

Zillionaire 1351

Chapter 1351:

Without hesitation, she hurled it straight at Edmond. The fabric landed squarely over his head, momentarily disorienting him.

She didn't wait to see what happened next. She turned and ran, breath ragged, heart pounding.

Ahead, the corridor ended in a wall—only a sharp left turn remained.

She veered toward it, her shoes skidding on the carpet.

But as she turned the corner, she stumbled—her knees slammed hard into the plush red carpet.

"Agh..." she cried out in pain.

Then, above her, came a cold, familiar voice. "There's no need for such a dramatic entrance."

Linsey's breath caught in her throat. That voice...

She slowly looked up—and froze. It was the man in the wheelchair. Her entire body stiffened as if lightning had struck her spine.

"You? Again?" she gasped, eyes wide in disbelief.

Collin narrowed his eyes, scrutinizing her.

Earlier, she had worn a hat and a mask—he hadn't seen her face. But now, with her soaking wet and breathless, her identity was undeniable.

Before he could speak, Edmond tore the jacket off his head and came barreling around the corner, his face red with rage. “You filthy bitch, I’ll teach you a lesson you’ll never forget!”

Panicked, Linsey did the only thing she could think of—she threw herself into Collin’s lap, clutching at him like a lifeline. “Sir... please... please help me!”

Collin felt the heat radiating from Linsey, and for a split second, it caught him off guard.

Edmond grew angrier when he realized Collin had gotten to her first.

“Who the hell are you?” he barked, trying to size Collin up.

The moment he noticed Collin was in a wheelchair, his smugness only grew. He rolled up his sleeves, flexing his arms, and stepped forward. “I spotted her first. If you’re after her, wait your turn. Otherwise—”

Collin lifted his head before Edmond could finish, his gaze cutting through the man like a blade. “Otherwise what?”

Edmond’s legs nearly gave out from sheer fear as he saw Collin’s face.

He dropped to the floor, trembling so hard it was a wonder he could speak. “Mr. Riley!” he uttered, sobriety hitting him in an instant. His eyes were wide with fear. “Why are you here?”

Collin knew exactly who Edmond was. He was a manager from Griffin Group. Griffin Group’s headquarters were in Grester, and Edmond had made several trips to CR Corporation in the past.

In an effort to land a project deal, he had attempted to bribe Dustin with cash and women.

Dustin had turned him down flat, but he had still seen promise in some of Griffin Group’s ventures and had later discussed them with Collin.

Edmond's string of scandals and tainted reputation had long dragged down the Griffin Group's image.

Chapter 1352:

Taking everything into account, Collin had eventually told Dustin to turn down any deal with the Griffin Group.

In the end, Griffin Group redirected its attention toward Riley Group, with Alfredo now running the company.

It was during one of Collin's rare visits back to the Riley family's residence that he crossed paths with Edmond, who happened to visit Alfredo.

Collin could still picture that overly flattering grin from back then, a complete contrast to the pitiful figure standing before him now.

That thought drew a cold smirk from Collin as he shot back, "And why exactly would I need your approval?"

Edmond trembled as he waved his hands. "N-no, that's not what I meant!"

Collin leaned in, his voice edged with challenge. "Then what did you mean?"

"It's nothing. Just a misunderstanding," Edmond stammered, plastering on a fake smile as he stumbled upright. "Mr. Riley, if you've set your sights on her, I'll step aside and let you have the moment."

Collin's attention drifted to Linsey, who was huddled close, trembling in his embrace.

He had never thought of himself as tenderhearted, yet watching her like this tugged at something deep inside. Had he not passed by at that moment, Edmond might have already taken advantage of her.

The thought alone hardened Collin's gaze into ice. His voice was razor-sharp as he stopped the man who was trying to slip away. "Did I say you could go?"

Edmond froze mid-step, his back going rigid. Even before Griffin Group had sought a deal with Riley Group, he had already heard plenty of stories about Collin Riley. If there was one name that spelled trouble, it was his.

Nearly choking on his fear, Edmond turned back with watery eyes. "Mr. Riley, is there anything else you need from me?"

Collin didn't answer right away. Instead, he drew Linsey closer, wrapping an arm around her waist and pulling her onto his lap. "Baby, how should I deal with him for you?"

The word "baby" left Edmond gaping.

Linsey's eyes went wide as well, her face a mix of shock and disbelief. Collin, however, didn't so much as blink. His tone stayed calm as he looked back at Edmond. "You really don't know she's my girlfriend?"

Edmond's legs gave way once more, and with a heavy thud, he collapsed to the floor, his face drained of color in sheer terror.

Earlier that evening, during dinner, he had noticed Linsey seated across from a man. But with the man's back turned and his focus entirely on her, he hadn't paid it much mind.

Had he realized it was Collin, no amount of bravery, even with alcohol clouding his judgment, would have emboldened him to harass Linsey.

A tidal wave of regret crashed over Edmond, his breath coming in shallow gasps. He scrambled to beg, "I'm so sorry, Mr. Riley. I had no idea she was with you. I would never have dared to trouble her. Please, have mercy."

Collin looked down at Edmond groveling at his feet, a flicker of amusement in his eyes but no trace of sympathy. His voice was cold as ice. "Why beg me? Was I the one you tried to assault?"

Chapter 1353:

Edmond caught the hint and turned to Linsey, his hands clasped in desperation, tears and mucus streaking his face. "I'm begging you, I'm so sorry. I was drunk and out of my head. Please, convince Mr. Riley to let me off this once. I swear I'll never do it again."

As he spoke, he clenched his jaw tightly, signaling his determination to change his ways.

He prostrated himself before Linsey, desperately seeking her sympathy. Yet, her heart remained unmoved, and she had no intention of granting him forgiveness.

She saw through his feigned remorse. If she let him off easily, he might leave her alone, but other women would surely become his next targets.

Now that Collin was ready to back her up, and this despicable man was terrified of him, she knew she had to act decisively.

With this in mind, she turned to Collin and stated firmly, "I'm not forgiving him."

Collin's brow arched slightly. Her response caught him off guard.

Given her soft, refined appearance and gentle tone, he had pegged her as someone who would be quick to show mercy. Clearly, he had misjudged her. His gaze lingered on her, curiosity sparking in his eyes. "What do you want to do, then?"

"I want him to face the consequences," Linsey answered with conviction.

"Alright," Collin said, nodding as he drew a pistol.

He hadn't planned on violence today, but since he was already stepping in to help, he figured he would follow through completely.

“NO!” Edmond, seeing the gun aimed at him, was so terrified he lost control, urine pooling beneath him. The stench filled the air.

Before Collin could pull the trigger, Edmond collapsed, unconscious, in a heap on the floor.

Still, Collin showed no sign of relenting, his finger hovering over the trigger.

“Wait!” Linsey suddenly grabbed the gun, her body flinching as if the metal had scorched her.

She let go quickly and stepped back, her eyes wide with undisguised shock. “Mr. Riley, what are you doing?”

“Didn’t you say you wanted him to pay for his actions?” Collin replied calmly, his tone almost kind. “I’m just helping you.”

Linsey’s hands trembled. “So you’re going to kill him?”

“How else should he pay?” Collin asked, his expression earnest.

Linsey froze, speechless. She stared at him, dumbfounded, for a solid ten seconds before finding her voice. “You can’t do that. I mean, we should turn him over to the police and let them handle his punishment.”

Just as she finished, a soft but urgent voice called out, “Linsey!”

Linsey instinctively lifted her head, her gaze colliding mid-air with Gorman’s. At that same moment, Collin narrowed his eyes, clearly recognizing the familiar voice.

He was just about to look over his shoulder when a shadow swept past him. In an instant, Gorman was at Linsey’s side, pulling her protectively behind him, his eyes locked sharply on the man before them.

One look was enough. It was his rival—Collin. The man was like a bad penny.

Chapter 1354:

Instead of staying in Grester where he belonged, here he was, setting foot on Gorman's turf, doing business in his city, and now—meeting Linsey, alone, in a restaurant.

He hadn't had nearly enough time with Linsey. And now fate had to throw this nuisance right in his path?

A hot surge of irritation burned in Gorman's chest. If Linsey hadn't been standing there, he would have happily rearranged Collin's smug face with a few well-placed punches.

Still, he kept his temper on a tight leash, his voice sharp and accusing. "What are you doing here?"

Collin's reply was just as icy. "I could ask you the same."

He owed Gorman nothing, so why was this man acting as though he had been wronged?

Great. This day was quickly turning into a parade of unwanted encounters.

"What do you mean?" Gorman took a slow breath, forcing down the urge to snap. "I'm here for my girlfriend."

He emphasized the word "girlfriend" as though daring Collin to challenge it.

Collin paused, his gaze flicking to Linsey. Could Gorman be referring to her? Gorman didn't leave him wondering. He pulled Linsey close, one arm firm around her waist, and declared, "This is my girlfriend—Linsey Brooks."

Collin's brows drew together, a faint crease of disbelief marking his expression. The world seemed small. Of all the possible connections... the woman he had helped twice was this man's girlfriend?

One incredulous thought echoed in his mind—was she blind?

Of every man in the world, she had chosen Gorman?

Gorman, meanwhile, had been studying him closely. He caught Collin's faint look of disdain. His jaw tightened. "What's that look supposed to mean?"

"Blind," Collin replied flatly. "Can't you tell?"

"You!" Gorman's temper spiked, his fists clenching, but he reined it in again. "Listen, Collin," he said in a low, warning tone. "Linsey is my girlfriend now. If you have even a shred of decency, you'll stay away from her."

Before Collin could answer, Linsey suddenly blurted out, her eyes wide, "You're... Collin Riley?"

The infamous Collin—devilish, ruthless, the man who had stolen Gorman's fiancée and left a trail of vicious rumors in his wake? It couldn't be.

Her shock was palpable; she instinctively stepped back, as if distance alone could protect her.

Collin's gaze lingered on her reaction before sliding back to Gorman. His voice dropped to an icy register. "Seems you've been telling her quite a few unpleasant stories about me."

Of course, Gorman had—but he wasn't about to admit it.

"Your reputation speaks for itself. I don't need to add a thing."

Collin's lips curved in a humorless smirk. "Funny... I thought the bad reputation was yours. I hear you bankrupted a company so thoroughly that its CEO hired hitmen to take you out. Yet here you are—still breathing."

Chapter 1355:

Gorman's lips twitched, but before he could respond, a sweet, lilting voice cut through the tension. "Collin."

Kylee emerged in a pristine white dress, her long hair flowing down to her chest, framing and enhancing the delicate beauty of her carefully made-up face.

"Who is she? She's gorgeous," Linsey said in a low voice to Gorman.

A flicker of disdain crossed Gorman's eyes as he looked at Kylee. Inside, he mocked her for the act she was putting on. To him, she was nothing more than a manipulative woman who had once tried to drug him and lure him in with false innocence.

Time, however, had turned them into unlikely partners. She had become essential to his plans, even managing to help him push Linsey toward divorcing Collin.

The tangled history between them wasn't something he cared to share. If anything, explaining it would only bring him headaches.

He decided to brush the matter aside and leave the scene with Linsey before things got messy.

But then, an idea flashed in his mind. This might be the perfect moment to smear Collin's name even more.

A sly grin formed as the plan took shape.

When Collin came into sight, Gorman made sure to act overly attentive toward Linsey.

Leaning closer, he whispered, "That's Kylee Russell, Collin's childhood sweetheart. They've always had feelings for each other."

Linsey's head jerked slightly. "What?"

If Collin had truly been in love with Kylee all along, then what reason could he have had for taking Gorman's fiancée?

This was something Linsey was sincerely eager to know.

She thought about voicing the question, but with Collin around, criticizing him outright felt uncomfortably awkward.

Linsey kept her thoughts to herself, yet another idea crept in.

Despite his sharp tongue, Collin didn't seem to be the villain Gorman had made him out to be.

He had stepped in twice to help her. If it weren't for him today, she would have fallen into the hands of that disgusting man.

A strange mix of gratitude and confusion began to cloud her feelings toward Collin.

From a short distance away, Collin caught sight of their hushed exchange, and irritation settled in his eyes.

They could speak their minds without leaning in so closely. Public displays of affection weren't needed here.

Pushing the pair from his thoughts, Collin turned toward Kylee and struck up a conversation. "Yes?"

"I couldn't find you, so I came to see where you were," Kylee answered in a quiet tone.

Her eyes drifted to where Linsey and Gorman stood. "Collin, who are they? Are they your friends?"

Chapter 1356:

The question reached Gorman's ears, and he smirked to himself.

Kylee clearly didn't know about the grudge he shared with Collin, and she seemed just as clueless about his background. That worked in his favor. If she stayed in the dark, he could still form an alliance with her, shutting down any chance for Collin to take Linsey.

While the idea settled in his mind, Collin's voice cut in. He spoke to Kylee with cool dismissal. "Forget about them. They don't matter."

"Alright..." Kylee began, but Gorman stepped forward before she could finish.

"It's a pleasure to meet you, Miss Russell. I'm Gorman Green."

Her brows lifted in surprise. "You know me?"

Gorman's smile was polished, his voice smooth. "Of course. You're the brightest star out there. My company, Green Group, is hosting an endorsement event, and I'd like to work with you."

At first, Kylee hadn't paid him much attention. The moment she realized who he was, however, her interest flared.

She was just about to accept his proposal when Lowell entered the room with the restaurant manager in tow.

Lowell turned to face Collin and offered a respectful nod. "Mr. Riley."

Sweat beaded on the restaurant manager's forehead as he tried to force a smile. "Mr. Riley, I'm so sorry for what happened earlier. Please believe me, our restaurant—"

Gorman chimed in before the manager could finish, "What exactly went on here?" He had spotted a stranger lying on the floor.

Something in his gut told him Collin must be involved, but he knew Collin wouldn't open up to him directly. With the manager standing nearby, now seemed like the perfect time to press for answers.

Uncertainty flickered across the manager's face. He was unsure if he should explain what had happened to Gorman. He had caught a string of events on the security cameras. The footage even captured Collin from Riley Group.

Fearful of the possible fallout, the manager had rushed straight to the scene.

While he was still weighing his options, Collin surprised everyone by turning to Gorman. "I saved your girlfriend."

Gorman's shock was obvious as he stared Collin up and down. "What?" A moment later, disbelief colored his voice. "You?" He had always believed he understood Collin well. The thought of Collin doing anyone a favor was nearly unthinkable.

Collin sat in his wheelchair, radiating both icy detachment and an unmistakable sense of authority. "If you don't believe it, ask her yourself."

A sharp gaze from Collin landed on Linsey, sending a shiver through her.

Gorman's attention shifted to Linsey. Unlike Collin's intimidating stare, Gorman's eyes brimmed with genuine concern for her well-being.

"Linsey, is what he said really true?" Gorman's voice softened, and he paused for a heartbeat before reassuring her. "Don't be afraid. I'm right here, and he wouldn't dare hurt you. Just be honest."

A small bite on her lip, Linsey nodded.

Chapter 1357:

“It’s true,” she answered. “Earlier, some creep tried to take advantage of me—he was drunk. I escaped from the restroom, but he kept chasing me. If Collin hadn’t appeared when he did, I might have...”

Her voice faded away, and Linsey clung to her collar with lingering fear, tears rising in her eyes.

The story left Gorman in disbelief all over again.

He couldn’t decide which was more surprising—hearing that Linsey had almost been assaulted, or that Collin had actually stepped in to help. That same shock rippled through everyone else in the room.

The manager’s jaw dropped, his eyes wide with surprise.

His mind raced back to what he had overheard on the surveillance tape. He could have sworn Collin claimed this woman was his own girlfriend. How did she end up with Gorman instead?

Kylee’s gaze flickered from Linsey to Collin and back again.

Nothing in her experience matched this side of Collin. She couldn’t believe he would help someone out of kindness. What had made him intervene this time? A strange suspicion crept into her mind—maybe Collin was interested in Linsey after all.

Standing off to the side, Lowell looked more stunned than anyone. He stayed perfectly still, almost forgetting to breathe.

He had been sent all over the country on one mission: to find the woman who had once spent the night with Collin. He never had any luck.

All day, he had planned to come to this very restaurant to report that he still hadn't found her. The last thing he expected was to see her standing right there across from him...

Wasn't this the same woman Collin had been searching for so desperately? Realization struck hard, snapping Lowell back to the present. He quickly stepped forward and spoke up. "Mr. Riley, I think I've found the woman you've been looking for..."

Lowell was just about to speak the truth when he was suddenly cut off.

The one who interrupted him was Collin.

Collin shot him a sharp, commanding glance—cold as ice.

Lowell froze for a second.

Having worked under Collin for years, he could read the man like a book. That look meant one thing: stay silent.

Lowell bowed his head and muttered, "I'm sorry, Mr. Riley."

Collin said nothing. His expression stayed as cold as stone.

Though Lowell hadn't finished his report, he knew exactly what it was about—the woman who had slept with him.

The sudden silence wasn't random. Outsiders were present.

And not just any outsider—his biggest rival.

If Gorman found out that he had been drugged, he would never let it go. It would spread like wildfire.

Collin snapped out of his thoughts, his face still tight with tension.

Chapter 1358:

His eyes landed on the man passed out on the floor, and they filled with disgust. "Take him away. Make sure he ends up behind bars," he said coolly.

"Yes, Mr. Riley," Lowell responded quickly.

The manager stepped forward, quick to act. "Mr. Gilbert, let me help you," he said, bending down.

Together, they dragged the unconscious Edmond out of sight.

Only four people remained in the hallway now. The air was heavy, uneasy.

Just as Kylee opened her mouth to speak, her phone rang.

She pulled it out and glanced at the screen.

A flicker of panic crossed her face as she saw the caller ID.

"Go ahead and take the call," Collin said.

He stood close enough to see the name. He already knew who it was.

Kylee nodded. "Collin, wait for me. I'll be right back."

She turned and walked away, lifting the phone to her ear.

Her voice, usually soft and calm, now held a sharp edge. “We agreed you’d leave me alone once you got the money. Why are you still bothering me?”

Now, only three people were left in the hallway.

Collin had no plans to stay.

He glanced at Linsey, his expression unreadable, then turned the wheelchair to leave.

“Mr. Riley, please wait.”

A gentle voice called from behind.

Collin didn’t mean to stop—but his hand moved on its own, pressing the brake.

Realizing it, he frowned. A strange irritation stirred in his chest.

Damn it. Why did he always react to this woman’s voice?

Just as he moved again, Linsey stepped in front of him, blocking his way.

She stretched out her arms, making sure he couldn’t pass.

“What are you trying to do?” His voice was low, cold, and clearly annoyed.

Linsey hesitated, then lowered her arms and spoke softly. “Mr. Riley, can I have your contact information?”

Collin's eyes narrowed, deep and unreadable. Her words caught him off guard. His brow lifted slightly. The irritation faded into something else. With a short chuckle, he said, "Ms. Brooks, asking for my number in front of your boyfriend? Are you trying to switch sides?"

Linsey and Gorman both caught what Collin said.

Heat rushed through Gorman, filling him with frustration.

Without wasting a second, he stepped forward and put Linsey behind him. "Collin!" Gorman said, his expression sharp. "Watch what you're saying. She's my girl!"

"You've told me already. No need to say it again," Collin responded, brushing off the warning. Gorman's attitude clearly rubbed Collin the wrong way, and irritation flickered across his face.

"Are you clueless or just pretending? She's the one standing in my way," Collin continued.

Chapter 1359:

Gorman opened his mouth, but nothing came out.

The tension thickened in the air. Linsey broke through the standoff. "Cut it out, you two."

She let out a quiet sigh, then looked directly at Collin. "Mr. Riley, you've misunderstood. I asked for your number, but not because I'm interested in you."

Collin lifted his brows in interest, inviting her to go on.

Linsey laid it out clearly. "You helped me, and I appreciate it. Still, I don't like owing people, so I wanted a way to pay you back."

Right after she finished, Collin gave her a look. "What kind of repayment did you have in mind?"

She admitted, "Honestly, I haven't come up with anything yet. I figured we could swap contact info, and then..."

Before she could finish, Collin cut her off, a mischievous grin appearing as he glanced at Gorman. "I got an idea."

Dread crept over Gorman.

Collin spoke up. "How about this? Have him get down and bow to me, and we'll call it even."

He was unwilling to let a chance to needle Gorman slip by.

Gorman froze, his hands balling into fists.

He knew Collin was trying to put him in a tight spot.

Agreeing would be humiliating.

Refusing would only make things worse for him in front of Linsey.

Linsey was his girlfriend now. If he turned away from this, she might start to believe he wasn't the kind of man who could step up when it mattered. He found himself even more unsettled by the thought that this situation might keep Linsey and Collin connected. Worse, what if something deeper grew between them because of it?

"Huh?" With a smirk, Collin took the chance to taunt him. "You act like you care about your girl, but you can't even thank the guy who helped her?"

"You!" Fury twisted through Gorman, but he struggled to put his feelings into words.

Linsey stepped in again, addressing Collin. "Mr. Riley, I'm the one who owes you. I should be the one to settle this. If—"

After hesitating for a moment, she added, "If you really want someone to bow to you, let me do it."

Gorman jumped in, trying to stop her. "Linsey!"

She cut him off. "It's only right for me to show gratitude. There's nothing shameful about a thank-you."

He shot back at once, "Absolutely not. You're not kneeling to him. He's messing with you."

As Linsey and Gorman went back and forth, Collin's patience snapped. His voice turned cold as he asked, "Are you two done performing?"

Did they honestly think parading their affection was entertaining?

Chapter 1360:

Annoyance prickled at Collin once more, though he didn't even know why. Before either Linsey or Gorman could continue, he pushed his wheelchair forward, cutting off the conversation.

"Watch your step." Gorman guided Linsey to the side, making sure Collin had space to pass.

Linsey made one last attempt. "Mr. Riley..."

But Collin halted her, not bothering to look back, and left her words hanging.

"I'll remember that you owe me a favor, and I'll let you repay it personally someday. There's no rush right now."

With those words lingering in the air, Collin quickly disappeared from Linsey and Gorman's sight.

Outside, the torrential rain had finally ceased.

Lowell had escorted Edmond to the police station, and after ensuring everything was properly handled, he made his way back to the restaurant.

Kylee stood waiting outside, having just finished a phone call.

The moment she spotted Lowell climbing the steps, a sudden thought struck her, and she hurriedly called out, "Lowell..."

That familiar gentle voice, tinged with warmth, made Lowell stop instinctively as he looked toward the source.

"Miss Russell?" Recognition dawned on his face as he quickly ascended the remaining steps, positioning himself before her. "Is there anything you need?"

Kylee offered him a gentle smile. "I just want to ask you something."

"Please, go ahead, Miss Russell."

Kylee's gaze swept their surroundings, confirming they were alone before she continued. "I happened to overhear part of your conversation with Collin. He asked you to locate some woman, didn't he? What sort of woman are we talking about?"

Uncertainty crossed Lowell's face. "Well, the thing is..."

Your escape begins with

“Come on, tell me.”

Her voice took on a coaxing quality, gentle yet persistent. “Collin and I grew up together. I’m familiar with most of his business. He wouldn’t mind me knowing.”

Lowell stood quiet for a long moment, clearly wrestling with the decision. Finally, he chose honesty. “Collin slept with a woman, and afterward...”

“What?” Kylee’s voice cracked through the evening air.

Shock froze her features, and her perfectly applied makeup couldn’t hide the color draining from her face. Every trace of expression vanished.

Lowell proceeded to recount everything that had transpired at the villa.

With each detail, Kylee’s composure crumbled further. Her body began to sway.

“Miss Russell!” Alarm shot through Lowell as he rushed to steady her, concern flooding his voice. “Are you alright?”

Kylee silently shoved his hands away, her nails biting deep into her palms without her even noticing the pain.

A single tear escaped, trailing down her cheek. “How could this happen?” All those years of loving Collin, yearning for something deeper between them, and now some other woman had shared his bed?