marriage. There’s no such thing as romance between us. I’m not familiar with any such joke. Perhaps you’re mistaken about its meaning?”

Then, with a scornful look at Valerie, who was still attached to Declan’s arm, she scoffed audibly before walking toward them.

Valerie, taken aback by Kimberly’s aggressive attitude, quickly let go of Declan’s hand and moved aside.

To her surprise, Kimberly walked right between them, not taking the broader path, and continued walking away from the Howard estate without looking back.

Valerie was left stunned, then flushed with humiliation at her earlier cowardice, stomped her foot in frustration.

“Declan, did you see that? She deliberately walked between us instead of around. Isn’t that just offensive?”

Valerie was furious, momentarily ignoring the onlookers. She rushed over, wrapped her arms around Declan, pressed her chest against him, and demanded that he take her side.

Chris watched Kimberly walk away with his intense gaze, still reflecting on her earlier words. She claimed they hadn’t consummated their marriage!

“It was her fault, Valerie... Mr. Howard is still here,” Declan whispered urgently, his voice strained with forced calm.

Chris looked at the close-knit Walsh siblings, chuckling with meaning. “No need to worry about me, just go ahead.”

With that, Chris turned to leave, not wanting to look at the shameless pair again for fear they would ruin his vision.

“Mr. Howard, please wait!”

Declan, seeing Chris about to leave, panicked and quickly shrugged Valerie off. He hurried after Chris, his smile painfully fawning. “Mr. Howard, were you the one who escorted my wife out? So you must have been with Mrs. Howard earlier, right? Did she like the necklace?”

Chris initially didn’t respond, but on hearing Declan’s words, he stopped, his expression coldly amused. “Why not be direct, Mr. Walsh?”

Seeing a glimmer of opportunity, Declan rubbed his hands together. “Our Walsh Group is initiating a promising new energy project. Mr. Howard, as you’ve just returned, perhaps you’d consider reviewing our proposal?”

His meaning was obvious. He wanted to use the necklace to gain the Howard family's support. With their resources and connections, even a weed could become a towering tree.

That was the strength of the Howard family!

Chris's eyes sparkled with amusement as he spoke casually. "As far as I'm concerned, that necklace is one of Mrs. Walsh's wedding gifts, entirely unrelated to the Walsh family."

Declan's smile froze, feeling embarrassed. Anger simmered in his eyes, but he didn't dare to show it in front of Chris.

"Is that what she told you?" He gritted his teeth, viewing Kimberly as selfish, yet outwardly he continued, "Mr. Howard, since it's a wedding gift, it belongs to the Walsh family, including Kimberly herself!"

His words carried a hint, his eyes locked on Chris's dismissive expression. He added, "But

Mr. Howard, if you decide to invest in our project, then what belongs to the Walsh family could be yours. Our people are your people. What do you think?"

"I think... You're quite shameless."

Chris kept smiling at him, but his eyes were cold and full of mockery. He then turned and walked away confidently.

He walked towards the villa through a side entrance, his smile fading into a nasty expression.

Declan's intentions were obvious. He was offering his wife to Chris!

Not far off, Felix finally caught up with Chris. "There you are. I've been searching for you. Why are you over here hiding?"

Chris shot him a cold look, then glanced back in Declan's direction, his voice filled with irritation. "How could she be interested in a man like him?"