

Marrying A Secret Zillionaire Happy Ever After

#Chapter 31 - Read Marrying A Secret Zillionaire Happy Ever After Chapter 31

Flatter Yourself

"I've already said this before-whatever we had is over. How long are you planning to keep clinging to me?"

Linsey's sharp words landed like a slap, and Felix felt something twist in his chest.

For the first time, panic flickered in his eyes. Was she serious? Was this really the end?

But Joanna, standing smugly nearby, wasn't convinced. With an exaggerated sigh, she interjected, "Linsey, come on. Who are you trying to fool? Everyone knows you've been crazy about Felix for years. You don't just stop loving someone

overnight."

Linsey almost laughed at how ridiculous Joanna sounded. How long was she going to keep up this pathetic act? "Joanna does any of this concern you? Seems like that slap I gave you last time didn't teach you a lesson. Want me to refresh your

memory?"

Without hesitation, she lifted her hand, ready to strike.

Joanna let out a startled shriek, stumbling back half a step, her face going pale.

The sting from last time was still fresh in her mind, and she had no intention of reliving it.

Felix, watching the scene unfold, barely recognized the woman in front of him. His patience snapped. "That's enough, Linsey! Is this really how you treat Joanna? What's wrong with you?"

Their heated argument had drawn attention, and by now, a small crowd had gathered at the entrance, eager to witness the

drama.

But Linsey couldn't care less. Unbothered by the curious stares, she scoffed, "Yeah, be I am crazy. So what? Want me to slap you too?"

Felix stiffened, a shiver running down his spine as he instinctively stepped back.

"Felix!" Joanna's voice trembled as she clung to his arm, her face drained of color.

The sound of her fear snapped Felix back to his senses. Straightening his shoulders, he stepped in front of her protectively. "Linsey, stop being so difficult. I get it—you're still upset about what happened. Let's talk about it at home. No need to

make a scene here."

His jaw tightened as he noticed the growing number of bystanders. The last thing he wanted was to be humiliated in public. Lowering his voice, he added, "You're here buying men's clothes. If they're not for me, then who else? Come on, don't be stubborn. Let's just go home."

Linsey let out a soft, amused snort, arching a brow as she responded smoothly, "Can't I buy them for my husband?"

Felix blinked in shock before a slow, knowing smile spread across his lips. "That's right—I am your husband. Linsey, whatever you're angry about, I'll make it up to you with an even bigger wedding."

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whatever you're angry about, I'll make it up to you with an even bigger wedding." Behind him, Joanna clenched her fists, her nails digging into her palms.

She seethed silently, "See? This is just Linsey's pathetic way of getting Felix's attention."

Linsey's lips curled in scorn. "Felix, don't flatter yourself. Who said my husband is you?"

Felix's confident expression faltered, a flicker of doubt crossing his face.

But Joanna recovered faster, letting out a sharp, incredulous laugh.

"Linsey, are you seriously claiming you're married? That your husband is someone else? Do you expect us to believe that?"

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Chapter 31 Felix, Don't Flatter Yourself

His smirk turned smug as his gaze swept over her. "Everyone knows you would never marry anyone but me. You love me too much-how could you possibly belong to another man?"

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Chapter 32 She's My

Girlfriend!

Linsey was at a loss for words, baffled by the sheer audacity of Felix's delusions.

She glanced at her phone, checking the time.

She had already wasted too much of her day dealing with Felix and Joanna.

"If you don't want to believe me, that's your problem. Now move." Without another glance, Linsey stepped past them, ready

to leave.

Felix's chest tightened, and before he could stop himself, he blocked her path. "Linsey, how long are you going to drag this

out?"

Impatience laced his words, but beneath his frustration, something else simmered-an unease he couldn't shake.

There was something about the way Linsey spoke, the absolute certainty in her voice.

His instincts told him she wasn't just saying this out of spite.

But his pride refused to accept it.

Linsey loved him. She always had. There was no way another man had taken his place.

Clenching his jaw, he forced his doubts aside and said in a low, commanding tone, "Linsey, my patience is wearing thin.

You're coming home with me today, whether you like it or not."

"Get lost!" Linsey snapped, exasperation flaring in her eyes. "I am going home-my home. What does that have to do with

you?"

Felix's expression turned ice-cold, his voice dropping as he warned, "Linsey, don't push your luck."

She gave him a slow, scrutinizing once-over before scoffing. "Oh? What now? You're mad? Thinking of punishing me? Who do you think you are, Felix?"

She then urged impatiently, "Move. You're in my way."

Seeing that she was serious about leaving, Felix swallowed his frustration and tried to reason with her. "Linsey, you're just

saying all this to piss me off, right? Fine, I admit it. You got under my skin. Now, let's stop this nonsense and go home."

Without waiting for an answer, he reached out, grabbing her wrist forcefully.

Linsey recoiled instantly, yanking her arm free as if his touch was something vile. "Don't touch me!" she snapped. "If you don't stop harassing me, I'm calling the police!"

Her voice was sharp and clear, drawing the attention of the onlookers.

Excitement buzzed through the crowd.

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Chapter 32 She's My Girlfriend!

"Are they really gonna take this to the cops?"

"Oh wow, what's happening?"

"That guy doesn't look trustworthy. He gives off a domestic abuser vibe."

Felix's head snapped toward the man who made the comment, his glare sharp enough to cut.

The passerby flinched, pressing a hand to his chest as if to steady himself. "See?

I told you! He's got a violent streak!"

"Yeah, I agree. A total disgrace to men everywhere."

"Wait, isn't there another woman next to him? What's her deal?"

"Isn't it obvious? That's his side chick."

"A side chick and he's chasing after another woman? What a sleazebag."

"He probably just likes the pretty one more."

As the murmurs grew wilder, Felix's face darkened with humiliation.

Grinding his teeth, he pointed accusingly at Linsey and snapped, "Quit making up stories! She's my girlfriend!"

Linsey shot back without hesitation, her voice ringing out loud and clear. "He's lying! You're all smart enough to see the

truth. I have a husband. I came here today to buy clothes for him, and this man keeps blocking my way. He thinks I'm an

easy target just because I'm alone!"

Her words ignited instant outrage among the crowd.

"Come over here! Don't let him harass you!"

"What a creep, going after any pretty woman he sees. Absolutely disgusting."

"Just call the cops, ma'am. We'll back you up, and the store's cameras have it all on tape."

One after another, voices rose in agreement, condemning Felix without

hesitation. His face burned with humiliation, and

for once, he was at a complete loss for words.

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Chapter 33 She's The One Lying

Joanna couldn't stay silent any longer as the onlookers' remarks became increasingly absurd. She felt she had to speak up

for Felix.

"Everyone, you've got it all wrong. He's not harassing this woman-they're actually a couple," she argued, her tone firm as she shot a disapproving look at Linsey. "She's the one lying. The truth is, they held a wedding not too long ago."

Linsey let out a sharp laugh, her expression icy. "You might want to watch what you say. You and this guy showed up together to block my way. And look at you, standing so close to him-if you're claiming I'm his girlfriend, then what exactly are you to him?"

She arched an eyebrow, feigning curiosity. "Are you so devoted to him that you're out here helping him chase after another woman? Or are you suggesting I take on the role of the mistress? Because from where I'm standing, it sure seems like

that's your job."

The crowd, always hungry for juicy gossip, widened their eyes at the implication. Within moments, their judgmental gazes

shifted toward Joanna.

"My, my. I knew something felt off about her-so she's the other woman."

"Oh, I get it now! This guy cheated on this gorgeous lady, and now he's regretting it, so he's here, begging for her back."

"That's exactly what's happening! Just look at his guilty face."

People had seen enough real-life scandals to piece the story together in an instant.

Some dramas were even juicier than fiction.

Joanna, stunned by how quickly Linsey had turned the crowd against her, burned with frustration. She wanted to fight back, but the flood of accusations left her flustered.

"Stop making things up! I'm not the other woman!" Joanna seethed.

"Yeah, yeah. That's exactly what a side chick would say."

"Seriously, what's a young woman like you doing with someone else's man?"

"I don't get it. Why are you still clinging to him? He already dumped his ex, yet you're still following him around, pestering this pretty lady. What's the point? Just walk away already."

One concerned shopper pulled out their phone and called mall security. "That's enough. Security's on the way."

Within seconds, a group of uniformed guards rushed over, their presence instantly shifting the crowd's energy.

The entrance had grown too crowded, disrupting the mall's order. Since they couldn't forcefully clear out innocent bystanders, the guards zeroed in on the source of the chaos-Felix and Joanna

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Chapter 33 She's The One Lying

"Sir, it's these two causing the commotion," a woman reported eagerly, pointing at them. "They blocked this young lady's

way and tried to drag her off. Isn't that attempted kidnapping?"

Felix's patience snapped. His voice rose in frustration. "What the hell?

Kidnapping? She's my girlfriend!"

A man in the crowd snorted. "You liar. She already said she has a husband."

Felix turned to Linsey, his jaw tightening as he growled, "Linsey, cut the act and tell them the truth. Or you're gonna regret

this."

The crowd erupted at his words, their outrage boiling over.

"Did you hear that?" someone shouted. "He just threatened her! What a scumbag! This is insane! Security, take him to the police! That's the only way he'll learn his lesson!"

"Yeah! We don't need guys like that around! Get them out of here!"

The fury of the crowd gave Felix and Joanna no room to defend themselves.

Before they could so much as protest, security, now acting on overwhelming complaints, swiftly stepped in and escorted them out of the mall.

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Chapter 34 Why Aren't You

Home Yet

Seeing Felix and Joanna finally escorted out in disgrace, Linsey exhaled, the tension in her shoulders easing.

She turned to the bystanders who had defended her. Several older women offered her knowing looks and firm advice.

"Young lady, don't go soft on that kind of man. Once a jerk, always a jerk."

"That's right. Married or not, never look back."

"When you choose a partner, make sure you see him for who he really is before giving your heart away."

Linsey forced a small, wry smile but nodded obediently. "I appreciate it. I'll keep that in mind."

As the crowd slowly dispersed, a warmth settled in her chest. The kindness of these strangers-people who had no reason to care-soothed the bitterness Felix and Joanna had left behind.

She had been an orphan her whole life. No parents had ever given her such words of wisdom.

For years, she had poured all her love, all her dreams, into Felix, believing he could give her the warmth of a real family.

But reality had been cruel.

She had wasted five years on him-five years that had taught her the hard way that Felix would never be the man she had hoped for.

No matter what, she would never go back to him.

If he dared to show up in her life again, she wouldn't hesitate to put him in his place, just like today. And if words weren't enough, she wouldn't hold back from taking action.

Her threats hadn't been just for show.

Just then, her phone rang, snapping her from her thoughts.

She glanced at the caller ID-Collin.

"Hello." She answered, already making her way toward the mall exit.

Collin's voice was steady as he said, "It's late. Why aren't you home yet? Still caught up with work?"

Linsey adjusted her bag on her shoulder and answered softly, "I'm at the mall. Something came up and delayed me. I'm heading back now."

He didn't press for details. Instead, he said, "Send me the mall's address. I'll send a car for you."

Surprised by the offer, she instinctively replied, "That's not necessary. I can just take the bus home."

For a moment, there was only silence on the other end. When Collin finally spoke, his tone was heavier.

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Chapter 34 Why Aren't You Home Yet

"It's dark. It's not safe for you to be out alone."

She glanced through the glass doors of the mall. The streets outside were dimly lit, shadows stretching across the pavement.

Realizing he had a point, she didn't argue further. A small, involuntary smile formed on her lips. "Okay."

When she had first moved into Vista Villa, Collin had been distant-cold, almost indifferent.

But now, he was showing concern for her.

Maybe things between them were beginning to change.

Not long after they ended the call, a message popped up on her phone. The car had arrived.

She stepped outside, heading toward the roadside parking area.

Before she got close, a small crowd caught her attention. Several girls were huddled together, chatting excitedly.

"The window rolled down for a second, and I swear, the guy inside is ridiculously handsome!"

"Not just that-his whole aura is something else."

"Am I the only one staring at the car? I looked it up, and even if I worked my whole life, I don't think I could afford it..."

"There are so many rich people in Grester. I wonder who he is. I've never heard of him before."

Linsey's eyes drifted toward the sleek car they were admiring. It was the one Collin had sent. The license plate matched the one in his text.

Her heart skipped a beat.

Chapter 35 Why Did You

Come Yourself

Linsey approached the car, conscious of the curious gazes following her every step. She lightly tapped on the rear window.

The door swiftly swung open, and Collin's figure came into view.

"I saw him! I saw him again! He's even more handsome up close!"

Another excited whisper rose from behind her.

"That gorgeous woman and that stunning man-they have to be a couple, right? They look perfect together!"

"Forget their love story. I'm more jealous of their wealth."

For once, Linsey found her sharp hearing to be a curse. The murmurs made her uneasy, so she quickly slipped into the car and shut the door, sealing herself away from the prying eyes and chatter.

Inside, she turned to Collin. The soft glow from the car's interior light illuminated his face. A laptop rested on his lap, his fingers lightly tapping the keyboard as he remained immersed in his work, seemingly indifferent to the commotion outside.

"Drive," Collin instructed.

"Yes, Mr. Riley," the driver responded, and the car smoothly merged into the flow of traffic.

Linsey hesitated to speak, not wanting to interrupt him.

Yet, she couldn't stop herself from watching him-his sharp features, his unwavering focus.

Collin had always been perceptive of people's gazes, and naturally, he noticed her lingering stare.

If it had been anyone else, he would have ignored it and continued working.

But something about Linsey's eyes felt different, as if her gaze carried an invisible hook, lightly tugging at something inside him, keeping him from concentrating. Unable to disregard it any longer, he finally turned to her. "Why are you staring at me?"

She blinked in surprise, not expecting him to catch on so quickly.

A bit flustered, she reasoned that as his wife, it wasn't strange for her to look at him.

Holding onto that thought, she steadied herself and replied, "I was just curious. Why did you come yourself? I thought you

were only sending the driver."

Collin let out a short, cold chuckle, as if he found her words amusing. "What's wrong? Am I not allowed to pick up my own

wife?"

His tone was distant, matching his usual aloofness.

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Chapter 35 Why Did You Come Yourself

Yet, beneath the indifference, Linsey caught a trace of something else—something that felt an awful lot like concern.

So, Collin was finally acknowledging her as his wife.

That realization brought an unexpected flicker of joy. Then she remembered the shopping bag in her hand and quickly added, "Oh, I got you something. Try it on when we get home and see if you like it."

Collin's gaze shifted to the bag she held, curiosity flickering in his eyes.

So she hadn't just been out to pass the time—she had gone to the mall specifically to buy something for him.

A small, barely-there smile tugged at his lips, though it vanished just as quickly.

"Alright. We'll see when we get home," he replied, keeping his tone deliberately casual.

Linsey's eyes lit up. "Okay. Let's go home."

She was in high spirits, unaware that elsewhere, two people were in a completely different mood.

Felix and Joanna stood frozen outside the mall, still in disbelief.

Just moments ago, they had watched Linsey climb into a luxury car and drive off.

Even now, with the car long gone, they remained rooted to the spot, stunned. Linsey had gotten into another man's car.

Seriously?

Could it be that she had been telling the truth all along? That she really was married?

And not just to anyone—but to a man who was both incredibly handsome and unquestionably successful?

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Chapter 36 Has Linsey

Come Out Yet

Before Linsey even stepped out of the mall, the luxury car was already parked outside.

The moment the rear window lowered slightly, Joanna's eyes locked onto the man inside, unable to look away.

In all her years in Grester, she had never seen a man with such striking features.

As he glanced toward the mall, he casually lifted his wrist, checking the time on his watch.

Every subtle movement of his sent a ripple through her chest.

The air of refinement and authority he carried was something far beyond the reach of ordinary people.

He was way out of Felix's league.

"What are you staring at? Has Linsey come out yet?" Felix's voice broke through her daze; he was oblivious to the fact that Joanna had been completely captivated by another man.

His mind was too preoccupied with one thing-when Linsey would appear.

And then, as if on cue, she did.

"Linsey!" Felix called out, his voice filled with excitement as he instinctively moved forward, ready to stop her.

Joanna snapped back to her senses and quickly grabbed his arm, her grip firm. "Felix, don't do anything rash. There are too many people here. I don't want security throwing us out again."

Even as she spoke, both of them watched as Linsey strode straight toward the luxury car and slipped inside.

"Linsey, she..." Felix's breath hitched, his eyes widening in shock. Since when had she gotten involved with someone like

that?

Joanna was just as stunned, her mind racing. Then, she suddenly recalled what Linsey had said to them back at the store.

Her voice came out uneven. "Linsey said she's married. Could that man in the car... be her husband?"

Her mind reeled as Collin's image surfaced again. He was exceptional in every way-and he was Linsey's husband!

The more Joanna dwelled on it, the more her anger simmered. How did Linsey, of all people, end up with a man like that?

He was wealthy, young, and infuriatingly handsome-everything Joanna had ever dreamed of.

Her teeth clenched as jealousy twisted inside her, the bitterness so strong it nearly made her want to wring Linsey's neck.

Linsey had walked away from Felix and somehow landed such an extraordinary man. Just who did she think she was?

Beside her, Felix stood frozen, struggling to make sense of what he had just witnessed.

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Chapter 36 Has Linsey Come Out Yet

His gut told him that Linsey was only putting on a show to get under his skin.

But then he remembered the way her face had lit up when she saw that man-that smile. That pure, unguarded smile.

Felix had been with Linsey for five years. He knew she was breathtaking, a woman unlike any other. She was gentle,

thoughtful, always putting him first.

But there was one thing about her that had never satisfied him.

She had always drawn a line, insisting on marriage before intimacy.

He had rushed to propose and planned an entire wedding-just so he could finally have her.

But then, everything had fallen apart.

For years, Linsey had smiled at him, but never like that-never with such warmth, such joy that made her eyes sparkle with

life.

That man had taken something Felix had never been able to reach.

The thought of Linsey looking at someone else that way sent a searing pain through his chest.

How could she? How could she just walk away and smile like that for another man?

She was his. And he wasn't about to let her go.

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Felix's chest rose and fell with suppressed rage, his jaw tightening as he demanded, "Who is that guy? I gotta everything about him. Now."

Joanna stiffened at the fury in his voice, her pulse quickening.

Was he this worked up over Linsey?

The realization sent a wave of unease crashing over her. Felix still cared. He still wanted Linsey.

A bitter resentment coiled in her chest as she thought, "There's no way I'm letting that bitch win."

Her eyes darkened with malice. If Linsey was bold enough to string along two men, then she deserved to be exposed. And if she was lucky, that mysterious man would see Linsey for who she truly was and toss her aside without hesi

Inside the car, Linsey's mind replayed the encounter at the mall.

Running into Felix and Joanna had been unexpected, but now that it had happened, she figured Collin had a right to

He was her husband, after all.

Taking a breath, she turned to him. "Collin-"

Before she could finish, the car came to a sudden, jarring stop, slamming her forward with alarming force.

A startled gasp left her lips, bracing for impact, but before she could hit anything, a firm grip yanked her backward.

Collin's arms wrapped around her, steady and unwavering, pulling her against his chest. His voice, low and deep, rumbled beside her ear. "Be careful."

She froze for a split second before it hit her-she was pressed tightly against Collin.

As awareness settled in, she inhaled the crisp, invigorating scent clinging to him, reminiscent of a winter forest.

It carried the essence of icy mountain air intertwined with the earthy freshness of snow-draped evergreens, a soot fragrance that sent an inexplicable sense of calm through her.

But beneath that calm, her heart pounded so violently it felt like it might break free from her chest, each heavy th

echoing in her ears.

Collin's voice, deep and controlled, sliced through the tense silence. "What happened? Why the sudden stop?"

The driver, his voice laced with unease, quickly explained, "A stray cat darted onto the road. I almost hit it."

Linsey blinked in confusion, her breath caught in her throat as she remained within Collin's embrace.

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Chapter 37 You Weren't This Reserved Last Night

"I see. Keep driving," Collin said evenly.

"Understood."

The car eased forward again.

A stillness settled over them, broken only when Collin's low voice drifted above her head.

"Linsey, how long do you plan to stay in my arms?"

Her breath hitched, and in an instant, she scrambled to create space between them, mortified.

It wasn't until she moved that she realized she had been gripping his shirt, her fingers curled into the fabric without even noticing.

Heat rushed to her face, her hands clenching awkwardly as she struggled for something-anything-to say.

"Jewell, your reflexes are really impressive," she blurted after a long pause. "You hit the brakes so smoothly and saved that cat. Nice work."

From the front seat, Jewell Ellsworth stole a quick glance at the rearview mirror, noting Collin's unreadable expression before replying with a good-natured chuckle. "Thank you, Mrs. Riley. Years of experience on the road have sharpened my instincts."

Linsey forced a light laugh, attempting to shake off the awkwardness.

Collin, his face unreadable, lifted his head slightly. "Jewell, focus on the road."

"Of course, sir," Jewell responded at once.

Linsey bit her lip, sticking out her tongue in embarrassment before quickly turning away, pretending to be completely absorbed in the passing scenery.

Collin wasn't fooled. He knew exactly what was running through her mind. A quiet chuckle escaped him before he drawled, his voice laced with amusement,

"Feeling shy now? You weren't this reserved last night."

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Chapter 37 You Weren't This Reserved Last Night

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Chapter 38 Undress You

The next moment, Jewell quietly raised the partition inside the car.

Linsey hesitated, her gaze flicking to Collin, confusion knitting her brows. "Did something happen last night?" Her voice

barely rose above a whisper.

She bit her lip, her tone turning more uncertain. "You seemed... off this morning. Did I do something wrong? I swear, I don't remember anything."

Collin's jaw tightened, his expression shadowed by something sharp and unreadable. "You don't remember trying to undress me?" His voice was low, edged with mockery.

The sarcasm stung. Linsey blinked, stunned, pointing to herself in disbelief.

"Me?" Her voice cracked. "Undress you?" She shook her head furiously, as if trying to physically erase the accusation. "No.

No way. I-I'd never do something like that."

As soon as the words left her mouth, Linsey saw Collin's expression darken, shadows pooling in his eyes.

She hesitated, fingers tugging at the hem of her sleeve. "I mean it. I don't remember anything," she murmured, doubt

creeping into her voice. "Someone once told me I'm not great with alcohol, so maybe... maybe I lost control last night."

Collin's head snapped toward her, his eyes narrowing with a sharp, dangerous glint. "Really? So getting drunk and acting

out is something you've done before?"

Linsey faltered, realizing she might've crossed a line. Her voice softened, almost apologetic. "I used to drink with my

roommates sometimes, but after one bad night, they never let me near alcohol again."

She forced a weak laugh, though it barely scratched the tension. "But I don't think I ever undressed them."

Collin's gaze didn't waver, his silence pressing down on her like a weight.

She didn't mention her ex-boyfriend, though the history between them stretched over years.

They had likely shared more than just drinks-those reckless, restless years had left room for moments far more intimate.

Collin knew those thoughts were reasonable-maybe even inevitable. But the image of Linsey with someone else clawed at

him, jealousy tightening in his chest like a vice.

Beside him, Linsey sensed the shift, tension radiating from him like heat off asphalt.

She didn't understand why her words had made things worse. Tentatively, she reached out, her voice soft and uncertain. "Collin... what is it? Tell me, is something wrong?"

That nagging question twisted in her gut-had she done something even worse last night?

Collin inhaled slowly, deliberately, before his voice cut through the silence-cold and edged. "From now on, don't drink

with others."

The weight of his disapproval pressed down on her, heavy and suffocating. Instinctively, she nodded. "Okay, I understand."

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Chapter 38 Undress You

But the question lingered, thick and unspoken: Why couldn't she remember what had happened?

The thought that she might have taken advantage of him against his will, however unintentionally, left her hollow and

unsettled.

The rest of the ride passed in tense silence, the air thick with words left unsaid.

Soon, they arrived at Vista Villa. Linsey hesitated by the car door, unsure how to help without overstepping. Before she

could decide, Jewell was already there, smoothly positioning the wheelchair and assisting Collin into it.

Linsey hurried to follow, stepping in behind him. "Let me push you inside," she offered.

"There's no need." Collin's tone was flat. His gaze shifted to Jewell, who wordlessly stepped forward and took hold of the wheelchair handles.

Collin cast Linsey a detached glance, his voice cool and distant. "It's late. You should eat. I have important matters to handle in the study."

He was going to the study again.

She watched him go, the distance between them feeling less like space and more like a wall she couldn't climb.

She stood there, rooted in uncertainty, until the butler approached with gentle urgency. "Mrs. Riley, are you all right? It's cold outside. Please, come in."

His voice cut through her spiraling thoughts. She blinked, as if waking from a trance, then gave a small nod and followed him inside.

As they walked, she hesitated before speaking, her voice barely above a whisper. "Do you know what happened last night? I... I might've done something terrible after drinking too much. That's why Collin's upset, isn't it?"

Guilt laced her words. "He won't tell me what I did, and now I don't even know how to apologize."

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Chapter 39 I Must've Upset Collin

The butler hesitated for a moment before letting out a quiet chuckle. "Mrs. Riley, you're overthinking it. If you'd really done something to upset Mr. Riley, he wouldn't be acting like this."

Linsey sensed there was more beneath his words. Her gaze sharpened as she studied the butler, waiting for him to

elaborate.

"There was an incident at a party once. A guy had a little too much to drink and decided to test his luck with Mr. Riley." He stopped there, his expression unreadable.

Linsey's curiosity flared. "What did that guy say?"

The butler met her eyes, his face suddenly serious. "He mocked Mr. Riley for losing his legs..... and for being unwanted by the Riley family. These are common whispers among the elite."

His voice darkened as he continued, "That man even dumped an entire bottle of red wine over Mr. Riley and sneered that he'd only let him off if he got down on his knees and begged."

Linsey's chest tightened. She had never imagined that Collin had suffered such blatant humiliation.

"Collin was insulted like that? In front of everyone?" Her voice was barely above a whisper. "What did he do?"

The butler's tone remained measured. "That man belonged to high society as well, but his status was nowhere near the Riley family's. Even so, the Rileys did nothing to defend Mr. Riley."

His eyes darkened as he added, "Later, Mr. Riley made sure that man's hands and feet would never work properly again. From that day on, he ended up just like Mr. Riley."

Collin had crippled the man.

Linsey's breath caught as a cold chill crept through her. Her lips parted slightly in shock, and a flicker of unease flashed in

her eyes.

"The incident became the talk of the city," the butler said in an eerily calm voice. "Eventually, the Riley family cut ties with Mr. Riley, and he's been living here ever since."

His expression remained neutral, yet Linsey felt an icy weight settle in her chest. Her thoughts swirled chaotically. It struck her then—she barely knew Collin at all. The man at the party had certainly gone too far, but Linsey knew she could never have treated Collin that way.

She truly respected him. She had never once looked down on him because of his disability.

Collin couldn't move like others, but that wasn't his fault—he had been a victim.

The Riley family had already cast him aside because of his condition. Retaliating against such public humiliation had been

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Chapter 39 I Must've Upset Collin

more than justified.

So what had she done last night to put him in a bad mood?

She couldn't stop herself from turning to the butler for help. "I must've upset Collin. How can I make it up to him?"

The butler hesitated before answering frankly, "I'm afraid I don't know, Mrs. Riley. I've worked here for years, and I've never seen anyone truly figure out what he's thinking. But since he hasn't sent you away, I don't believe he dislikes you.

After all, he personally went to pick you up today."

His lips curved into a gentle smile as he added, "Maybe you should take the first step, Mrs. Riley. If you show him sincerity,

I'm sure he'll notice."

Linsey blinked and then glanced down at the shopping bag in her hand.

That was right. She hadn't shown Collin the clothes she had bought for him yet.

Without wasting another second, she grabbed the bag and headed straight for his study.

Just as she lifted her hand to knock, voices drifted through the door.

"Mr. Riley, the plans for this season are ready. Which ones do you think we should approve?"

Collin's tone was cold and dismissive. "They're all garbage. Send them back and have them redone."

A brief silence followed before the subordinate spoke again. "The deadline is coming up fast."

The next second, Collin let out a sharp sneer. "CR Corporation is a major company. Are all the employees completely incompetent? If they can't get the

job done on time, fire them."

Linsey's eyes widened in shock. Had she just misheard?

Did Collin just say... CR Corporation?

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Chapter 40 How Much Did

You Hear

Could Collin be connected to CR Corporation?

Linsey was still processing the shock when the study door suddenly opened.

Collin's subordinate stood at the entrance, momentarily startled at the sight of her. "Mrs. Riley?"

Seated at his desk, Collin immediately noticed her as well. His expression shifted slightly, and his deep voice cut through

the silence. "Why are you here?"

Linsey's heart raced. She hadn't caught the full details of their conversation, but she couldn't deny that she had overheard

them.

Collin's subordinate glanced at him, then wisely stepped aside and slipped out of the room without another word.

Linsey lifted the shopping bag in her hand and forced a casual tone. "I got you something at the mall. Did you forget?"

Collin frowned. How could he refuse her when she had gone to the mall just to buy him a gift? After a brief pause, he

sighed and said, "Come in and close the door."

Linsey shut the door and walked toward him.

Just as she was about to hand him the bag, he asked, "When did you get here?"

Linsey hesitated, caught off guard. She met his deep gaze and blurted out, "Not long ago..."

Collin studied her intently. "How much did you hear?"

He had been discussing matters related to CR Corporation with his subordinate. If she had heard everything, she would find

out that he was the mysterious founder of CR Corporation.

Linsey thought back to the fragments of conversation she had caught. Curiosity sparked in her eyes.

"I heard you mention CR Corporation, but not the details." She tilted her head slightly. "Collin, do you have business

dealings with them?"

Collin didn't answer and instead asked, "What do you think?"

Linsey blinked, caught off guard. Her first instinct had been to connect him to the mysterious founder of CR Corporation.

But then, logic pushed the thought aside. CR Corporation had been expanding aggressively in Grester. If Collin was really capable of building such a powerhouse from the ground up, how could he have been abandoned at the wedding by his

bride?

If he wielded that kind of power, the Riley family wouldn't have cast him aside or sent him to live here in isolation.

The idea felt improbable. She dismissed it and considered another possibility instead.

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Chapter 40 How Much Did You Hear

"You said you owed a hundred million dollars. Is it related to CR Corporation?"

she guessed, watching him closely.

Collin's expression didn't change, but inwardly, he exhaled in relief.

It seemed she hadn't heard much.

"More or less," he replied casually.

Hearing his response, Linsey let out a bitter smile.

So, in the end, they were both working for CR Corporation. How pitiful.

The thought that all the hard-earned money she made from CR Corporation would eventually funnel right back to it left her feeling defeated.

But she quickly shook off the gloom and turned her attention to Collin.

She wanted to ask why he owed CR Corporation such an enormous sum but decided against it. The last thing she wanted was to upset him.

Instead, she forced a smile and changed the subject. "Collin, let's not think about that for now. Why don't you try on what I just bought for you?"

She placed the bag on his lap.

Collin's expression softened slightly. He opened the bag and pulled out a set of men's clothing, his brow arching in mild surprise.

Linsey nudged him encouragingly. "Come on. Try it on."

But Collin remained seated in his wheelchair, unmoving.

Puzzled, Linsey frowned. "What's wrong? Why aren't you changing? You don't like it?"

Collin let out a small chuckle and asked in an amused tone, "Are you just going to stand there and watch me change?"

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