

Chapter 42 Being Jealous

"Dane, I..." Josie began, but Dane ignored her, taking Susan straight to the kitchen to cool her arm under cold water.

As they walked away, Josie clenched her teeth, her eyes shimmering with bitterness.

Susan felt somewhat bewildered as she was ushered into the kitchen. It was only when the cold water cascaded over her arm that she realized Dane's intention and quickly said, "I can handle this myself. Thanks."

Dane let go of her arm. "Don't let her mistreat you like that next time."

"I just didn't want to be a bother," Susan responded with a hint of resignation.

"You're a friend of Madisyn's. You will never be a bother," Dane assured her with a touch of chivalry.

Susan paused, struck by Dane's sincere gaze. It was the first time a man had said that to her, all thanks to her connection with Madisyn.

"Thank you," she said, offering a slight smile.

Dane regarded Susan with a sense of helplessness.

She seemed too meek.

"Susan, I'm really sorry." Josie suddenly came over, her eyes teary. "I put a lot of effort into that coffee, and I ended up taking my frustration out on you. Are you alright?"

Susan sensed the lack of genuine remorse in Josie's tone and answered coolly, "I'm fine."

"I really am sorry," Josie persisted, appearing remorseful, then turned to Dane. "Dane, I was just overwhelmed."

"You don't need to justify it to me," Dane responded, his tone detached.

Josie bit her lip, consumed by frustration.

She felt like this whole situation had damaged her image in Dane's heart!

Susan, feeling that her arm wasn't in pain anymore and not wanting to get involved in their matters, was about to leave when Dane stopped her. "Your arm is burned; you should apply some ointment."

Before Susan could object, Dane guided her to the living room, fetched a first aid kit, and began treating her wound.

Susan sat quietly, watching Dane care for her, almost as if she were in a surreal moment.

Was this special treatment because of her friendship with Madisyn?

She tried to overlook Josie's glaring look of envy...

Once the ointment was applied, Susan swiftly made her way upstairs.

Dane observed her retreating figure, baffled. Was he that intimidating?

"Dane, let me make you some coffee again," Josie said, looking pitiful.

Dane gave her a cold look. "No, thanks. I won't drink your coffee, and I don't appreciate your company. I hope you understand your position."

Josie's face fell. "Dane..."

"Don't stick with me. It gives the wrong impression," Dane stated before walking away.

Josie was left shivering, feeling colder than ever.

Previously, although Dane was not fond of her, he had never been so harsh. But now...

Was it because she had revealed her true nature, exhausting Dane's patience?

Or perhaps...

With growing irritation, Josie headed back to Kristine's room, her spirits low.

Kristine asked what was wrong.

"It's just so odd, Kristine," Josie complained. "Dane used to just ignore me, but today he was outright rude. He was so nice to that simple friend of your sister, yet so harsh with me! Do you think it's because his real sister is here now, and he doesn't care about you anymore?" Josie speculated.

Kristine's face shifted subtly, and Josie realized she might have misspoken, quickly adding, "Of course not. Those country women are so sly, they make men lose their heads!"

Kristine managed a weak smile. "Perhaps Dane just pities them..."

Yet her eyes briefly hardened.

She wanted to be on good terms with Madisyn, but Madisyn had just arrived and was already charming everyone. A girl so manipulative could disrupt the Johns family's harmony!

She knew she couldn't just stand by!

"But remember, she can't hold a candle to you. You're not just a renowned dancer but also the vice president at the Johns Group. You have talent and connections," Josie said thoughtfully. "Even if that country girl has won over your parents, she can't make her mark in the group. Ultimately, the business will be yours and Dane's, and you two are the ones who command respect."

Kristine was soothed by these words.

Josie had a point. Without a foothold in the group, Madisyn might be the dutiful daughter at home, but she wouldn't win respect elsewhere.

Madisyn would always be a step behind.

Feeling more secure, Kristine went to sleep.


The following morning, Kristine woke up early and accidentally heard her parents talking.

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 +120 Points at most

"When Madisyn wakes up, let her choose which company she'd like to take over."



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