

## UNREPAIRABLE LOVE / I MARRIED A MAN NOVEL ALTRERNATIVE

### Repairable Love

#### Chapter 41

Elizabeth brought the ginseng into the hall. The robot zipped over, scanned it, and exclaimed, “Whoa, it’s the rare ginseng everyone’s hunting for on the black market!”

Elizabeth clapped her hands and crossed her arms. The robot asked, “Glory M, where’d you get it?”

Felix grinned, “From a pile of junk waiting to be trashed.”

The robot was speechless. Felix stared at the robot, and its screen turned into a chaotic display of stars, then an electrocardiogram image.

“What the heck? Did it just crash?” Felix thought. He’d been at Hidden Camp for years, and it was the first time he’d seen a robot’s screen go blank.

The robot rebooted, and big eyes appeared on the display. It said, “I fainted and woke up again! So the ginseng is with Glory M!”

Felix was both amused and exasperated; even the robot was so excited it crashed. “Boss, what do you want to do with this ginseng?” Felix asked Elizabeth.

Elizabeth looked at Felix, a smile playing on her lips. Felix squinted slightly, trying to figure out what Elizabeth meant. Was she going to sell it? he wondered.

“We’re rich!” Felix immediately started spinning in circles. A billion bucks! That’s enough to create all sorts of cool stuff!

“I’m not selling it,” Elizabeth said. Felix was floored. ‘Not selling it? She tossed the ginseng in the trash, so why keep it?’

“I’ve got plans for it,” Elizabeth said, glancing at the big screen. “Make sure to block any info about this ginseng on the black market.”

In the black market, blocking info meant someone had already claimed it. If he did this, people would lose their minds!

Felix took a deep breath and went to handle the black market info. In less than ten minutes, Lisbon was buzzing.

“Someone snagged the ginseng!”

“The ginseng, which hit a billion dollars, had its info blocked on the black market three minutes ago! Who got it?”

At the hospital, Esme saw the news and shot up. ‘Someone else got the ginseng?! How could this be?’ she thought.

“Alexander,” Esme put down her phone and looked at him, worried. Alexander was resting with his eyes closed. Hearing Esme, he opened his eyes. Esme’s eyes were red, and tears started to fall. “It’s over...”

Alexander frowned. “What happened?”

## Chapter 41

“The ginseng was bought by someone else!” She handed her phone to Alexander, showing him the news.

“The price on this thing is nuts; it’s no surprise someone bought it. You can get Lily something else,” Alexander said calmly.

Esme bit her lip. “No way! I need that ginseng!”

“Esme, Lily never said she specifically wanted ginseng,” Alexander reminded her.

“But it’s the best gift right now. If I give it to her, she won’t hate me anymore. Then you won’t be stuck dealing with us, right?” Esme’s eyes were sad as she looked down.

Alexander’s gaze softened. Everything Esme did was for him. He sighed, his impatience fading. He gently took her hand. “I’ll figure something out.”

Esme looked up, hope flickering in her eyes. ‘Is Alexander really going to help me get the ginseng?’ she wondered.

“I’ll do my best,” Alexander promised.

Unrepairable Love Chapter 42

Esme nodded eagerly. “Okay!”

“You should head home and rest. Nolan’s coming over later,” Alexander reminded her.

Esme shook her head. “No, I want to stay with you!”

“I don’t need you here. Go home, okay?” Alexander said gently.

Esme thought for a moment, then nodded. She needed to find Henry and figure out a way to get that ginseng. Lily’s birthday was just days away!

After Esme left, the room went quiet. Alexander slowly sat up, leaning against the headboard, staring at the spot where Esme had been.

Nolan peeked in and whispered, “Mr. Tudor, can I come in?”

Alexander looked up, and Nolan grinned.

“You did well tonight,” Alexander said out of nowhere.

Nolan smirked. “Well, I had the best teacher, Mr. Tudor!”

Alexander shot him a look, knowing Nolan was hinting that all his tricks came from him.

Nolan cleared his throat and handed his phone to Alexander. “Mr. Tudor, Mrs. Tudor texted me after she left. She kept reminding me to tell you to take care of yourself.”

Alexander read Esme’s message, his eyes darkening. He remembered their last conversation.

“Do you like him?”

“Yeah, I’ve fallen for Joseph.”

“If nothing changes, after our divorce, I’ll be with him.”

“We were a mistake from the start. Let’s end it here.”

Her words kept replaying in his mind, each one cutting deeper than the last. Alexander turned off his phone and got out of bed.

“Mr. Tudor, you need to rest!” Holan said, worried.

“I’m not dying!” Alexander snapped, getting up. He was still weak, but he didn’t care.

He walked out, and Fiolan had no choice but to follow. The nurse saw Alexander leaving and said, “Mr. Tudor, you need to rest. Your body hasn’t recovered.”

## Chapter 42

“I’m going home,” Alexander said, getting into the car.

Nolan paused, then asked, “Where to?”

“Where do you think?” Alexander snapped, his anger flaring.

Nolan clammed up and drove back to the villa. At the door, Alexander punched in the code, feeling a surge of irritation as it clicked open.

“Change the password back!” he barked at Nolan.

Nolan nodded quickly. “Yes, Mr. Tudor!”

Alexander stepped into the living room. It was cold, empty, lifeless. His phone buzzed. He glanced at the caller ID and frowned. He wanted to ignore it but couldn’t.

With a sigh, he answered, “Grandma Lily, why are you up so late?”

Lily’s voice came through, sharp and scolding. “Alexander, what’s going on with you and Elizabeth?! And what’s this about Elizabeth and Joseph?! If you dare divorce her and break her heart, you’ll have me to deal with!”

Alexander closed his eyes, gripping the phone tighter. “Grandma Lily.”

“I don’t care what that Russell woman has done for you! Elizabeth is your wife, and that’s final. Got it?” Lily’s voice was furious. If she were here, she’d probably be whacking him with something.

“For my birthday party, I don’t care what’s going on between you and Elizabeth. You both better show up together! If you come alone or with Esme, you’re toast!”

Alexander sighed, rubbing his temples. “Grandma Lily.”

Silence on the other end. Alexander swallowed and said quietly, “Elizabeth won’t come.”

## Chapter 43

“No way. Elizabeth must come!” Lily shot back.

Alexander stared at the empty wall behind the sofa. He remembered Elizabeth’s words: “Alexander, don’t come looking for me anymore.” With a heavy heart, he said, “Grandma, Elizabeth and I are having problems. We’re getting a divorce.”

Lily was shocked for a moment, then she snapped, “You ungrateful child, you—”

Suddenly, silence fell on the other end, leaving Alexander stunned. Frowning, he called out, “Grandma?” Still no response. Panic set in.

He quickly stood up and called Elara, “Mom, check on Grandma; something might be wrong!”

The next day, at the hospital. In a private room, Lily looked pale. The doctor, after examining her, warned, “Her condition is serious. Don’t upset her anymore!”

Elara, in a simple dress, looked worried. Hearing this, she glared at Alexander.

“Take good care of her. We’ll keep her here for two days, and if she stabilizes, she can go home,” the doctor said.

Elara nodded and thanked him, “Mr. White, thank you so much! Sorry to call you in the middle of the night!”

“Mrs. Tudor, it’s our job,” Peter White smiled.

After Peter left, Elara turned to Alexander. “Alexander, this is all your fault!” she said, throwing her bag at him.

Alexander took a couple of steps back, trying to block it with his arm. Elara snapped, “How dare you block? Put your hand down!”

Alexander felt helpless. He was 26, but Elara still treated him like a kid. He thought it was ridiculous.

“Alright, Mom,” Alexander frowned, taking the bag from Elara’s hand. “I know I was wrong.”

“You’re quick to admit mistakes, but you keep making them!” Elara, red-eyed, sat down and complained, “What did I do to deserve such an irresponsible son? Elizabeth is so good, and you still want to divorce her! How can you face Elizabeth and the Percy family?!”

Elara couldn’t help but wipe her tears. “Elizabeth broke ties with the Percy family for you! She went from being carefree to begging for your love. What did she do to deserve such treatment from you, such a heartless man?!”

Elara felt for Elizabeth, her anger growing with every thought.

## Chapter 43

Alexander hung his head. Elizabeth hadn’t done anything wrong; it was all on him. He owed Esme. He had to marry Esme.

“Mom, I appreciate everything Elizabeth has done, but this isn’t love,” Alexander said calmly.

Unbeknownst to him, someone had stopped at the door. Elara glared at Alexander. “Then tell me, what does it feel like to love someone?”

Alexander frowned, Elizabeth’s words from last night echoing in his mind: “These three years, we’ve been like a rubber band. You kept stretching towards Esme, and I tried to pull you back, but it only hurt me. When I finally let go, I felt so much lighter.”

Elizabeth must be exhausted too. If he couldn’t be there for her, he should let her go now!

With that thought, Alexander looked up and said firmly, “Mom, stop pushing. I don’t love Elizabeth, and I can’t keep this marriage going. It’s torture for both of us!”

Elara’s eyes were red, her heart heavy. She understood, but...

“Alexander, how can you face Elizabeth?” Elara asked.

Alexander lowered his head, feeling a deep, indescribable fatigue. “Mom, I’ll make it up to her. Whatever she wants, I’ll give it to her.”

Just then, the door to the ward swung open. Alexander looked over.

Unrepairable Love Chapter 44

Elizabeth, in a flowing white dress with her hair cascading down her back, walked in carrying fruits and flowers. Their eyes met, and Alexander’s heart skipped a beat. Elizabeth looked at him, her eyes a swirl of emotions. “I heard Lily was hospitalized, so I came to see her,” Elizabeth said calmly.

At the sound of her voice, Elara jumped up. Seeing it was Elizabeth, she rushed over, greeting her like she was her own daughter: “Elizabeth!”

“Elara, is Lily okay?” Elizabeth asked, setting her things down by the table.

Elara shook her head. “It’s her old ailment flaring up! The doctor wants her in the hospital for a few days to keep an eye on her.”

“Got it.” Elizabeth walked over to the bed. Lily looked pale and was fast asleep.

“How did she get sick all of a sudden?” Elizabeth asked.

Elara glanced at Alexander, snorted, and said, “Ask him!”

Elizabeth looked up, meeting Alexander’s eyes. She hesitated, then asked, “Are you alright?”

Her voice was so gentle, it made Alexander feel guilty. Had she overheard his conversation with Elara?

“What happened to him?” Elara asked Elizabeth.

Elizabeth replied, “He had a social event last night, drank too much, and messed up his stomach.”

Elara was speechless for a moment, then sighed.

Alexander didn’t want to drag it out. “I told Grandma about our divorce.”

Elizabeth froze. She glared at Alexander, furious. How could he? Lily’s health couldn’t take that kind of shock!

Elizabeth rubbed her temples, almost gritting her teeth. “Mr. Tudor, are you out of your mind?”

Alex, cool as a cucumber, just said, “Yep.”

Liz was stunned. How could he be so smug?

Alex shot her a look, a hint of bitterness in his voice. “Everyone’s talking about your engagement to Joe. Even if I kept quiet, my grandma would hear. Wouldn’t she?”

“Those are just tabloid lies. She wouldn’t buy it!” Liz snapped back. But by doing this, Alex had basically confirmed the rumors. No wonder Lily was freaking out.

Elara watched them, feeling all sorts of things.

Liz wanted to say more but noticed Elara was still there. She grabbed Alex’s arm and dragged him outside.

Alex glanced at her pale wrist and fingers. Her grip was light, just enough to hold him. With her back to him, he noticed the butterfly tattoo. Seeing it up close for the first time, he noted the skin underneath was rough.

He couldn’t help but reach out, almost touching the tattoo when Liz suddenly shoved him against the wall.

Alex gulped. The tattoo was right where Esme had been hurt. He looked down at her.

Liz, looking pissed, asked, “Why’d you go and tell Lily about our divorce?”



Alexander felt like he was the one who wanted the divorce the least. Elizabeth? She was all in for it.

## Unrepairable Love

### Chapter 45

In the hallway, Alexander clammed up. Elizabeth noticed and dropped her gaze. He couldn't see her face, but he heard her whisper, "Are you scared I'll use Lily to dodge the divorce?"

Alexander's eyes narrowed. Just as he was about to speak, Lily's voice came from the hospital room. "Elizabeth."

Elizabeth peeked inside. "She's awake." She brushed past Alexander and went in.

Elara was helping Lily sit up. Lily leaned against the headboard, looking at Elizabeth with a heavy heart. Alexander followed Elizabeth in. Seeing them together made Lily even more uneasy. Was this really the end? Were they really going to split?

Elizabeth sat by the bed, gently fixing Lily's hair, her eyes soft. "Lily, feeling better?"

Lily grabbed her hand, looking pitiful. "Elizabeth, did you forget my birthday?"

Elizabeth smiled right away. "No way. How could I forget?"

Lily stared at her. "Then why won't you come to my party?"

"I..." Elizabeth hesitated.

"Are you leaving me because Alexander's divorcing you?" Lily's voice was full of hurt.

Elizabeth's heart ached. Lily had always been so good to her, almost like a best friend. Ditching someone who truly cared for her just because of Alexander felt wrong. But in the end, they were Alexander's family. When Esme married him, they'd be Esme's family, not hers.

“Elizabeth, I’ve never asked you for anything. Please come to my birthday party. I’ll only feel at ease if you’re there!” Lily’s voice softened.

Elizabeth felt torn. She glanced at Alexander. He’d probably show up with Esme on Lily’s birthday. Wouldn’t that make her look like a fool?

Alexander suddenly walked over and tucked Lily in. “Grandma, you should rest. Elizabeth will come.”

Elizabeth was taken aback. She looked up at Alexander, who placed a reassuring hand on her shoulder. She felt torn. Alexander had put her in a tough spot. If she refused, she’d hurt Lily’s feelings.

“Alright, Lily, I promise I’ll come,” Elizabeth said softly, with a gentle smile.

Lily beamed and nodded. Seeing her smile, Alexander sighed in relief, a slight smile tugging at his lips. He exchanged a glance with Elizabeth, who smiled helplessly. Well, they’d make Lily happy first.

“Lily, take care. I’m heading out,” Elizabeth said, getting up.

“Okay. See you at the birthday party!”

Lily didn’t push her to stay. Elizabeth always kept her promises. If she said she’d come, she’d be there.

Alexander grabbed his suit jacket. “I’ll walk you out.”

“No need,” Elizabeth said, not wanting his company. But Alexander ignored her, took her hand, and led her out, leaving Elizabeth feeling helpless.

Watching them leave, Lily had a hunch they wouldn’t part ways so easily.

## Chapter 45

Outside the hospital room, Elizabeth shook off Alexander’s hand. He paused, watching her walk away, then quickly caught up. “Where are you going?”

“You don’t need to see me out,” Elizabeth replied. When they were together, he rarely did. Now that they were divorcing, he suddenly wanted to play the gentleman.

Alexander frowned. Elizabeth’s tone was icy, like she was talking to a stranger.

They stood by the elevator side by side. The sound of an ambulance echoed outside.

## Unrepairable Love

### Chapter 46

Their reflections mingled in the elevator doors. Elizabeth looked at him, remembering what he had said to Elara. Elizabeth's efforts have moved me, but being moved isn't love!

"Mom, seriously, stop pushing. I don't love Elizabeth, and I can't keep this marriage going!"

He'd told her and everyone else a million times that he didn't love her. But she still married him without a second thought. Elizabeth dropped her head, exhausted.

Out of nowhere, Alexander said, "Elizabeth, I owe you an apology for these three years."

Elizabeth turned to face him, their eyes locking. She forced a smile and said, "No need to apologize; I brought this on myself."

She used to blame Alexander for not loving her and resented Esme for getting in the way. But after all the pain, she finally got it—it was her choice, and she couldn't blame anyone else.

"I'll make it up to you," he said.

A flicker of sarcasm crossed Elizabeth's eyes. She didn't care for Alexander's attempts to make amends.

The elevator doors opened, and Elizabeth stepped in. Alexander tried to follow, but she blocked him. She looked up, gave a faint smile, and said softly, "No need, Mr. Tudor, this is where it ends."

Alexander took a step back, his expression calm. Elizabeth gave a satisfied smile and pulled her hand away. The elevator doors closed slowly, and Alexander watched until she was out of sight.

Elizabeth bit her lip and took a deep breath. She decided there would be no more contact between her and Alexander.

As Elizabeth walked out of the hospital, she ran into Esme, who was strutting up in a pink dress, looking like a princess. Esme gave Elizabeth a once-over and asked, “Here to see Lily?”

“Do I need your permission?” Elizabeth shot back, her tone dripping with sarcasm.

Esme scoffed. “What makes you so cocky? Once I give Lily the ginseng, she won’t think much of you anymore!”

“Oh, so the Russell family bought that ginseng the black market was buzzing about yesterday?” Elizabeth’s interest piqued.

“Obviously! The Russells always get what they want!” Esme lifted her chin, stepping closer to Elizabeth. “Ever heard of Hidden Camp?”

Elizabeth’s eyes narrowed. Hidden Camp? She knew it all too well.

“Hidden Camp? Never heard of it. I only keep tabs on Alexander,” Elizabeth said, blinking innocently.

Esme’s eyes filled with disdain. She didn’t doubt Elizabeth; she was always obsessed with Alexander.

“You’re so clueless, Elizabeth. You don’t even know about Hidden Camp? Glory M, the famous one, is my friend! He got me that ginseng!” Esme boasted, full of herself.

Elizabeth widened her eyes, hiding her sarcasm, and pretended to be impressed, “Wow, really? That’s amazing!”

How could she not know she had such a friend? But Esme didn’t seem to be lying. In a way, they were friends.

## Chapter 46

“Axe mind the sarcasm in Ellabeth’s von Elizabeth, you’re coming to Lily’s birthday party, right?”

“YON AT A upeveh, I might show you what the ginseng looks like.”

Esme listened but didn't say anything. Esme thought she was forcing a smile. She fixed her hair and clothes, bragging, "Families like ours probably never see something as rare and precious as this ginseng."

Esme narrowed her eyes. The Percy family might not be one of the top four, but they were still famous nationwide!

"Well, thanks," Esme tilted her head, her tone light. "At Lily's birthday, you have to show me that rare ginseng!"

Elizabeth's tone had a hint of flattery, which made Esme feel very pleased with herself.

"Don't worry, we used to be best friends, remember? I'll definitely let you see it!" Esme grinned arrogantly.

A cold glint flashed in Elizabeth's eyes. It looked like she had to go to this birthday party!

nrepairable Love

## Chapter 47

After Elizabeth left, Esme immediately pulled out her phone. She dialed a man's number and demanded, "Have you found the ginseng?" "Who has it?"

The voice on the other end sounded desperate. "Ms. Russell, I've tried everything. I can't find the ginseng!" He also wanted to know who had taken it. Whoever it was must be super resourceful!

"You idiot!" Esme stomped her foot, fuming. "You better figure out a way to find that ginseng!" Lily's birthday was coming up, and Esme had promised her the ginseng. If she didn't get it, she'd be a laughingstock. Alexander would definitely think less of her and the Russell family.

"Ms. Russell, I have an idea. What if we place an order with Glory M on the black market?"

Esme bit her lip. Glory M was probably her last shot. She'd followed him before; he was a real mystery! She'd even been a bit obsessed with him, wanting to know who he was, until Alexander came along.

“Do whatever it takes. Get the ginseng before Lily’s birthday! If you don’t, you’ll be out of my sight forever!” With that, Esme slammed the phone down.

She thought, *They’re all useless! Can’t even handle a simple task, and yet we’re paying them a fortune!*

Esme grabbed a bouquet and headed to visit Lily. When she opened the hospital room door, Elara’s face instantly darkened.

“Elara, I’m here to see Lily,” Esme said with a slight smile, sneaking a glance at Alexander, who was on the phone by the window.

Lily’s face darkened when she saw Esme. Elara grabbed her things and left; she always avoided talking to Esme.

Esme watched Elara leave, feeling annoyed. She was the eldest daughter of the Russell family, after all. How could Elara keep ignoring her? The Tudor family’s favoritism towards Elizabeth was so obvious! If it weren’t for Alexander, she wouldn’t waste her time with these clueless Tudors!

Elizabeth was curled up on the sofa, watching the trailer for Lila Parker’s new show, when she got a text from Felix. It was a screenshot of a chat. In the image, someone with a black avatar named “L” had sent a message: [Find the ginseng for me, name your price.]

Elizabeth raised an eyebrow, thinking this person was so arrogant. Elizabeth replied: [Reject this person. I won’t let anyone have the ginseng.]

Felix responded: [Okay.] Felix then rejected the request. The person immediately sent a new message: [Why did you reject me? Can’t Glory M find the ginseng either?]

Felix rolled his eyes. Was this person challenging Glory M, questioning her abilities? Glory M not only had the ginseng but didn’t even...

The person kept going: “If you take this job and find the ginseng, my boss will treat you well.” “Do you know who my boss is? She’s Esme Russell, the eldest daughter of one of the big four families in Lisbun—the Russells!”

Felix paused. Esme? I messaged again: “Make Ms. Russell happy, and she’ll make sure you’re set for life!”

Felix snapped a pic of the convo and sent it to Elizabeth.

Elizabeth, munching on chips, chuckled. Esme always acted all high and mighty, claiming she had the ginseng and was tight with Glory M.

## Chapter 48

It turned out she was just throwing money around to get people to do her dirty work. Elizabeth was going to say no, but when she found out it was Esme, she got interested. She'd hated Esme for ages and never got a chance to mess with her. Now, she wanted to have some fun.

With that in mind, Elizabeth logged into the base's account and started chatting herself.

Glory M: "One billion dollars."

L: "Just a billion? If you get the ginseng, who cares?"

Glory M: "Let's talk in person."

L: "Okay!"

Glory M: "Have your boss talk to me directly."

L: "Why?"

Glory M: "8 PM, The Midnight Owl Pub. Don't be late."

Elizabeth logged off. The guy on the other side was totally baffled. Felix stared at the chat on his screen, a smirk creeping up. When Elizabeth was head over heels for Alexander, she kept her cool for him. Now, she was finally showing her true colors. Elizabeth was never one to mess with. Felix gulped. Esme was in for it.

That night, a light rain started falling in Lisbon. Elizabeth stepped out of a sleek, dark purple car. Just as she was about to enter the pub, she ran into Esme. Esme, holding an umbrella and not paying attention, bumped into Elizabeth. She looked up and immediately snapped, "Are you blind?" She moved the umbrella aside, and when she saw Elizabeth, her anger flared. "Elizabeth, what are you doing here?"

Elizabeth squinted, her shoulders getting soaked without an umbrella. Dressed casually in a black T-shirt and jeans, she shot back, "Why are you here?" She glanced at the sign above, The Midnight Owl Pub, and said coolly,

“Isn’t Ms. Russell supposed to keep a pure image? What are you doing in a place like this?”

Esme rarely hit up pubs, wanting to stay chaste for Alexander and maintain her pure image. She snorted, crossing her arms with a huff, “I’m here to meet a friend!”

“Really?” Elizabeth tilted her head, pushing the conversation. “Who’s this friend of yours?”

“If you knew who my friend really was, you’d freak out!” Esme shot Elizabeth a proud look.

Elizabeth just raised an eyebrow, ready to hear more. Esme glanced around, making sure no one was listening, then leaned close. “I’m meeting the famous Glory M from Hidden Camp!”

Elizabeth squinted. Esme flicked her hair, all smug. “You know who Glory M is, right?”

## Chapter 48

Elizabeth raised an eyebrow. Esme, always acting like a spoiled princess, was clueless.

“Yeah, sure,” Elizabeth played along.

Esme smirked, even more full of herself. “Of course you do! It’s Glory M! You’ll never meet someone like that!”

Elizabeth chuckled to herself, silently thanking Esme for the compliment. Esme gave her a friendly pat on the shoulder. “Don’t get too jealous, Elizabeth. We’re best friends. I’ll introduce you to Glory M someday!”

“I gotta run; he’s waiting for me!” Esme coughed, signaled her bodyguard, and walked off. Elizabeth watched her leave, her smile widening.

Esme pushed open the bar door and headed to their usual spot, but it was empty. The bodyguard whispered, “Ms. Russell, is Glory M really gonna show?”

“Of course he is!” she snapped back. This was Glory M, the guy who could help her find ginseng. No one was more reliable.



Esme plopped down on the sofa and grabbed her phone, eagerly texting Alexander.

Esme: [Hey Alexander, no need to look for ginseng anymore. I found it!]

She sent the message and turned off her phone, buzzing with anticipation. It was 8 PM, and Esme got up, ready to welcome Glory M any minute now. Glory M rarely showed up in public; meeting him was a big deal.

Esme smiled and paced around. Time ticked by. It was almost 8:30 PM, and still no sign of Glory M. “Ms. Russell, hasn’t Glory M arrived yet?” the bodyguard asked, stepping in from outside.

Esme bit her lip, feeling uneasy. But for the ginseng, she muttered, “Maybe he’s just busy. Let’s wait a bit longer.” The bodyguard nodded and went back outside to keep watch.

Esme thought for a moment, grabbed her phone, and clicked on a link sent by one of her team members. It opened a chat with Glory M.

Esme typed: [Glory M, are you on your way?] [I’m waiting at The Midnight Owl Pub.] [If you’re busy, no rush. I can wait!]

After hitting send, Esme felt a bit anxious. She really hoped to get the ginseng tonight!

In the next room, Elizabeth lounged on the sofa, legs crossed, a smirk on her lips as she read Esme’s message. Elizabeth texted back: [Stuck in traffic, be there in 20.]

Esme quickly replied: [No rush! I’ll wait for you!]

Elizabeth didn’t bother replying. She just opened a game on her phone and started playing. Esme paced around the private room. Twenty minutes flew by, but still no sign of Glory M. Esme felt too awkward to ask again, so she kept waiting. Minutes ticked by, and by 9:30 PM, Esme’s bodyguard started to worry. “Ms. Russell, the person you...

## Chapter 49

Esme frowned at her phone. What was up with Glory M’s time management? It was an hour and a half past their agreed time. Was he coming or not? Why hadn’t he sent a message?

Elizard, the bodyguard, opened the chat again, sending a message to Esme.

Glory M: [Almost there.]

Esme's rising anger cooled when she saw the message. "He's on his way," she murmured.

"Ms. Russell, could he be a scam?" The bodyguard looked concerned.

"Don't talk nonsense! That's disrespectful to Glory M. Get out!" Esme snapped. Glory M was definitely not a scam!

Esme kept waiting. By 11 PM... Esme couldn't help herself and asked again when he'd get there, but got nothing back.

A waiter came over with two plates of fruit and said, "Ms. Russell, these are from Glory M. He says he's really sorry. His car broke down, and he's waiting for it to get fixed!"

Esme was already losing her patience, but since Glory M sent some fruit, she decided to wait a bit longer. Until 12:30 AM. Esme was sprawled on the sofa, almost asleep.

Her bodyguard pushed open the door, about to speak, when Esme angrily cursed, clutching her phone. "That damn liar!"

"Ms. Russell, you okay?!"

"What do you think?" Esme threw her phone onto the sofa in a rage. She had just asked Glory M why he hadn't shown up yet.

Chapter Comments ∞1

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## Chapter 50

He messaged back: [After my car got fixed, the rain was too heavy, so I turned back. Not coming tonight!] Esme was fuming! She had waited all night, from eight in the evening until half-past twelve, and he just bailed like it was nothing. Was he playing with her?! She was Esme! The eldest daughter of the Russell family! She was the one who stood others up, not the other way

around! Esme was livid. She grabbed her phone, ready to tear into him. Then, another message popped up.

Glory M: [Really sorry, let's reschedule for tomorrow during the day!] Esme squinted. He wanted to set up another meeting?

L (Esme): [You better not flake on me like today. I'm seriously pissed!]

Glory M: [No way. I'm really sorry about today! Tomorrow, I'll bring that rare ginseng to our meeting! But if you're too mad to see me, then forget it. I won't waste your time!]

Esme frowned. He'd bring the rare ginseng straight to her? Seeing this message, she couldn't care less about today. She was dying to get that rare ginseng!

L (Esme): [Alright! Tomorrow at noon, same place!]

She'd give him one more chance. If he bailed again, she'd send someone to find him in Lisbon, chop him up, and feed him to the sharks! If he dared to mess with her, he was dead!

Esme got up and walked out. As she stepped out of the private room, Elizabeth also came out. Elizabeth had a lollipop in her mouth, asking, "Ms. Russell, what a coincidence. You're done?" She glanced toward Esme's side. Esme immediately moved to block her view. Elizabeth squinted, noticing Esme's face was ashen, clearly indicating she was angry. But in front of Elizabeth, she couldn't show her anger. She smoothed her hair and raised her eyebrows, replying, "Yeah, I'm done!"

"Did you meet Glory M?" Elizabeth asked, grinning like she was dying to see the big shot herself. Esme shoved Elizabeth away, blocking her from the private room. If Elizabeth found out she hadn't met Glory M and had waited alone for almost five hours, she'd never hear the end of it! No way was she giving her that satisfaction.

"Of course, I met him! Don't bother looking, Glory M's already gone," Esme said, puffing up.

Elizabeth pouted, looking bummed. "What a shame."

"Glory M isn't someone just anyone can meet!" Esme strutted out. Elizabeth tagged along, eyes full of curiosity. "Ms. Russell, is Glory M really a guy?"

Esme froze. How would she know if Glory M was a guy or a girl? She'd heard he was a guy!

"Yeah," she blurted out.

Elizabeth stifled a laugh. "Really? I heard Glory M was a woman. Rumors, huh?"

Esme shot her a look. Wasn't Elizabeth usually the quiet type? What was up with her today? Her chatter was driving Esme nuts!

"I'm outta here!" Esme stormed off.

Elizabeth couldn't help but giggle. "Ms. Russell, why do I get the feeling you're upset? Didn't meet Glory M and just faking it, huh?"

Esme spun around and snapped, "Elizabeth, you're just jealous! Better think of a decent gift for Lily so you don't look cheap!" With that, she stormed off without a backward glance. Elizabeth stood there, chuckling. She glanced at her phone, a smirk playing on her lips. Tomorrow at noon, she'd definitely pay Esme a visit.