

Zillionaire 1391

Chapter 1391:

Unable to turn her down, Linsey accepted.

Inside, the room carried a light citrus scent, and everywhere she looked, there were lavish furnishings. If it weren't for Ivy's hospital gown, Linsey might have mistaken it for a suite in a luxury hotel.

Though they hadn't met often, Ivy had taken a liking to Linsey. After she learned about Collin's hidden feelings for her, Ivy's urge to play matchmaker only grew stronger.

It wasn't long before the conversation turned to Collin, with Ivy bringing up his name again and again.

Linsey thought little of it at first. Back when she volunteered at the nursing home, she often heard elderly people ramble about their children and grandchildren, so she assumed Ivy was only making small talk.

But as the chat went on, Ivy suddenly asked with a smile, "Linsey, what do you think of Collin?"

Linsey blinked, caught off guard. Memories of Collin flashed through her mind. If she had to describe him, she would say sharp-tongued, cold, and above all—mysterious. It always felt like he carried countless secrets.

But instead of revealing her true thoughts, she gave a light answer. "He seems like a nice person."

Ivy's eyes lit up with joy. "That's wonderful! Collin will be so happy to hear that."

"Why?" Linsey asked curiously.

Without thinking, Ivy blurted, "Because he's been secretly in love with you."

The moment Ivy spoke, the half-eaten cookie slipped from Linsey's fingers and hit the floor with a sharp thud.

Her eyes widened. "Mrs. Riley, you can't be serious, right?"

Collin? How could he possibly like her? They had barely spoken, let alone spent much time together.

"It's true. He told me himself," Ivy replied.

Since the secret had already slipped, there was no use hiding it anymore. Before Linsey could react, Ivy clasped her hand, her expression filled with sincerity.

"Linsey, I raised Collin with my own hands. Don't be fooled by that stern face of his—he may look distant, but his heart is soft. He's a good boy. Why not give him a chance?"

Linsey hadn't expected the talk to twist suddenly toward pairing her with Collin. "But..." She lifted her eyes to Ivy's hopeful gaze, yet the words of refusal wouldn't come.

After a pause, she asked instead, "Doesn't he already have someone he likes?"

"No," Ivy replied without hesitation. "Other than you, I've never seen him show interest in anyone."

Linsey frowned, confused. "But I saw him with a beautiful girl. I even heard the two of them had feelings for each other."

Ivy frowned, digging through her memory. Collin had grown up withdrawn, always distant because of the family's troubles. He barely had friends, much less close ties with girls. In truth, only one face came to mind.

Chapter 1392:

“Linsey, do you mean Kylee Russell?” Ivy asked.

Linsey nodded. “Yes, I’ve seen her. She’s stunning—and from what I’ve heard, she’s even a well-known celebrity.”

But the moment Linsey finished, Ivy let out a sharp snort. “She’s not worthy of Collin!”

Linsey froze. “Why not?”

“That girl only pretends to be nice. Underneath, she’s rotten,” Ivy snapped, the old anger rising as if no time had passed. “She used to act as though Collin was her whole world. But the day he was in that car accident, and when our family faced a...”

“...crisis, she couldn’t run fast enough. She flew overseas that very night and never looked back.”

“What?” Linsey gasped, caught off guard by the revelation.

“Exactly. That’s why Kylee doesn’t deserve him.” Ivy softened her voice then, squeezing Linsey’s hand. A warm smile spread across her face. “But you, Linsey... in my eyes, you’re the perfect match for my grandson.”

“Mrs. Riley...” Linsey began, but the door swung open before she could finish.

She turned instinctively toward the sound.

Collin sat in his wheelchair at the doorway. And beside him was Kylee.

Linsey’s face stiffened.

What were they doing here?

Had they overheard everything?

Collin's gaze barely lingered on her. Without a flicker of expression, his eyes went straight to Ivy. "Grandma." For original chapters go to

Ivy shot to her feet the instant she saw Kylee. "Why on earth would you bring her here?!"

Kylee's eyes filled with tears, her face turning pitiful. "Ivy..."

"Don't call me Ivy!" Ivy cut in, her voice blazing with fury.

The words had barely left her lips when she clutched her chest in pain. Blood spilled from her mouth.

"Grandma!"

"Mrs. Riley!"

Collin and Linsey cried out together.

Linsey, being closest, rushed forward and caught Ivy before she could fall.

At the same time, Collin slammed the nurse button by the bed.

Footsteps thundered in the hallway.

Kylee froze, panic flooding her face. She grabbed at Collin's sleeve. "Collin..."

But before she could say more, Collin pulled free.

His voice was flat, cutting like ice. “Grandma doesn’t want to see you. Leave.”

Chapter 1393:

“Collin, please... let me stay. I just want to help,” Kylee begged.

He didn’t even look at her. “I won’t repeat myself.”

With that, he brushed past her and bent over Ivy. “Grandma...”

The medical team rushed in.

The doorway was narrow, and Kylee stood in the way.

Focused only on the patient, they shoved her out of the way.

Caught off guard, Kylee staggered back and slammed into the cold wall.

“Ah!” she cried, tears springing to her eyes.

But no one looked at her. Every pair of eyes was on Ivy.

Born pampered and later adored as a star, Kylee had never been treated this way.

Her tears blurred her vision—until she caught sight of Linsey.

A surge of jealousy and hate flared hot in her chest.

That bitch.

Just moments ago, she had heard Ivy say Linsey was the perfect match for Collin, while she herself wasn't worthy of him.

It had to be Linsey poisoning her ear, turning Ivy against her again.

And Linsey wasn't even single. She was already dating Gorman, CEO of Green Group, yet she still dared to cling to Collin. Two-timing in spirit.

A shameless woman.

Kylee's hands trembled with rage. Hatred for Linsey burned through her. But with Ivy fighting for her life and Collin's cold dismissal ringing in her ears, she could only step back into the corridor.

The hall was quiet. She sank onto a bench outside, her anger festering.

Her mind darkened.

A vicious thought took root.

No one was going to take Collin from her. She would destroy Linsey.

No one knew how much time had passed. At last, the attending physician wiped the sweat from his brow. "Mr. Riley, she's stable for now. But she can't handle any emotional stress, or else..." He let the warning hang.

Collin gave a curt nod. "I understand."

"If anything changes, call me," the doctor said before leaving with his team.

Ivy lay unconscious on the bed.

Collin sat silently at her side, never once looking Linsey's way.

Feeling out of place, Linsey spoke gently. "Since Mrs. Riley is stable now, I'll head out."

Collin didn't answer.

Linsey didn't dwell on it and simply turned to leave.

Chapter 1394:

But after only a few steps, his voice came from behind her. "You already have a boyfriend. So why tell Grandma you want to marry me?" His tone was calm, yet carried undeniable authority.

Linsey froze. She could hardly believe what she had heard.

Annoyance flared in her. "When did I ever say that?"

"You didn't?" Collin's gaze locked on her, his voice cool and distant. "Then why would Grandma insist you're the right fit for me?"

"How would I know? That was Mrs. Riley's idea, not mine. I never said a word." No matter how firmly she denied it, disbelief lingered in Collin's eyes.

Linsey's irritation boiled over. "Then answer me this—why did you tell Mrs. Riley you had a crush on me?"

His expression faltered. His brows drew tight. “How did you even find that out?” The moment the words left his mouth, he realized the answer. His eyes shifted to his unconscious grandmother.

It was her again. A trace of helplessness flickered across his face.

Before Linsey could speak, Collin quickly explained, “Don’t misunderstand. Grandma got it wrong before. With her health so fragile, I couldn’t upset her. I only went along with it.”

But Linsey snapped back at once, “Then what right do you have to interrogate me like a criminal?”

After all, it was his careless words that had deepened Ivy’s misunderstanding. Linsey suddenly thought of something, her expression tightening as she said firmly, “You’d better clear things up when she gets better.”

To Collin, it sounded like she wanted nothing to do with him.

Though she wasn’t wrong, her words still stung, leaving a strange irritation in his chest.

He replied coldly, “Don’t worry. Even if every other woman on earth vanished, I still wouldn’t be interested in you.”

“You—” Linsey bristled, ready to snap back, but when her gaze fell on Ivy, she bit her tongue.

“For Mrs. Riley’s sake, I’ll let it go,” she muttered, then turned and walked out.

As Linsey shut the door behind her, anger still burning in her chest, she noticed a figure nearby.

Kylee rose slowly from a bench. Ivy’s earlier words flashed through Linsey’s mind.

But before Linsey could think further, Kylee spoke first.

“Ms. Brooks,” she greeted smoothly, her smile warm, almost grateful. “I’ve been so busy, I never got the chance to thank you for taking care of Ivy.”

Linsey frowned. Why would she thank her for taking care of Ivy? She and Ivy didn’t even get along.

Still, Linsey forced a polite smile. “It was nothing, really.”

Kylee tilted her head, her eyes sharp despite the smile. “I’m curious—how do you know Ivy?”

“We just happened to meet,” Linsey replied lightly.

Chapter 1395:

Kylee’s frown deepened.

Just then, a voice cut in. “Linsey.”

She turned to see Gorman striding toward her.

Caught off guard, she blinked. “Gorman? How did you know I was here?”

“I was the one who asked Mr. Green to come,” Kylee spoke with deliberate thoughtfulness before adding, “Even in broad daylight, it isn’t that safe for a young woman to head back alone, so I took the liberty of contacting Mr. Green. I hope you don’t mind.”

On the surface, her reasoning sounded flawless. Yet Linsey couldn’t shake the feeling that something wasn’t quite right.

She didn’t push the matter, though. Instead, she simply thanked Kylee and left with Gorman.

From the ward to the hospital exit, Gorman's expression remained dark. Sensing something was wrong, Linsey asked softly, "Are you okay?"

"No." His reply was blunt, final.

If it weren't for Kylee's message, he would have assumed Linsey was just at the hospital visiting a friend.

Right now, Gorman was utterly perplexed.

Every time he eased his guard, she somehow ended up crossing paths with Collin.

Why?

He had already worked hard to ruin Collin's reputation.

By rights, Linsey should have wanted nothing to do with him. Yet she kept ending up in his orbit.

Frustration etched into his face, Gorman finally asked outright, "Linsey, why are you involved with Collin again?"

"You've got it wrong." Linsey's denial was quick. "I only ran into his grandmother, and she invited me to chat. I didn't know he would show up."

"That's all?" Gorman's tone dripped with doubt.

Linsey met his gaze and nodded firmly. "Miss Russell was there too. If you don't believe me, ask her yourself."

Her earnestness gave him pause. At last, though reluctant, he chose to believe her.

“All right then, but...” His hesitation hung in the air.

“But what?” she asked.

“From now on, keep your distance from Collin,” Gorman pressed, this time couching his suspicion in Kylee’s words. “Miss Russell called me because you’ve been too close to him. Even his grandmother favors you over her now.” His face hardened as he continued, “Linsey, Kylee is with Collin. You’re with me. If you keep getting seen around him, what do you think people will say? You should understand how important a woman’s reputation is.”

Linsey fell silent, momentarily at a loss. Only after a long pause did she murmur, “Alright. I understand.”

Chapter 1396:

Gorman’s shoulders eased, and a gentle smile softened his face. “So that means... you won’t be starting at CR Corporation tomorrow?”

But Linsey shook her head. “I’ve thought about this for a long time,” she said quietly. “I still want to take the job. At least for a while.”

It was her dream to join that company, a chance she had fought hard to win. To give it up now felt impossible. Still, she knew Gorman meant well.

So before he could object, she quickly added, “Don’t worry. I’ll take care of myself. From what I know, CR Corporation is mostly run by Mr. Wade. I won’t cross paths with Collin often.”

Gorman’s expression darkened instantly. His voice turned cold. “And how can you guarantee you won’t?”

Linsey was accustomed to Gorman’s gentle tone, so when his voice suddenly turned cold, she froze in surprise.

By the time she gathered herself, she could only bite her lip, unsure how to respond.

What could she even say? If Collin insisted on seeing her, there was no way she could stop him.

Her mind flashed back to what Collin had told her at the hospital.

“Collin told me clearly he has no interest in me,” Linsey finally said. “If we meet, it will only be for work. Nothing more.”

“So after all that, you’re still determined to join CR Corporation,” Gorman responded, his gaze steady, complicated.

Linsey fell silent. Then, out of nowhere, Gorman asked, “Between me and Collin, who would you choose?”

Linsey blinked, taken aback. “I don’t understand what you mean.”

“What if I said I don’t want you working at CR Corporation?” he pressed.

Her voice hardened. “Our relationship was only pretend. Gorman, where I work is my choice. You shouldn’t interfere.”

The air between them shifted, tense and fragile.

After a pause, he tried again, softer this time. “If we were truly a couple, would you listen to me then?”

Her expression flickered, but her voice remained firm. “No. My career will always matter more than romance. Even if we were together, I’d still make my own choices.”

She paused, then frowned slightly. “Besides... haven’t you always claimed to still love your late fiancée? How can you fall for me so quickly?”

Gorman fell silent once more, a storm of emotions surging within him. He had invented that excuse to smear Collin to the point where she would steer away from the man.

He never imagined it would backfire—Linsey now genuinely believed he was still devoted to another woman.

If he confessed his feelings now, she wouldn’t be touched. She would only think the faithful lover image he had built was a lie.

Chapter 1397:

For a moment, Gorman was utterly at a loss. Of course he wanted to push things further with Linsey, to seal their relationship. But judging from her reaction, if he pushed too hard, she might not just think him heartless—she could leave him altogether.

That, he couldn’t risk.

Frustration welled in his chest, but he forced it down, masking his true thoughts.

“I was only speaking casually. If you want to go, then go,” he said lightly, as though it didn’t matter.

His sudden shift eased the tension, bringing a small smile to Linsey’s lips. “Thank you.”

“You’re welcome,” Gorman answered gently, though the words were hollow.

If Linsey could take the job, she could just as easily lose it. When the time came, all he had to do was pull a few strings—and she would end up right back by his side.

The thought alone smoothed away his frustration.

Meanwhile, Ivy remained unconscious when Kylee slipped quietly into the hospital room, her face clouded with guilt and unease.

The moment her eyes met Collin's, she blurted out, "I'm sorry, Collin."

Collin glanced up. "What's going on?"

"I didn't think Ivy would still resent me for leaving back then. But I truly had no choice..." Kylee's voice broke, her lips trembling as tears gathered. "It's my fault. I never should've come. Now she's upset and sick again."

Collin's expression stayed steady. "Don't blame yourself. I'll explain it to Grandma another time."

Just as he spoke, a knock sounded at the door.

"Come in," he said.

Lowell wasted no time—he pushed the door open and strode inside.

Collin gave him a brief look before turning back to Kylee. "I need to speak with Lowell. You should head home for now."

"Alright." Kylee didn't think twice about it.

Once the door closed, Collin's gaze sharpened. "On the phone, you said you'd found that woman?"

"Yes," Lowell confirmed with a nod.

Collin's eyes lit with surprise. "Who is it?"

"Linsey Brooks," Lowell revealed.

The next day, Linsey officially reported for work at CR Corporation.

On her first day, the assistant introduced her to the department, where her new colleagues greeted her warmly.

Wanting to settle in quickly, she bought an assortment of drinks and snacks that afternoon to share.

As she expected, her colleagues' goodwill toward her rose instantly.

Chapter 1398:

While she was laughing and chatting with the group, Linsey's gaze drifted toward a distant office.

A thought struck her, and she turned to a colleague. "Does Mr. Wade drink coffee?"

Yana Gates, a woman in her thirties with a mid-level leadership role, looked her over before replying.

"Are you thinking of bringing Mr. Wade a cup of coffee?" Yana asked.

When Linsey nodded, Yana arched a brow, her expression carrying a spark of amusement.

"Mr. Wade usually doesn't accept drinks from us, but..." Yana let the words hang for a beat before smiling warmly. "I heard he personally recruited you with a generous package. That puts you in a different position from the rest of us—you probably have privileges."

Linsey chuckled. "You're exaggerating."

“I’m not.” Lowering her voice, Yana added, “I’ve been here for years. You’re the first female executive Mr. Wade has ever recruited himself. That alone shows how much he values you.”

Hearing that, Linsey couldn’t hide the flicker of joy in her chest—especially because Dustin was the man she had admired for years.

Encouraged, she picked up an Americano from the bag. “Then I’ll bring him this one.”

“Not the Americano—take this instead.” Yana handed her an iced latte topped with whipped cream and caramelized nuts beneath the clear lid, far more indulgent.

She passed it to Linsey and explained, “You’re new, so you wouldn’t know—Mr. Wade prefers iced latte over plain coffee.”

Trusting Yana’s experience, Linsey accepted it with a smile. “Thanks, Yana.”

“No need to thank me. Better hurry before the cream melts.”

Linsey nodded with an obedient smile. “Alright.”

But the moment she turned away, Yana’s smile slipped. A flicker of mockery flashed in her eyes.

“Yana, wasn’t that a bit much?” her sidekick whispered. “Everyone knows Mr. Wade’s allergic to cream. And you still sent her in? What if he gets mad?”

Yana looked anything but guilty. She tilted her chin with smug pride. “That’s exactly why I did it. I want Mr. Wade to think badly of her.”

Before Linsey came, Yana had always ruled the department. Her word was final. But since Linsey's arrival, everything had changed. Yana was pushed aside, and even the projects she had worked so hard on were stripped from her.

How could she possibly swallow that?

Holding the coffee Linsey had bought, Yana leaned close to her sidekick and muttered, "Look at her—so young, so pretty. Do you really think she earned this job by herself? Not a chance. She must've pulled strings to get in."

Meanwhile, Linsey was clueless that, on her very first day, she was already being stabbed in the back.

Chapter 1399:

Carrying the iced latte with anticipation, she knocked on the office door.

"Come in," a calm male voice replied.

Linsey froze.

That voice... It didn't sound like Dustin at all.

Still, she had no time to hesitate. She pushed the door open, her smile polite. "Mr. Wade—"

But when her eyes landed on the man behind the desk, her face paled in shock.

"You?!"

Collin looked up. The moment he saw her, his pen stilled in midair.

His heart gave a hard jolt.

Just yesterday, Lowell had dropped to his knees, begging forgiveness after revealing the truth.

It turned out the woman he had been searching for all this time was Linsey.

Because of Kylee's threats, Lowell had been forced to keep it from him. When Collin first heard it, the revelation struck him like lightning, leaving his mind in chaos.

That was why he had rushed to the company today—wanting to face Linsey, to acknowledge everything.

Yet when the moment came, he hesitated.

She was with Gorman now. If he told the truth, would she take it hard? Would she even believe him?

Worse, their relationship was already strained. Just yesterday, he had lashed out—saying that even if every woman on earth vanished, he still wouldn't want her. And she had shot back that she had no interest in him either.

Did that mean she was truly in love with Gorman?

Before he could untangle his thoughts, Linsey had already stepped up to his desk.

She failed to notice the flicker of conflict in his eyes, thinking instead that he was ignoring her on purpose. Another misunderstanding took root.

Annoyance stirred in her chest, but it was her first day, and this was Dustin's office. She didn't want to make a scene and end up the laughingstock of the company. Swallowing her irritation, she asked evenly, "Where is Mr. Wade?"

Collin pulled himself from his thoughts, masking everything with cold indifference. “Why are you looking for him?”

Linsey placed the iced latte with whipped cream on his desk. Her tone was straightforward. “I bought afternoon tea for everyone. This one’s for Mr. Wade.”

Collin followed her gesture, his eyes falling on the drink. Almost instantly, his brows drew tight.

Collin was fully aware of Dustin’s cream allergy. But his focus was elsewhere at the moment.

“Only one?” he asked, raising an eyebrow.

Chapter 1400:

“No,” Linsey hurriedly corrected, misinterpreting his question. “I picked up a bunch of drinks.”

“Then why did you only bring one inside?”

Linsey responded promptly, her tone earnest. “One is plenty for Mr. Wade. Plus—”

Before she could finish explaining, Collin interrupted sharply, “What about me?” Iced lattes weren’t even his thing—what bothered him was that she had grabbed one for Dustin and overlooked him entirely.

His thoughts drifted to her words during Dustin’s interview, stirring another surge of irritation. Part of him regretted not revealing he was the company founder back then; it might have diffused some of this awkward tension.

Linsey caught his sullen look and thought to herself, “It’s just a drink, why is he so bent out of shape?”

Feeling a bit sheepish, she spoke up. “I didn’t know you would be around, or I would have gotten you one too. Do you want me to run out and grab another?”

As she turned to go, Collin’s voice halted her. “Don’t bother—I’ll have this one.” After all, Dustin couldn’t drink it because of his allergy—it would just go to waste otherwise. Taking it himself seemed like a practical move, sparing her effort from being pointless.

How thoughtful of him, right?

“No, you can’t take it!” Linsey whirled back, alarm flashing in her eyes. A coworker had told her Dustin loved iced lattes, and this was the last one available. If Collin took it, what would her idol drink?

But Collin seemed set on defying her. Before she could protest further, he took a deliberate gulp.

“Collin Riley!” Linsey shouted his full name, her voice brimming with outrage.

The drink’s artificial sweetness overwhelmed Collin’s palate, and his face contorted in disgust. “Don’t get this again. I hate it,” he said coolly, then added pointedly, “I prefer iced Americanos, no sugar.”

As if she cared about his drink preferences!

Her mind roared with frustration, her eyes prickling with unshed tears as she shook with anger. This was beyond infuriating—how could someone be so shameless? The drink wasn’t even for him, yet he disregarded her objection, stole a sip, and then had the nerve to criticize it.

Just then, Dustin’s arrival broke the tense standoff.

As the CEO, he was buried in work, having stayed up past midnight handling tasks. When Collin offered to come in today, Dustin eagerly offloaded a stack of projects and slipped away to catch up on rest.

Now refreshed, he emerged from the lounge, only to catch Linsey's furious outburst. Dustin paused mid-step, his gaze flickering between them in confusion. "What is happening here?" he asked, locking eyes with Linsey.

"Mr. Wade..." When she saw her idol, Linsey's throat tightened with emotion, tears threatening to spill. But she quickly bowed her head, brushed them away, and muttered, "It's nothing. I'll head out."

With a polite nod to Dustin, she turned and left.