

Zillionaire 311

Chapter 311 It Really Is You!

Arthur chuckled warmly, his eyes twinkling with amusement. "Linsey, I just gave a whole speech in front of everyone. Did you seriously not hear a single word?"

Flushed with embarrassment, Linsey's cheeks turned a soft pink. "I apologize, Mr. Flores," she stammered, her voice tinged

with unease. "I must admit, I was rather taken aback."

Waving her concerns away with a reassuring smile, Arthur responded with confidence, "Not to worry, you can rely on me.

I would never fail to recognize a dress I crafted myself. What you're wearing is, without a doubt, a piece I created two years

back. It's truly an honor to see it gracing someone as radiant as you."

"Thank you," Linsey murmured, her gratitude reflecting in her warm smile.

Yet, curiosity furrowed her brow as she ventured further, "But if this dress is indeed your creation, why did you initially

suggest there was something amiss when you first saw me tonight? I was quite startled, fearing I might have worn an

imitation by mistake."

Arthur's expression shifted to one of rapid reassurance. "Oh, no, no. I was caught off guard seeing the dress in its finished state for the first time, especially after those alterations.

He paused, gathering his thoughts. "When I originally designed this dress, I was thoroughly pleased with the outcome. However, a mysterious buyer acquired it not long after and hinted at possible changes. Considering her generous offer, I consented without hesitation."

Arthur appraised Linsey's attire, his eyes gleaming with evident satisfaction as he gazed at her dress. Without a moment's hesitation, he presumed she was the mysterious buyer. "The finished version looks absolutely stunning on you. I heard you guys majored in design, and judging by your work, you've got some serious talent!" he remarked, his tone tinged with a mix of surprise and admiration.

Linsey, however, grew increasingly bewildered with every word. She hadn't altered the dress in the slightest.

Could it have been Collin who had secretly modified the dress? And more intriguingly, was he the mysterious buyer of Arthur's creation?

At this moment, whether Collin had tweaked the dress became irrelevant-Linsey had long recognized his knack for design.

Yet, the true shock came with the sudden realization that Collin had the financial means to acquire such a pricey piece.

This dress bore a price tag in the millions!

Attempting to steady her fluttering heart, Linsey managed a response, her voice a blend of confusion and curiosity. "This dress... actually, it was a gift from my husband. But, it's baffling-there's no way he could afford something as lavish as this. Honestly, I'm completely thrown off by this..."

Arthur, perplexed by Linsey's evident concern, shrugged and suggested nonchalantly, "Why don't you just talk to your husband about it when you get home?"

He didn't dwell on the matter, instead quickly wrapping up their conversation. "Alright, Linsey, I really must be going. Let's

catch up another time if we can."

With a brief wave, he hurried off, leaving Linsey alone with her tumultuous thoughts.

Standing motionless, Linsey felt a whirlwind of confusion engulf her.

Time seemed to stretch into infinity as she grappled with her emotions. Finally, taking a deep, steadying breath, she took out her phone from her purse, her fingers trembling slightly.

Arthur's words echoed in her mind: she needed to confront Collin directly about her doubts.

Just as Linsey's thumb hovered over Collin's contact, ready to dial, a familiar voice sliced through her haze of indecision.

"Linsey? Is that you?"

Startled, Linsey looked up to see a familiar face breaking into a warm smile.

"Shari!" she exclaimed, her own face mirroring Shari's surprise and delight.

Shari stepped closer, her smile broadening. "It really is you! For a moment there, I thought I was seeing things."

Chapter 312 Have You Been Dieting

Shari's gaze lingered on Linsey's ensemble, an admiring smile playing on her lips as she remarked, "Linsey, it's been a long time, and you've only grown more stunning."

Linsey replied, her eyes lighting up with excitement, "Shari! You've finally arrived! I've been eagerly waiting here for what

feels like forever."

She stepped forward and enveloped Shari's hand in a warm, earnest handshake.

Shari paused, her expression a mix of surprise and nostalgia, as if Linsey's gentle touch had transported her back through

the years.

As she observed Shari's now slender face, Linsey's eyes softened with concern. She reached out, her fingers brushing

against Shari's shoulder-length hair.

Shari used to have such long hair back in college. Linsey found herself curious about when she had decided to go for the

short look.

"You've lost quite a bit of weight," Linsey noted, her tone light yet laced with worry. "Have you been dieting?"

With a playful nudge, Linsey ushered Shari forward. "Come on, let's heads in. Everyone's pitched in for tonight's feast-we

should make sure we enjoy it to the fullest!"

Shari's spirits visibly lifted, her enthusiasm catching up to Linsey's vibrant energy. "Absolutely, let's go!"

Linking arms with Shari affectionately, Linsey guided them towards the private dining room. "Honestly, if Kane hadn't assured me you were coming, I might have thought you'd skip out on us."

Shari let out a sigh, a gentle note in her voice as she explained, "I'm sorry for the delay-my little one was having a tough night, and my mom was overwhelmed. It took a while to soothe my child."

Linsey nodded and gently ushered Shari to an empty seat, her hand lightly touching Shari's shoulder.

The moment Shari entered, a wave of surprise rippled through the room, her arrival prompting raised eyebrows and

stealthy glances among the students.

Wait, Shari actually came? And Linsey was the one who brought her along?

Although taken aback, everyone managed to mask their astonishment with bright, albeit slightly strained, smiles.

"Hey Shari, it's been ages! How've you been?"

"Come, join us and grab a bite."

Despite the warm welcomes, a veil of awkwardness soon descended upon the group, the weight of a recent unsettling event still lingering in the air, unspoken but palpable.

Shari, with her keen sense of the room's dynamics, tilted her head slightly and inquired with a hint of concern, "Is

something wrong?"

Kane, caught off-guard but recovering quickly, flashed her a reassuring smile and waved his hand dismissively. "Oh, don't

worry about it. Shari, you got here late, so you're probably hungry. Help yourself to some food. We've got juice too!"

Kane's declaration seemed to cast a veil of pretense over the crowd, each one subtly shifting to play along with the unspoken agreement to ignore the tension.

Shari, sensing the undercurrents, chose to dismiss her uneasy thoughts, assuming she was just being paranoid.

Linsey's gaze meandered through the crowd, pausing when she realized Kristy was conspicuously absent.

Had Kristy fled the scene in a flush of embarrassment, or was it something else?

Dismissing the thought with a practiced ease, Linsey redirected her attention to Shari, pulling her into a warm, welcoming

conversation.

"It's really been too long, hasn't it? Seeing you here lights up the room for me," Linsey exclaimed, her eyes sparkling with

genuine delight. Leaning in, she confided in a hushed tone, her breath tickling Shari's ear. "Honestly, I almost skipped this gathering, but when Kane mentioned you'd be here, I couldn't stay away."

Shari's laughter, light and liberating, filled the air as she found herself easing into the comfort of old friendship.

"I actually checked with Kane too, just to make sure you'd be here. It's a relief to have a familiar face in the crowd. Really,

you're making tonight so much easier for me," she admitted, her voice tinged with heartfelt sincerity.

Linsey responded with a gentle squeeze of Shari's hand, her touch comforting, "Hey, let's drop the formalities and just

enjoy our time, okay?"

As she chatted, she casually picked up a piece of strawberry cake and offered it

to Shari. "Here, have some. You used to love this, right?"

Chapter 313 Thank You, Linsey

As Shari caught sight of an extra slice of strawberry cake adorning her plate, a sudden tightness clutched her throat.

She fought to contain the surge of emotions, casting a wary glance towards Linsey, hoping her distress remained unnoticed. "Thank you, Linsey," she murmured, her voice a whisper of gratitude tinged with nostalgia.

Strawberry cake had once been her favorite.

The two of them lost themselves in conversation, their laughter mingling with the clink of cutlery and the occasional bite of food. They were enveloped in a cozy, convivial bubble, seemingly untouched by the world around them.

Yet, their interaction didn't go unnoticed, stirring a mix of emotions among the onlookers.

"Would you look at that? Shari and Linsey are still as close as ever. I would have thought they'd have drifted apart after losing touch for so long."

"Damn, Shari really hit the jackpot. If I had defended Linsey back then, maybe I'd have that kind of bond with her too."

"Regretting now won't change anything. Whether it was a coincidence or not, Shari walked in right after all the drama. Her timing couldn't have been better."

"You're absolutely right. If Shari had been around from the start, do you think she would have confronted Kristy in defense

of Linsey?"

"Given Shari's reserved and timid nature, it's unlikely she would have ever taken a stand for Linsey. Yet, Linsey remains. loyal. Even after all these years since they graduated, she still greets Shari with such warmth."

"Now that Shari's hit a rough patch and rekindled her friendship with Linsey, it's only a matter of time before Linsey helps. her navigate through her troubles."

As the crowd subtly lauded Linsey, Beth, who had been stewing in her thoughts for some time, couldn't contain her irritation. She scoffed under her breath, "Please, Linsey's not as great as you all make her out to be. Stop sucking up."

"Enough, Beth! Just shut up, will you?" one of them snapped, their frustration evident. "For God's sake, it's right there! How can you not see it? Look at the designer dress Linsey's wearing. It's clear her husband adores her. You and Kristy are so fixated on Collin's disability, but he's still part of the Riley family. Do you have any idea how much wealth he manages?"

"Totally agree. I don't think Collin's situation is as dire as the rumors make it out to be. At least he's got a good heart when it comes to Linsey. As for helping Shari, Linsey could pull that off without even trying."

"Beth, I think it's just envy eating at you because of Linsey's blissful marriage. Come on, when are you going to land a wealthy partner and make the rest of us jealous?"

"You all!" Beth's voice crackled with fury. Standing before her former classmates after years apart, she noted their newfound eloquence and it stung.

Feeling cornered and outnumbered, Beth struggled to muster a clever comeback. Instead, her voice dripped with scorn she continued to deride Linsey, "What's there

to envy, really? Marrying a cripple? just focus on your meal, everyone"

Beth then turned away from the group, her gaze burning into Linsey with a piercing intensity.

She couldn't bring herself to think that Linsey's marriage was as happy as it seemed. Honestly, if her marriage was so amazing, why would she turn up here all by herself?

If Linsey's crippled husband made an entrance, Beth doubted she would be able to keep up that cheerful facade

A cunning smirk slowly crept across Beth's face as a plan began to take shape

Rising from her seat with a flourish, she grabbed her wine glass and sauntered over to Linsey

"Linsey," she called out softly.

Linsey turned, her eyes meeting Beth's, which were oddly twinkling with a forced charm. "What's up?" she responded, her

tone cautious yet curious.

Flashing a toothy grin, Beth leaned in and whispered slyly, "Linsey, I really must apologize for earlier. You know how Kristy and I utterly domineered. She just pushed through, insisting on saying those things, and I found myself powerless to stop her."

rom across the table, Shari's eyes darted between Beth and Linsey, her expression clouded with confusion appened?" she inquired.

Chapter 314 Beth, What

The Hell Do You Want

Beth feigned surprise. "Oh, right, I almost forgot. Shari, you just arrived, so you probably missed the earlier events-

At that moment, Linsey stood up, her gaze icy as she looked straight at Beth. "Beth, what the hell do you want?"

Linsey wondered why she had to stir up trouble when she was in a good mood.

Shari, looking concerned, stood up too and asked Linsey, "Did Kristy stop by? Why did she leave?"

She recalled how Kristy often caused problems for Linsey during their college years,

Given Beth's insinuation, something significant must have transpired in her absence.

Indeed, the atmosphere had shifted noticeably.

Beth began to speak, but Linsey cut her off sharply. "Beth, there's nothing left to discuss between us. And no need for apologies."

The previous issue had been settled, and Linsey hadn't intended to involve Shari, wishing to spare her any concern.

However, Shari, expecting some explanation, felt a deep sense of

disappointment.

Years had passed since Shari had moved abroad after her marriage, losing contact with Linsey.

Though Linsey was kind this evening, Shari guessed that she was still mad at her. Otherwise, she wouldn't have kept her in the dark.

Beth caught the brief look of sadness on Shari's face and felt a secret satisfaction.

She hadn't really approached to apologize to Linsey.

"Well, if that's the situation, I suppose I was overreacting," Beth declared, then turned away with an exaggerated show of

disappointment.

Meanwhile, Beth subtly stepped on Shari's gown.

Shari stumbled suddenly, almost spilling her wine glass.

While Shari didn't scream, Beth reacted loudly, drawing attention.

She quickly righted the glass and shot Shari a reproachful look. "Shari, it's been years since we graduated, and you're still this clumsy? Be more careful, especially next to Linsey. Did you know the dress Linsey is wearing is from the renowned designer Arthur? It's a limited edition piece worth millions!"

Shari went pale at the revelation. "Millions?"

Her eyes widened as she looked at Linsey's dress.

Was it that valuable in cvetainly tooted exquisite

Linsey gave Bech att infferent kot, pershed by her motives

It was clear Beth was not ready to let go of her antics

Choving to remain observant, Linsey decided to wait and see what Beth would attempt next, preparing berselt to bundle

whatever came

This would ensure Beth didn't stir further problems going forward

Noticing Shari's astonished look, Beth feigned surprise. "You might not be aware, but Linsey has a perfect husband Ne's so affectionate that he even gifted her a dress from one of the top designers"

Beth paused, pretending to be confused. "What? You two are close, and she never mentioned this

Linsey scoffed at the insinuation

Was this Beth's tactic? It seemed Beth was attempting to sow discord between her and Shari with petty fabrications

Shari, clearly shaken, quickly offered her apologies to Linsey. "Linsey, I'm so sorry, I didn't mean to. I just lost my balance

for a second."

There was only one man in Raegan's heart, and it was Mitchel. In the second year
Chapter 315 How's The

Dress

Shari leaned in to inspect Linsey's dress. "Let me check if I've stained your dress."

Linsey responded softly, "Shari, it's okay. There's nothing on my dress, and I'm not worried about it."

From the side, Beth chimed in, "Oh, Linsey, even if it's just a dress, you shouldn't take it lightly, especially when it's an

expensive gift from your husband. You should check it in the restroom. Maybe you can still do something about it."

As she said this, Beth pointed out a mark on the dress. "Look, there's a red wine stain right here."

Linsey thought about the dress Collin had given her.

Beth was irritating, but she had a point.

Linsey knew she had to be more careful with such a valuable gift.

Seeing Shari's anxious look, Linsey realized she needed to act quickly to avoid further distress.

"Alright, I'll head to the restroom to clean it up." Linsey picked up her dress slightly and headed out.

As Linsey departed, some onlookers whispered.

"That dress is so expensive. It'd be a shame if it's ruined."

"Why are you so concerned?"

Meanwhile, Beth saw an opportunity while others were distracted and quickly snuck a text from Linsey's phone.

Everything was going as Beth planned.

Soon after, Linsey returned from the restroom, looking neater.

Shari quickly went to her. "How's the dress? Is everything alright?"

Linsey smiled and reassured her, "It's fine. It's just a small red wine stain, and it

seems I was the one who smeared it. It's

not your fault at all."

Shari breathed a sigh of relief. "I'm relieved it's okay."

Despite Beth's insinuations earlier, Shari was mainly concerned about the

potential damage to Linsey's expensive dress.

Linsey grasped Shari's hand, still showing concern, and reassured her, "Don't worry. Even if it did get stained, it's not a big

deal. I'll have it professionally cleaned after the party. They're very thorough."

Beth, who was still nearby, overheard this and couldn't resist chiming in again.

"Linsey, how can you say it's nothing?" Beth dramatized her concern, sighing heavily. "That dress is worth millions. None of us could afford to replace it, even if we pooled our resources. And if your husband finds out and blames us, he's not

going to overlook it."

Linsey's expression turned stern at Beth's insinuations.

Collin, her husband, was not the unreasonable man Beth portrayed.

Just recently, Beth had unfairly labeled Collin as incompetent, and now she was casting aspersions on his temperament.

What was wrong with her?

Caught up in the moment, Shari suddenly realized a gap in her knowledge and said, "Linsey, are you married? I've been so preoccupied with the dress situation that I forgot to ask."

Before Linsey could respond, Beth interjected swiftly, "Of course, Linsey's husband is..."

She paused, giving Linsey a pointed look, full of feigned exaggeration.

"Oh, Linsey, I'm speaking too much again. Should I continue? You wouldn't want me to, right?"

Chapter 316 I Love My Husband Dearly

Linsey rolled her eyes, clearly recognizing Beth's intent to instigate drama.

Without being perturbed, she turned to Shari and mentioned her husband casually. "Yes, I'm married. My husband is Collin Riley. We had a rushed wedding six months ago, and it was quite private, so not many people are aware."

Shari, having returned to Grester and hearing some of the local gossip about Collin, was taken aback but responded earnestly, "From what I understand about you, your marriage must be filled with love, or you wouldn't speak so openly

about him."

Linsey responded with a smile, "Absolutely, I love my husband dearly."

Beth, unable to hide her contempt, scoffed, "Linsey, weren't you with a guy all through college? What ever happened that you ended up marrying Collin?"

Aware that Beth was alluding to her ex-fiancé, Felix, Linsey knew her old classmates were not fully aware of Felix's story

due to her discretion.

If Beth hadn't mentioned it, Felix might have slipped from her memory, a painful echo of her past.

"Why does it matter whom I married?" Linsey retorted coolly.

Beth clenched her jaw, trying to keep her irritation under control as she continued to taunt Linsey. "Oh, come on, Linsey. If you and Collin truly care about each other, why isn't he here tonight? Kane mentioned we could bring our partners. You always talk about how wonderful your marriage is. Could it be you're just ashamed that he uses a wheelchair?"

Before Beth could add more, Linsey's icy stare made her retreat.

Muttering under her breath, Beth said, "Well, try not to make a fool of yourself later!"

With that, she turned and walked back to her seat.

Linsey watched her go and felt relieved. She beckoned Shari over and they continued their meal.

Beth, now seated, couldn't stop herself from looking towards the entrance.

Her behavior did not go unnoticed.

"Beth, what are you staring at?" someone asked.

"Stop waiting. Kristy isn't coming back. Looks like you're stuck dealing with Linsey on your own."

Beth snapped, "Who said I'm waiting for Kristy?"

"So, what are you looking at?"

"Nothing," Beth replied curtly, waving them off.

She was not ready to share her plans.

Yet, she found it odd. Why hadn't he arrived?

It had been over ten minutes.

Anxiety was starting to set in.

She had seen the confirmation that her message was sent.

Could it be that Collin hadn't gotten it?

Another thought struck her. Maybe Collin just didn't care about anything to do with Linsey.

That might explain his absence.

This idea gave Beth a twisted sense of pleasure.

Considering Linsey's earlier demeanor, she figured Collin probably felt indifferent towards her too.

Suddenly, the sound of a commotion at the entrance snapped everyone to attention.

Chapter 317 Should I Not

Be Here

"What's all the commotion about?"

"What on earth is going on? Why is it so loud out there?"

Everyone in the private room instinctively shifted their gaze towards the door.

With a forceful push, the door swung open, revealing a group of stern-looking bodyguards clad in sleek black suits.

A collective murmur of surprise rippled through the crowd.

"What the heck? Did we step into a movie scene?"

"Where did all these bodyguards come from? Could it be Kristy staging a dramatic comeback for revenge?"

"Are you kidding? After the embarrassment she suffered tonight, there's no way Kristy would show her face here again."

Before the room could buzz further with wild guesses, Collin made his entrance, eased in slowly on a wheelchair.

Despite his seated position, his aura was unmistakably commanding.

His gaze swept across the room with a subtle intensity, promptly silencing the whispers.

Everyone present clamped their mouths shut, the weight of his stare too heavy to challenge.

Well, damn, who on earth was this guy?

He certainly wasn't someone they would want to cross paths with on a bad day.

Though each face told a different story, the same question echoed silently through the room.

Collin lingered at the doorway, his expression unreadable, his icy gaze sweeping across the gathered crowd-enough to

send shivers down anyone's spine.

Amidst them all, only Linsey reacted visibly, her eyes widening in shock.

Why was Collin here now?

Hadn't they agreed he would only come once she was done with the reunion?

Thoughts swirled in Linsey's mind, but she pushed them aside and strode toward him.

As she approached, the frost in Collin's demeanor melted away, replaced by a soft warmth that transformed his face the

moment his eyes met hers.

"What are you doing here?" Linsey questioned, her voice tinged with astonishment, yet her lips curved into a delighted

smile.

Despite the brief separation of just a few hours, it felt to her as though they had been apart for much longer.

Collin's gaze softened, turning tender as he clasped her hand firmly, his voice playful yet sincere.

"What's the problem? Should I not be here? Or are you just ashamed to be seen with your husband?"

Collin was just kidding, but Linsey feigned indignation.

With a teasing lilt to her voice, she retorted, "You're right, I'm utterly ashamed. The last thing I want is to make a spectacle of myself in front of an audience."

Despite her words, her smile broadened, twinkling with mischief.

Collin's face fell in mock sorrow. He tenderly lifted her hand to his cheek, pressing it against his skin in a gentle caress. "Honey, it really stings to hear you say that,"

he murmured, his tone laced with feigned heartache.

The spectacle left the onlookers dumbfounded.

So this charismatic, dashing figure was Linsey's husband, Collin!

The crowd had been buzzing with whispers that Linsey's husband was both old and a bit of an eyesore, not to mention his

disabilities. The gossip around town was that no one wanted anything to do with marrying Collin.

Yet here he was, defying every whisper with his suave demeanor and striking good looks, perfectly complementing Linsey.

Were it not for his confinement to a wheelchair, he would undoubtedly be among Grester's most illustrious personalities.

Now, as he drew a disarmingly handsome and tender smile, several spectators found themselves reevaluating their

assumptions.

His allure was undeniable-there was a compelling charm about him, even seated as he was.

As the initial shock subsided, realization dawned.

This remarkable man not only had the means to afford the exquisitely designed

dress that adorned Linsey, which was

worth a fortune, but he had also chosen it with loving intent.

Such men were indeed a rarity in the world!

In her previous life, Kimberly endured the betrayal of her husband, the cruel ma...

Chapter 318 We Have An Empty Seat Right Here

Away with all out of everyone sparking aware of eny among the crowd

with us for chuner? It's have an empty seat right here?

maned by a Hiker of patien

Truth be told, as long as her old classmates hadn't antagonisest her during their college days, she considered them

The idea of them "looking after her" was a stretch, but seeing Collin's determined look, she decided to play along with his

аденец

From the corner of the room, Beth observed the exchange with keen interest, her eyebrows arching in suprise at Collin's willingness to go along

Her gaze lingered on his striking features, and a subtle pull of attraction tugged at her heart..

She couldn't help but wonder if she still had it. After all, just some words from her had this charming man sticking around.

As for Linsey's aloof demeanor towards her, Beth brushed it off with an inward shrug. Collin's courteous engagement was

what mattered. In her eyes, his politeness was a small victory in itself.

As Beth mulled over her thoughts, her confidence swelled, yet her face betrayed a hint of displeasure at the sight of Collin

and Linsey hand in hand.

With all his charm and riches, Collin being just for Linsey felt like a waste.

Around them, the others shook off their initial shock, their eyes widening with the realization of Collin's affluence, evidenced by Linsey's extravagantly priced dress. Their minds raced as they schemed ways to charm their way into his

favor.

Compliments flowed with ease from their lips.

"Linsey, you and your husband are a match made in heaven."

"Really, Linsey, you should have brought your husband along tonight. It would've been wonderful for all of us to get to

know him better."

"Come join our table, Mr. Riley. We'd be delighted to share a meal with you."

Amidst the sea of insincere flattery, Linsey guided Collin to their seats, unaffected by the shallow praises.

Meanwhile, Beth's displeasure was palpable. She maintained a frosty demeanor, rolling her eyes before a mischievous idea

struck her.

With a cunning smile, she leaned towards Collin, her voice intentionally loud enough for others to hear. "Linsey, it's fascinating how long you were with your ex. We all assumed you'd end up marrying him! It was quite the shock when you

ended up with Mr. Riley instead..."

She let the words hang in the air for a beat, then turned to Collin with a probing look. "Mr. Riley, does it bother you that

Linsey had such a lengthy past with someone else?"

Chapter 319 Can Everyone Just Stop This Charade

When Beth brought up Felix again, Linsey's face turned stormy.

Perhaps she shouldn't have gone easy on Beth.

Why couldn't Beth just remain silent?

Collin gave a small, scornful smile. In a tone lacking any interest, he said, "Are you talking about Felix Wells? Had you not mentioned him, I could have completely forgotten that lowlife. He caused my wife so much pain. He's not worthy of being

referred to as her ex, let alone deserving my attention."

Beth remained adamant and continued, "It's clear you care deeply for Linsey. Yet,

I've heard from her that you were only married six months ago. Do you know

when Linsey's birthday is? What about your anniversary?"

Collin, without giving Beth a glance, replied calmly, "Linsey grew up in an orphanage where a single birthday was set for

all the kids."

He added a date and then explained, "We've chosen to celebrate our birthdays together from this point forward. And yes, I

certainly do remember our anniversary."

He recited several dates with precision.

Kane gestured dismissively. "Enough, Beth. Sit down. Why bother with such trivial questions?"

Beth was stunned into silence, her cheeks flushing with embarrassment as she slowly took her seat.

The room fell quiet as everyone watched Collin tenderly look after Linsey, his actions seamless and caring.

He called over to the waiter, "Excuse me. My wife has some stomach troubles. Could we have a lighter dish instead of this

greasy one? Thank you."

He then offered Linsey his steak, already sliced. "Here, Linsey, take my steak."

He suggested, "Maybe drink less wine and try some juice instead. You like this flavor best."

Linsey stayed serene, showing that Collin's considerate actions were nothing out of the ordinary for them.

In the quiet of the room, whispers began to circulate among the onlookers.

"Linsey's husband is such a great guy," one person murmured.

"Indeed, it's rare to find a man this thoughtful," another added.

"Wow, I'm so envious of Linsey. I wish I could find a man who treats me like that," someone else confessed.

"And what does it matter if he can't walk? I've known many men who seemed perfect but turned out to be terrible," a

fourth voice chimed in.

Gradually, the quiet praise transformed into open admiration for Collin.

Mr. Riley, you're so good to Linsey. She's really fortunate to have a husband like you," a voice called out.

I don't get it Why does someone constantly criticize Linsey, suggesting she might not find happiness?" another commented, casting a side glance at Beth

Beth was in disbelief. She had intended to make Linsey look bad, yet she only succeeded in humiliating herself and

boosting Linsey's confidence.

Overwhelmed with frustration, she burst out, "Can everyone just stop this charade? What's the purpose of all this

performance? Just days ago, you all mocked Linsey for marrying a man who can't

walk, and now here you are, showering

him with praise Have you no decency

Chapter 320 It's Just A

Small Token

The crowd was taken aback, their eyes wide in astonishment as Beth unexpectedly lost control and unleashed all the gossip

they had been covertly exchanging.

Beth, unable to hold back, derided Linsey. "I pity you, Linsey! Your husband just bought you a dress, right? It's hardly anything special. Why make such a fuss?"

She scoffed, continuing, "If such a trivial gesture wins you over, you're obviously too easy to impress. I, for one, cherish

deeper qualities in people rather than mere materialism."

Undeterred by the surrounding gazes, Beth turned her attention to Collin, as if she were offering sage advice.

"Mr. Riley, choose wisely who you wed. You could find yourself with a woman of poor character. Linsey is quite shallow. She might leave her longtime boyfriend for you, but what's stopping her from doing the same to you when another catches her eye?"

Her statements resonated with a tone of moral superiority, as though she were bestowing essential wisdom.

Those unaware of the backstory might even believe her assertions.

Linsey was seething with anger, on the verge of confronting Beth.

How much longer would Beth continue this tirade?

Just then, a long hand reached out, preventing Linsey from standing.

She turned to Collin next to her, catching his words just in time. "I married Linsey because I chose to. If she ever decides to

leave, it would mean I failed to be the man she deserves."

Collin paused briefly, then fixed a chilly stare on Beth. "Your remarks do bring something to mind."

Beth, misled by her assumptions, wore a complacent grin, thinking Collin had fallen for her deceit.

However, Collin turned warmly to Linsey, stating, "I've only bought Linsey a few dresses this time. Clearly, that isn't enough to show her my commitment. I need to do more."

Beth was left utterly dumbfounded.

Collin clapped his hands. "Come in."

The door to the private room burst open, and a group of poised, powerful individuals stormed in.

The entrance shocked everyone gathered there.

Beth, particularly, turned ghostly pale and retreated, yelling, "Linsey, what is your husband up to? With so many people here, is he planning to harm me? Please, think twice before doing anything drastic!"

Collin, clearly entertained, simply raised an eyebrow and responded calmly, "Who suggested I was about to hit you?"

It wasn't long before everyone noticed that Collin's entourage was carrying elegant boxes,

With a casual wave of his hand, Collin directed his men.

One after another, each person in the room received a gift box from Collin- everyone, that was, except Beth.

Linsey was visibly shaken by the unfolding events.

She wondered, what could possibly be happening? What was Collin up to now?

Around the room, puzzled looks were exchanged. Everyone seemed too wary of Collin's formidable aura to voice their

questions.

Eventually, Kane mustered enough bravery to inquire, "Mr. Riley, what's going on here?"

Was Collin's previous remark not a hint that he had a surprise for Linsey? And why did it involve everyone else?

With a mild smile, Collin replied, "It's just a small token. Go ahead and open it. Then you'll understand."