

Chapter 134 Up To You Two

Alicia felt a sense of relief upon hearing his question.

She was relieved that this was the only thing Joshua was concerned of.

She had feared he would ask her, "Why did you conspire with Caden against me?"

Keeping her emotions in check, she replied, "Why would you ask me that?"

Joshua said, "Just give me a straightforward answer. Yes or no?"

"No," she responded.

However, Joshua wasn't convinced.

"Mrs. Gray has already left, but before she did, she mentioned that you and Caden were very close while at the Gray family's home." His expression darkened. "Don't you find it a bit coincidental that you were both at the Gray family home at the same time? After you got hurt, why was it Caden who saved you and took you to the hospital?"

Alicia stared at him in silence.

In his gaze, she noticed not only anger but also a flicker of resentment.

Perhaps there was even a trace of fear.

However, fear felt like an exaggeration. She understood Joshua too well; his interest in her was always fleeting.

He wouldn't truly fear losing her.

Now that she had gathered enough evidence, she felt no need to maintain her facade any longer.

She figured that it must be time for her to sever her ties with him.

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"There is, in fact, something happening between Caden and me," she said with a smile creeping onto her face.

Joshua flinched at her smile.

Her words ignited his fury, and her demeanor only intensified his frustration.

"Then why did you deny it earlier?" Joshua sounded agitated this time.

Alicia replied with indifference, "You asked if we were involved."

"Is there really a difference?"

"Absolutely. Caden asked me if I wanted to be with him, but I haven't agreed to anything yet."

She spoke whatever came to mind, regardless of how ridiculous it sounded.

Then, she let out a sigh and lied her ass off. "He claimed he's better than you, and if I were with him, all my problems would disappear."

Alicia was completely making this up.

Even so, Joshua believed her.

The reason was that he understood Caden's intentions from their private conversations.

His heart began to race. "What do you think?"

"Nothing," she replied, looking at him with mockery. "I don't have a choice, do I?"

She truly didn't have a say in the matter.

Who could win her over was entirely up to them.

Joshua knew he had no chance of winning, but his competitive spirit flared. Clenching his fists, he declared, "Caden is no match for me."

Alicia laughed at his remark.

"Those who have nothing to lose aren't intimidated by those who have everything at stake. He's single now and has no attachments. What about you? Lilliana is pregnant. Aren't you concerned about that?"

Joshua's expression soured. "Alicia, are you siding with Caden to mock me?"

"No, I'm just speaking the truth," she said with a shrug. "You're impulsive, and I'm simply reminding you not to jeopardize the bigger picture for minor issues."

Lilliana represented the bigger picture. Alicia was merely a trivial matter. He needed to understand that.

Joshua was able to see right through her.

"Are you planning to leave me, so you can be with Caden?" he asked.

Alicia said carefully, "I won't be with anyone, but as long as I'm staying at the Yates Mansion, I'll always pose a risk to your relationship with Lilliana. You should really reflect on that."

Joshua dismissed her hypocritical words.

He took her hand and firmly stated, "Caden wants you just to compete with me. If you accept him, it won't end well for you. Do you understand?"

Alicia flinched at his grip, and she struggled to free herself.

Believing she was trying to escape, Joshua lifted her and carried her to the bedroom.

Afterwards, he locked the door.

"What are you planning to do to me, Joshua?" Alicia asked worriedly.

He pushed her onto the bed and placed a firm grip around her neck. "What are you thinking? Have you forgotten why I brought you to the Yates Mansion?"

Then, he began taking her clothes off.

Alicia held onto her shirt, firmly resisting his attempts at undressing her.

She knew Joshua had taken the drug, so he wouldn't react physically. However, Caden had left marks on her skin.

She couldn't let Joshua discover them.

This bastard was a brutal man.

Fury surged through Alicia, and she slapped him hard across the face.

This was enough to startle Joshua.

With a stern expression, he grunted, "You really don't want to give yourself to me?"

Alicia's eyes burned with anger. "Why should I? Have you forgotten how you threatened me back then?"

Joshua began to think on the past.

How he threatened her? He had threatened her that if she didn't comply, he would walk away, and those drunks would pull her into a secluded area and assault her.

Trembling with fury, Alicia shouted, "You're no different from a rapist!"

Joshua's body went rigid.

He locked eyes with her.

It was true that she had changed.

She was no longer the Alicia he once knew.

The eyes before him were not the same gentle, smiling eyes he remembered.

He had been compelling her to stay here all along.

He suddenly felt a wave of defeat wash over him. Frustrated with his unresponsive body, he released her and turned to light a cigarette.

Seconds later, he received a call from Lilliana.

He answered the phone while exhaling a cloud of smoke. "What's going on, honey?"

In a sweet voice, Lilliana asked, "Are you finished with work? Do you mind joining me for a stroll?"

Joshua glanced at Alicia.

She had already finished smoothing out her clothes and was standing at a distance, refusing to meet his eyes.

"Yeah," he replied flatly. "I'll be there soon."

After he hung up, Alicia told him, "Nothing stays hidden forever. Your

company is about to go public, and Lilliana is planning her return to work. Do you really want to risk losing everything because of me?"

Joshua knew exactly what mattered most.

He valued power far too much to ruin it all over a woman.

Still, he had no intention of letting Caden have Alicia without a fight.

He didn't respond directly.

Instead, he grabbed her phone from the bed and started walking out.

Alicia's expression tightened. "What do you think you're doing, Joshua?"