

Zillionaire 1171

Chapter 1171:

With calm honesty, Ivy explained, "Some time ago, Kase came to me, hoping that Haven would marry Collin. Since he was Carly's husband, I felt I should at least let Haven and Collin get to know each other."

She then continued, "Five years back, there really was an engagement set between us and the Walton family. But when Haven learned about Collin's so-called disability, she believed all the gossip and rumors, and she ended up running away before the wedding. That day, I already knew Haven wasn't meant for Collin. After that, I only went along with Kase's wishes out of respect for Carly. I never truly wanted them to get married."

When she heard this, Linsey's eyes filled with emotion, and a lump rose in her throat.

There was no real need for Ivy to explain so much. Even so, she had chosen to clear the air, hoping to put her mind at ease.

With a gentle smile, Ivy brushed Linsey's cheek. "No one will ever take your place, Linsey. In my heart, you are the very best."

Tears shone in Linsey's eyes as she looked at Ivy, feeling the warmth of her affection.

Words full of gratitude slipped out. "Thank you, Ivy."

Keeping her promise, Ivy didn't linger much longer and soon left the room. Linsey waited by the hospital door, watching Ivy's figure disappear down the hall before turning to look back at Collin.

Collin noticed the reproach in her gaze and immediately felt his heartbeat skip, a sense of nervousness growing stronger. "Sweetheart, did something happen?"

Linsey suppressed her feelings and quietly shut the door. Instead of joining Collin on the bed, she retreated to the couch, folding her arms with a subtle air of detachment.

“Collin, do you recall what we promised each other when we remarried?”

Linsey asked, her voice deliberate, a faint glimmer of tears welling in her eyes. She hadn’t anticipated that even now, Collin would still withhold things from her.

At her words, Collin responded promptly, “Of course I remember. I vowed never to lie to you again.”

After a brief pause, he cautiously asked, “Linsey, are you upset because I went through with the surgery without telling you?”

Collin reflected on recent events, realizing the only thing he had kept from her was the vasectomy he had had that day.

Linsey’s eyes widened slightly, a mix of surprise and embarrassment flashing across her face. “Who said I was upset about that?”

Observing her reaction, Collin thought for a moment before explaining sincerely, “Linsey, last night after you fell asleep, I booked a check-up and scheduled the surgery. I didn’t mention it because I didn’t want you to worry. I wasn’t trying to sneak out this morning.”

Hearing that, Linsey gave a soft huff, looking away with an air of mock indifference. “Do whatever you want. I don’t care anymore. If you slip out without a word in the future, I won’t complain.”

Her words only confirmed to Collin that leaving silently that morning had been a misstep.

“Linsey, I messed up. From now on, I’ll always let you know before I go anywhere. Even if you’re asleep, I’ll send a text so you don’t worry,” he said earnestly.

Chapter 1172:

Linsey pursed her lips, staying quiet.

Truthfully, she had felt a pang of disappointment that morning. Collin had always been open about his daily plans, and she was used to knowing his whereabouts. But today, when she had needed his support, he hadn't been there.

"You left without saying anything, then flooded me with texts and calls saying you were worried about me. But you didn't tell me anything today. Don't you think I worry..."

"About you too?" Linsey said, taking a deep breath, her tone serious. She wasn't trying to start an argument—just clear the air to prevent any misunderstandings. Still, her words carried a slight edge of frustration. Even Linsey couldn't entirely escape the pull of emotional tension.

Seeing the hint of hurt in her expression, Collin couldn't stay put and started to rise from the bed. "Baby, I..." He suddenly grimaced, sucking in a sharp breath. Alarmed, Linsey snapped out of her frustration and hurried to his side, her face etched with worry. "What's wrong? Did you hurt the incision? I'm getting a doctor!"

She turned quickly, ready to fetch medical help.

In her rush to argue, she had nearly forgotten he had just had a vasectomy—a procedure painful even to imagine.

Collin quickly composed himself and gently pulled her back.

Caught off guard, Linsey tumbled into his arms.

"Collin!" Her face paled as she tried to ease off him, terrified of aggravating his wound but hesitant to move too forcefully. Her torn expression made Collin chuckle softly.

"I'm okay. It was just a minor surgery, not a big deal. No need to worry," he said in a warm, soothing tone, his hand gently resting on her head, offering comfort.

But Linsey wasn't convinced. Realizing what had happened, she shot him a look, her voice tinged with irritation. "Collin! You lied to me again!"

"Again?" Collin latched onto the word at once. One hand softly gripped Linsey's arm, the other cradling her hands, his face growing solemn. "Linsey, when was the last time I lied to you?"

He hadn't mentioned leaving that morning, and going through with the vasectomy alone was, at worst, an omission—not a lie. Since the incident four years ago, Collin had vowed never to deceive Linsey again, so her accusation left him genuinely puzzled.

Linsey's eyes brimmed with tears in an instant. Her expression now was worlds apart from the warmth she had shown earlier when Ivy's words had touched her.

Collin caught the shift immediately, his heart sinking. He tightened his hold on her hands, brows knitting together, his eyes filled with unmistakable worry. "Linsey, what's wrong? Please, talk to me. Why are you so upset? I don't understand what I've done, but if I've made you sad, I'm sorry. I would never want to hurt you. Please don't cry," he said, his voice soft and pleading.

His gentle tone broke Linsey's resolve, and tears slipped silently down her cheeks, falling onto Collin.

She knew relationships sometimes involved personal boundaries or secrets, and she could accept that in theory. But the pain from four years ago still haunted her, and Collin knew it—yet he had hidden something from her again. Worse, it was something he had shared with Ivy but kept from her.

When he saw her tears, Collin's panic deepened. He lifted his hand, gently wiping her tears with his warm fingertips, his voice low and laced with emotion. "Linsey, please don't cry..."

Chapter 1173:

His tone carried regret and anguish, his deep gaze overflowing with love for her.

But to Linsey, his reaction only made it harder to fathom what he could be concealing. She couldn't bear the thought of another betrayal.

If Collin had truly broken her trust again, she would take Zenia and Zander and leave without a second thought.

Yet the idea of leaving tore at her. Her nose reddened as she declared, "I'm not running away from Grester this time. I'm the CEO of Lawson Group now, and I'm staying put. I'll make Lawson Group stronger than ever, bigger than CR Corporation, and then I'll make sure you're out of Grester for good!"

Collin's eyes never left her, his lips parting as he spoke softly. "Sweetheart, why would you want me gone? Can't I just stay with you?"

Linsey shot him a pout, her tearful eyes flashing with frustration.

Gathering her courage, she pressed, "I overheard you outside the door earlier. What were you telling Ivy that I wasn't allowed to know? Why keep it from me? Why is it always something I'm not supposed to hear?"

Her voice grew sharper with each word, anger flaring as she wished she could lash out at him. She hated how effortlessly he could stir her emotions—igniting her fury, sadness, and despair.

Collin's face shifted at her words, a flicker of realization crossing his features.

Linsey caught it, and her patience snapped.

She pushed against him, struggling to break free.

"Let me go, Collin! You're awful! I'm done with you!" Her voice cracked with a sob. She was certain now that he was hiding something from her.

Collin tugged her back with gentle insistence, his voice earnest. "Linsey, please, I didn't lie to you."

Linsey's emotions churned, and she was done listening to his explanations.

"Collin, if you don't want me to get truly furious, let me go this instant."

"No, I'm not letting you go—ever," Collin said with conviction. "I lost you once before, and it was unbearable. I can't go through that again."

Linsey locked eyes with him, her voice raw. "Then why did you hide things from me again? Collin, we made a vow—no more secrets. But barely two weeks after re-registering our marriage, you've broken that promise."

Seeing the flicker of despair in her eyes, Collin couldn't bear to keep the secret any longer. He took a deep breath, shut his eyes briefly, and offered a weary smile.

"Linsey, could you close your eyes for me, please?"

Caught off guard, Linsey suspected he was sidestepping the issue.

"What are you up to?" she mumbled warily.

Collin, sensing her lingering anger, softened his approach.

"You're upset because I shared something with Grandma but not with you, right? I'll tell you everything now. Just close your eyes first."

Linsey hesitated, but his sincerity softened her resolve, easing her frustration. She shut her eyes and asked, "Are you really gonna be honest with me?"

There was a soft rustle as if Collin was retrieving something.

“Of course. You’re my wife—I’ll share everything with you,” he said solemnly. After a pause, he added, “Okay, you can open your eyes now.”

Chapter 1174:

Curiosity piqued, Linsey opened her eyes.

At that moment, she felt something cool slide onto her left ring finger.

Her breath caught, the world around her fading to silence.

She looked down in disbelief at a stunning diamond ring now gracing her finger, its facets catching the light with a mesmerizing sparkle.

Linsey’s breath hitched, her eyes welling up as she met Collin’s warm, smiling gaze.

“Collin, is this...”

Before she could finish, Collin’s expression grew serious. “Linsey, my love, will you marry me? From this moment on, we’ll be together forever, and nothing will ever pull us apart.”

When he finished speaking, he offered a warm, captivating smile, his eyes locked on Linsey’s.

Yet she could feel the subtle stiffness in his posture, the slight quiver in his voice.

He was nervous.

Linsey realized this almost instantly. As the head of CR Corporation, Collin rarely showed signs of unease. But now, this spur-of-the-moment proposal had him visibly rattled.

The thought sent a surge of warmth through Linsey, her eyes welling with tears. She sniffled, gazing at him through a haze of emotion, and murmured, “Is this what you meant to tell me about?”

Collin reached out, his fingers gently grazing her cheek as he spoke in a tender whisper. “Yes. I spent a week orchestrating the perfect moment, only to have it unfold so quickly like this.”

With a wistful smile, he added, “I planned to keep it a surprise with Grandma and a few friends, setting up the ideal scene—lights, music, everything just right. I was waiting until I was back on my feet to take you somewhere special and propose properly.”

Linsey absorbed his words, a flush of embarrassment washing over her as she sensed the awkwardness of the moment.

Her cheeks reddened, and she ducked her head. “So, I went and spoiled your big surprise myself?”

Collin clasped her hand, brushing the new ring against his thumb before pressing a gentle kiss to the back of her hand.

Then, with a soft, hopeful smile, he asked, “So, will you marry me?”

As Collin’s words hung in the air, he watched Linsey intently, his heart racing in anticipation of her answer.

Meanwhile, Linsey’s tears broke free, streaming down her face as her voice trembled with emotion. “Of course I will! I already told you I wanted to marry you! We’ve even signed the papers. Why did you go through all this, making me think you...”

Her emotions swirled in a chaotic dance, swinging from heartbreak to elation in mere moments. She had never imagined feeling this way again, yet here she was, swept up in it. There was no betrayal—just a heartfelt surprise Collin had painstakingly crafted for her.

Her misunderstanding stemmed from overhearing his conversation with Ivy and jumping to the wrong conclusion.

Chapter 1175:

"I'm so sorry, Collin," Linsey said, her voice breaking as she clasped his hand, pressing it tenderly against her cheek. "I got it all wrong. I let my temper get the better of me, accusing you without knowing the truth and ruining the moment you planned."

Collin shook his head gently. "You didn't ruin anything. These gestures mean nothing compared to how you feel. How could I stand by and let you cry, knowing I would hurt you?"

He brushed away her tears with a tender touch, then chuckled softly. "I'd much rather see you cry from joy than pain."

Pausing, he added with conviction, "But honestly, I'd rather you never cry at all. Your happiness every single day is all I want."

Linsey's laughter mingled with her tears as she leaned in, kissing him fiercely. "Collin, I love you."

Collin's hand slid to the back of her head, returning her kiss with intensity, tasting the salt of her joyful tears.

Two months later, Linsey arrived at CR Corporation early in the morning.

"Good morning, Mrs. Riley."

"Mrs. Riley, long time no see!"

"Here to meet Mr. Riley, Mrs. Riley?"

Linsey met the warm greetings from the top-floor staff with a bright smile. "Yes, I've got some business to discuss with him," she replied smoothly.

As she neared Collin's office door, she raised her hand to knock but paused when she saw his secretary approaching with a steaming cup of coffee. Noticing the secretary about to speak, Linsey quickly pressed a finger to her lips, signaling for quiet.

The secretary nodded, stepping closer and whispering, "Mrs. Riley, can I get you anything to drink?"

Linsey smiled. "No, thank you. I'll take that coffee in for him."

Her eyes flicked to the cup, and she instantly recognized it as Collin's usual order.

"Alright," the secretary said with a nod.

With the coffee now in her hands, Linsey felt a flutter of nerves as the secretary walked away. She steadied herself with a deep breath and lightly rapped on the office door.

"Come in," came Collin's cool, detached voice from within.

Linsey blinked, caught off guard. Despite their years together, she rarely heard him use such an indifferent tone with her.

It struck her how distant and professional he sounded in his work environment. Carefully, she pushed the door open. As expected, Collin was buried in paperwork at his desk, not even glancing her way.

She stayed silent, shutting the door quietly and setting the coffee gently on his desk.

Linsey lingered nearby, watching him remain engrossed, completely unaware of her presence.

He looked so perfect. How had their paths crossed? How had they come this far together?

The thoughts sent her into a brief reverie.

Chapter 1176:

The more aloof Collin appeared, the more a spark of defiance flared within her. For reasons she couldn't quite pinpoint, a playful idea suddenly took shape in her mind.

Moving quietly behind Collin, Linsey raised her hands to softly shield his eyes, then leaned in until her lips were near his ear and whispered, "Mr. Riley, I am eager to learn and show you what I can do. Will you allow me the opportunity?"

Before she could pull away, Collin's hand caught her wrist, and she tumbled right into his arms, unprepared for his grip.

A blink later, Linsey realized Collin already had a firm hold on both her hands. A playful smirk appeared as Collin teased her, "Well, well, I seem to have caught an employee trying to get special treatment from the boss."

His voice was deep and relaxed, every word sending shivers down Linsey's spine as he spoke close to her ear.

Staring at him in disbelief, Linsey asked, "You knew it was me from the start?" Shock lingered for a moment, since Collin had grabbed her the instant her hands brushed over his eyes.

Without missing a beat, Collin leaned in and pressed a gentle kiss to her cheek. "I knew it was you as soon as you walked in."

Skeptical, Linsey frowned. "But you never looked up. How could you be so sure?"

Collin offered no answer. Instead, he turned and nuzzled into the side of her neck, breathing in softly.

That made Linsey laugh, and she squirmed. "What are you doing? That really tickles."

Collin said, "Your scent is unforgettable. I would never mistake it for anyone."

Linsey stood there, surprised for a moment. "But I was still across the room just now. Are you telling me you could smell my scent from that far away?"

Collin let out a warm laugh. "Maybe it's just instinct. Either way, I had no doubt it was you."

He paused, then pressed a quick, teasing kiss to her lips. "Besides, my secretary never shuts the door when she brings my coffee. Mrs. Riley, you're still not quite careful enough."

With a playful huff, Linsey wriggled free and gave his cheek a light pinch. "Mr. Riley, you really are a schemer."

Collin just grinned, clearly proud. "If I wasn't, how else could I have convinced you to marry me?"

Collin slipped an arm around her waist, offering steady support while making sure she stayed settled on his lap.

That was perfectly fine with Linsey, who relaxed and looped her arms around his neck. A bright smile lit up her face as she asked, "Did you expect me to show up today?"

Collin answered with complete sincerity, "I did not expect it at all, so it truly caught me off guard."

Excitement was written all over his face at her unexpected visit.

"With everything you have going on, how did you find the time to come see me?" Collin asked.

Two months had passed with Linsey immersed in the daily challenges at the Lawson Group. Shari's divorce had just wrapped up last month, which meant Linsey should have been swamped at work right now.

Chapter 1177:

A playful glimmer shone in Linsey's eyes. "Alicia gave birth this morning. She has a beautiful baby girl."

That made Collin raise his eyebrows. "Is that so? Then they deserve a big congratulations."

A second later, he narrowed his eyes in mock suspicion. "So, you are saying you stopped by just to share the news. It was not because you missed me?"

Linsey couldn't help but laugh. "You really are the jealous type, Collin." She cupped his face and pressed two kisses on his lips. "Of course I missed you. You're on my mind all the time."

Those words drew another satisfied smile from Collin. "Now, that's what I like to hear."

Collin leaned forward, capturing her lips in a sweet, lingering kiss that spoke of pure happiness.

When their lips finally parted, Linsey turned to glance around. "What are you working on? Do you want me to get up?"

Just then, her gaze landed on a stack of wedding brochures scattered across the desk. The sight left her briefly stunned. "Why are you looking at these?"

Collin gently guided Linsey to face the array of wedding brochures, pulling her close into his arms. He rested his chin on her shoulder as they both gazed at the brochures scattered across the table.

"I'm trying to find the perfect wedding coordinator, but none of these feel quite right," Collin said, his brow creased with frustration.

As the head of CR Corporation, he had navigated deals worth billions with ease, yet organizing his own wedding left him stumped.

Linsey caught the exhaustion in his expression, a mix of sympathy and amusement stirring within her.

She ventured softly, "Why don't we just go with one that's decent enough?"

"Absolutely not," Collin shot back, his tone resolute. "I want our wedding to be a day you'll never forget."

Two months earlier, his proposal in a hospital room had been spur-of-the-moment, but he was determined to make their wedding flawless.

Linsey's eyes drifted over the brochures, each one annotated with Collin's careful notes on their strengths and weaknesses. "The process is too complex. Linsey will get worn out."

"This style suits Linsey's taste. Keep it for consideration."

"Outdoor wedding needs weather contingency plans."

As she read his thoughtful comments, Linsey's eyes welled up with emotion. Noticing her shift, Collin gently cradled her face in his hands, his gaze softening as he saw her tears.

"Hey, why the tears?" he asked tenderly, concern lacing his voice.

Linsey sniffled, pouting slightly. "Collin, why do you always do things that tug at my heart like this?"

He let out a soft laugh. "This gets you emotional already? I haven't even started the real planning yet."

As he spoke, he grabbed a tissue and gently dabbed at her tears.

"Sweetheart, save those tears for the big day," he teased with a playful grin.

Linsey swatted him lightly and took the tissue, a smile breaking through.

Chapter 1178:

After a brief pause, she asked, “When are you thinking for the wedding?”

Collin’s face lit up with a warm smile. “Maybe two or three months from now. What do you think? It’s your call. More time to plan is ideal, but whenever it happens, I’ll make sure it’s perfect.”

Linsey bowed her head, wiping away fresh tears that wouldn’t stop. She took a shaky breath, looked up at Collin, and asked in a raspy voice, “Collin, can we hold off on the wedding for now?”

The warmth in Collin’s expression vanished instantly, his mind racing through a dozen possibilities in mere seconds. “Are you saying you don’t want a wedding? If it’s the crowd, we could do something intimate, just close family and friends in a small church. Or even the church from our first wedding, if that’s what you want—though it’s a bit far.”

Linsey, fighting to keep her emotions in check, finally said, “Collin, I’ve been invited to the International Designer Competition. I have to leave for abroad next week, and I’ll be gone for at least two months.”

Collin fell silent, processing her words.

When she saw his reaction, Linsey’s heart sank, and she rushed to explain. “Collin, I wasn’t keeping it from you. Dolores got the email from the organizers earlier, but the dates weren’t confirmed, so I didn’t bring it up. I only found out this morning and came straight to tell you.”

Collin’s breathing shifted, a flicker of struggle crossing his face as he tried to speak, his lips trembling wordlessly.

Witnessing his turmoil, Linsey’s heart ached. She hurried to clarify, “I’m only heading abroad for a major international design contest. It’s not like I’m gone for good.”

Collin's voice was rough with emotion as he asked, "What about the kids? Are you taking them with you?"

"Of course not. This is a work trip, not a vacation. The kids are staying right here," Linsey assured him.

Collin's tension eased at her words.

"With the kids here, I know you'll be back," he said, a sense of calm washing over him. Regaining his composure, he offered a warm smile. "Don't worry about things here. Just focus on your competition—I'll handle everything."

Linsey locked eyes with him, and in a rush of feeling, she pressed her lips to his in a fervent kiss.

Collin froze briefly before cradling the back of her head, matching her passion with his own.

When their lips finally parted, both were left gasping for air.

Linsey leaned her forehead against his, their breaths intertwining in the tender, quiet moment.

After a long silence, Linsey finally whispered, "Collin, it's not just for the children. More than anything, it's for you. I promise—I will come back. I'm only leaving for the competition. There's no way I'd ever abandon the man I love."

Collin's eyes softened as he nodded, his voice low and steady. "Alright. I'll wait for your return."

And just like that, time slipped by. In the blink of an eye, six months had passed. The headlines lit up the world stage—renowned fashion designer Linsey Riley had won the prestigious International Designer Competition. The news spread like wildfire, captivating fashion enthusiasts across the globe.

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Chapter 1179:

“Linsey is phenomenal! That competition had me holding my breath, and yet she stayed so composed! She’s my idol for a reason!”

“Another genius has carved their name into the annals of fashion history.”

“Can you believe she’s not even thirty? The sky’s the limit for her future.”

“Let’s not forget—since Linsey took over the Lawson Group, it’s been flourishing. She’s an unstoppable force.”

“While training and competing overseas, she was also managing Lawson Group operations? She’s a legend.”

“Everyone’s begging Collin Riley to host the most lavish homecoming for Linsey. Word is—she’s coming back.”

“Where have you been? She returned two days ago—and her wedding with Collin is already being livestreamed!”

“WHAT?! Someone send me the link!”

In the grandest church in Grester, every seat was filled with family, friends, and admirers dressed in their finest.

As the romantic strains of the wedding march echoed through the vaulted ceiling, all eyes turned to the radiant bride.

Linsey, draped in a breathtaking white gown, shimmered like moonlight. The bouquet in her arms paled beside her beauty.

Arm-in-arm with Cruz, she walked slowly down the red-carpeted aisle, her steps graceful and steady, while quiet murmurs of admiration rippled through the crowd.

Ahead of her, Zenia and Zander, adorably dressed as flower children, tossed petals with innocent joy.

But Linsey saw none of the grandeur. The towering arches, the gleaming chandeliers, the murmuring crowd—all faded. All that remained was him. Collin stood at the altar, his eyes locked on hers, a quiet storm of emotion brewing behind them.

Her heart began to race, every breath a little harder to catch, until she finally reached him—and only then did the rhythm of her heartbeat begin to slow. In Collin's deep, unwavering gaze, Linsey found herself reflected completely. He leaned in slightly and murmured, "You look beautiful." He had waited five years for this moment.

The officiant's solemn voice echoed through the cathedral. "Ms. Linsey Brooks, do you take Mr. Collin Riley to be your lawfully wedded husband, to live together in marriage, to love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, in prosperity and adversity, and forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?"

Suddenly, Linsey's eyes welled with tears. Her vision blurred, the moment almost too much to contain.

It wasn't until Collin gently brushed a tear from her cheek that she came back to the present.

Her voice trembled, husky with emotion. "Yes, I do..."

The officiant was just about to proceed to Collin when Linsey burst out, louder this time, "I do! I do, I do!"

The entire hall erupted with warm laughter.

But Linsey didn't care. Her world had narrowed to a single point—Collin. Her eyes sparkled, shining with joy and love.

Chapter 1180:

Then came Collin's turn.

He looked deep into Linsey's teary eyes, tucked a strand of hair behind her ear, and declared with gentle certainty, "Yes, I do."

And then, echoing her unrestrained heart, he added softly, "I do, I do."

Tears streamed down Linsey's face once more, but this time, she didn't hold back. She rose up on tiptoe and threw her arms around Collin's neck.

At the same time, Collin drew her tightly into his embrace, their hearts beating in perfect rhythm.

Surrounded by thunderous applause and jubilant cheers, they kissed. Even with their lips pressed together, Linsey's smile could still be seen, radiant and full of light.

Their eyes met again—filled with deep affection and the unspoken promise of forever.

"I love you, Linsey."

"I love you too, Collin."

The End.

Linsey and Collin's wedding had become an international sensation. Their journey together, filled with setbacks and triumphs, had inspired countless people who admired how they fought for their happiness. Still, some couldn't help but wonder about fate's strange twists. What if Linsey's former fiancé hadn't

left her stranded at the altar? Would she have ever crossed paths with Collin, whose own bride vanished before their vows?

Now, their chapter was about to unfold.

Inside the church, Linsey stood at the end of the red aisle, her wedding dress glowing, her gaze locked on the man waiting for her. This was the day she had been dreaming of. After five long years together, she and her boyfriend would finally become husband and wife.

With each note from the live band's melody, she took another step toward Felix, her heart fluttering with anticipation. The priest, solemn and dignified, stood at the altar, Bible in hand, and began the ceremony.

"Mr. Felix Wells, do you promise to take Miss Linsey Brooks as your wife in this holy matrimony? Are you willing to stand by her side through every challenge that comes your way?"

Felix squeezed Linsey's hand and looked at her with nothing but devotion. His answer was steady and certain. "I do."

The priest gave a warm nod before turning to Linsey.

"Miss Linsey Brooks, do you take Mr. Felix Wells to be your husband in this holy matrimony? Do you promise to stay with him through all of life's challenges?"

A radiant light filled Linsey's eyes. Before she could say another word, a deafening crash shattered the tranquility of the chapel. All heads whipped around as the church doors burst open, kicked in with force. A swarm of men clad in black suits surged inside. Panic rippled through the crowd.

Moments ago, every eye had been fixed on the couple at the altar. Now, all attention shifted to the sudden chaos.

At the center of the black-clad group, a man in a crisp groom's suit rolled forward in a wheelchair, commanding the entire room with his presence. He was strikingly good-looking, but there was a chill in his expression that made people hesitate to meet his gaze.