

## Chapter 39 The Gift

Susan widened her eyes, at first believing she wasn't seeing clearly.

What was Giana doing here? Didn't she say she had other plans?

It was indeed Giana, right there at the hotel entrance, mingling with a well-dressed crowd.

Among them stood Jenna.

Although Susan didn't know Jenna personally, they had attended the same high school and she knew Jenna was the true heiress of the Chapman family. Jenna had recently sent out invitations for her own welcome banquet, an event Susan had no intention of attending.

But why was Giana, who had claimed to be busy with work, here with Jenna and her entourage?

Confusion aside, Susan realized this chance encounter presented an opportunity to give Giana the gift from Madisyn.

Giana, now a celebrity, rarely crossed paths with Susan, their meetings dwindling to a few times a year. If Susan didn't hand over the gift now, there was no telling when she'd get another chance.

"Could you please stop the car?" Susan requested the driver.

As Susan approached Giana, she was about to call out to her but hesitated, mindful of Giana's celebrity status and the potential for drawing a crowd. Opting for discretion, she stayed back and dialed Giana's number instead.

She watched as Giana pulled out her phone, glanced at the screen, and then, without answering, slipped it back into her purse, continuing to engage with Jenna and the other girls.

One of the girls complimented Jenna, "Jenna, I'm so jealous! You wear Versace as if it were made just for you. And your jewelry must be

incredibly expensive, right?"

Jenna dismissed the compliment with an effortless grace. "It's no big deal. My mom loves splurging on expensive items for me. She even tried to secure the new limited-edition diamond necklace from Cavo, but unfortunately, it was already sold out."

Giana's face shifted subtly at the mention of the necklace.

It was a piece renowned for its exquisite diamonds, a luxury Giana had long admired but knew was out of her financial reach with its daunting 1.5 million-dollar price tag.

For Jenna, however, she could buy such things at any time.

Also, the gifts Jenna had prepared for the guests today were very opulent.

Giana felt a twinge of irony.

She had known Madisyn for so many years, yet Madisyn had never given her anything expensive. On the other hand, she had only recently befriended Jenna, and had already received an extravagant gift from her.

Was it that Madisyn didn't value their friendship, or was it a reflection of how little the Chapman family regarded Madisyn?

Meanwhile, Susan was still grappling with the fact that Giana had hung up on her. Feeling a mix of hurt and confusion, she dialed Giana again.

This time Giana picked up, her tone edged with impatience. "What is it? I can't talk right now!"

"I'm right behind you," Susan stated, slightly unsettled by Giana's curt tone.

As Giana turned, her irritation visibly morphed into surprise. "I've just come from Madisyn's welcome banquet," Susan said, trying to keep her tone even despite Giana's standoffishness. "She has prepared a gift for you, which I've brought along."

"A gift?"

Giana's tone was dismissive as she likely envisioned something simple or rustic from Madisyn.

What could Madisyn have possibly given her?

Maybe some local trinkets or homemade goods?

With a dismissive gesture, Giana said, "I'm good, thanks. Just keep it for yourself."

"But really, Madisyn selected some lovely items, specifically for us. It's worth taking a look!" Susan urged.

Susan was keenly aware that Madisyn wouldn't give every guest the limited-edition necklace; it must be a special gesture for her and Giana.

Giana was obviously reluctant to accept the gift and was even annoyed. Jenna, who caught sight of Susan, exclaimed, "Hey, look! Susan's here! What is she holding?"

Giana, her lips pressed tightly together, replied hesitantly, "It's nothing. Madisyn gave me a gift."

Jenna's interest seemed genuine as she said, "Madisyn prepared a gift for you? That's really thoughtful! You should check it out; she must have put a lot of thought into it."

Amidst the giggles of the surrounding women, one scoffed. "Really, Madisyn held a welcome banquet? That's laughable. She might as well have kept it to a modest family event instead of this showy display. It seems those with less always aim to appear more. I bet there's nothing good in the bag."

Jenna, masking her condescension with a sweet tone, chimed in, "Still, it's a thoughtful gesture from Madisyn. Let's see what she's prepared. There might be some quaint treasures from the countryside."

Giana felt a flush of embarrassment from their mocking tones.

She reluctantly grabbed the gift bag and dismissed Susan curtly. "You can go now."

Giana turned to Jenna and the others. "I should get going too."

Jenna stopped her immediately. "Hold on! We haven't seen what Madisyn sent you yet. It's not every day we get to see countryside gifts. This could be enlightening!"

"Indeed, let's uncover the treasures Madisyn has sent," another woman added, barely hiding her derision.

With resignation, Giana opened the bag, her feelings towards Madisyn souring for putting her in such an uncomfortable and humiliating position.

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