

Zillionaire 321

Chapter 321 You're Just

Making A Fool Of Yourself

At Collin's prompting, the room erupted in a flurry of excitement as everyone

began unwrapping their gift boxes with

eager hands.

"Look, it's wine!"

"Hey, I got red wine too. It looks so elegant."

"And mine's perfume. It smells divine and looks absolutely exquisite."

It soon became apparent that the gifts were gendered-perfume for the women and red wine for the men.

Yet, all the items shared an undeniable air of luxury, even without labels.

A few connoisseurs among the group quickly identified both the wine and the perfume as high-end brands, the kind that

would take most people years of saving to afford.

Collin, with a modest tilt of his head, addressed the gathering. "I know tonight was put together on short notice, so I just

picked up a little something. I hope it's alright; after all, it's the thought that counts, right?"

His casual humility in gifting such lavish presents only added to his charm.

The room buzzed with admiration and a touch of envy at such show of generosity paired with grace.

"Oh, not at all! We're absolutely delighted!"

"Mr. Riley, this is incredibly generous! We love it!"

Linsey was soon surrounded by a handful of astute women, their praises ringing clear.

"Linsey, your husband really knows how to make an impression! You've both got such impeccable taste."

Beth stood alone, conspicuously empty-handed amidst the laughter and chatter, feeling awkward and out of place.

She watched, her gaze almost fixed with envy, as everyone else around her gleefully unwrapped their lavish gifts.

It had never crossed her mind that Collin would go to such extravagant lengths for Linsey, splurging to curry favor with the

others on her behalf.

The sting of exclusion was sharp; among the smiling faces, she alone had been forgotten.

He had singled her out.

As the realization sank in, irritation simmered within her. Struggling to mask her rising jealousy with a veneer of disdain,

Beth scoffed, "What's there to be so proud of? These trinkets might dazzle those who don't know any better, but to me,

they reek of cheapness. It's not shocking, seeing as they're from the Riley family's black sheep." Her voice carried a mix of bitterness and forced superiority.

Chapter 322 I Haven't Done Anything!

Beth's mind raced. Seriously? How could Collin afford such luxury gifts?

Wasn't he supposed to be a loser?

At that moment, Linsey stared at Collin in astonishment. She reached out hesitantly, touching his arm gently. In a hushed

voice, she questioned him, "Collin, is everything here genuine?"

He surely wouldn't resort to displaying counterfeit items just to impress her old classmates, would he?

Collin's eyes twinkled with a hint of amusement as he listened to her concerns. "Absolutely. You needn't worry-I'll ensure no one embarrasses or torments you ever again."

Linsey was even more puzzled. "Have you uncovered something?"

It made sense why Collin had arrived so punctually tonight, bearing numerous gifts.

As Linsey's demeanor changed with realization, Collin quizzically lifted an eyebrow and queried softly, "Why the confusion?"

You did invite me to your reunion, didn't you?"

Her mind reeled in confusion. "What? I'm not following. When did I invite you?"

Given Collin's mobility challenges, she never had expected him to make such an effort for a mere reunion.

It was nothing beyond a normal gathering of former college classmates. Collin's brow creased as he immediately detected something amiss.

His tone lowered. "You sent me a text an hour ago."

"A text?" Linsey was shocked. "I haven't glanced at my phone all evening."

Laughing off her bewilderment, Linsey retrieved her phone and joked, "Surely I didn't text you while asleep?"

She scrolled through her device then showed Collin the screen. "Look. There's nothing. No texts."

Collin's face grew stern. Silently, he took out his phone and displayed the message.

It read, "I'm in trouble! Come quickly!"

Listed below were the address and private room details for the Freyview Grand Hotel.

Linsey was completely taken aback. She checked Collin's phone and then her own once more.

"No way. I swear, I didn't send that," she said.

Collin's voice was calm yet assertive. "I came here quickly because of that message. I needed to ensure you were okay."

It was clear now-this had been orchestrated by someone.

Linsey pieced everything together and quickly suspected Beth.

Turning to Beth, Linsey confronted her, her tone icy. "Beth, why would you do this?"

Beth, caught off guard, winced, her expression betraying her panic. "What do you mean? I haven't done anything! Linsey,

don't be so cocky!"

Murmurs began to circulate among the onlookers. "Linsey, what's happening?"

With a frosty demeanor, Linsey rose to her feet, her voice tinged with scorn. "Cocky? Look who's causing trouble tonight. Beth, using my phone to send fraudulent messages takes real nerve."

Beth's face drained of color as her voice climbed in a frantic pitch. "What absurdity

is this? I don't know what you're talking about! You can't just blame me without any evidence! Perhaps your phone sent the message by itself. What does

this have to do with me?"

Chapter 323 I Wasn't Joking About Calling The Police

"Alright, since you refuse to come clean, let's just call the police and let them sort

it out," Collin suggested with unnerving

calm. "The hotel's surveillance system should give us a clear picture. We can review the footage to see exactly what

happened."

He gave a pointed glance toward the surveillance camera tucked in the corner of the private room.

Beth's composure crumbled into a full-blown panic. She twisted her hands nervously, her mind scrambling for a way out. After a moment's struggle, her resistance weakened, and her voice trembled as she admitted, "Stop! I confess! I'm the one

who did it-no need for the police! I was trying to mess with Linsey, so I swiped her phone and sent you a message pretending to be her."

Collin's voice turned icy as he interrogated, "What were you trying to achieve by doing this?"

Under Collin's piercing stare, Beth seemed to shrink, her words quivering. "All I wanted was for you to show up and

humiliate Linsey in front of everyone. I had no idea things would turn out like this..."

Her voice trailed off, hinting at an outcome far from her malicious intent. She had aimed to embarrass Linsey, but it

backfired spectacularly-she never imagined Collin would be someone far too powerful to cross.

Kane let out a shocked gasp. "Beth, how could you stoop so low?"

"Yeah, we used to think you were just a bit mean, but this..."

"This is so messed up! If Beth can swipe Linsey's phone and send fake messages today, who knows what kind of gossip

she'll start about the rest of us next?"

"Linsey never wronged you, yet you relentlessly target her without cause. Your actions are simply cruel."

"We don't need your pathetic presence here. Get out and don't come back!"

"Just leave. No one wants you here!"

The collective clamor demanding her to leave escalated, setting Beth's cheeks aflame with the sting of public humiliation.

Overwhelmed, she could endure no more. Gritting her teeth in a mixture of anger and embarrassment, she hissed defiantly,

"Fine, I'll go! No need to throw me out-I can walk out on my own!"

With a mix of defiance and hurt, Beth turned on her heel to leave.

But just as she moved toward the exit, Collin made a subtle gesture, signaling his crew to halt her departure.

"You bullied Linsey. Did you think you could simply walk away without any repercussions?" Collin's voice was firm, his

intent clear. "I wasn't joking about calling the police."

Raising his hand, he motioned to his men decisively. "Take her to the police station. It's time she faced the consequences

of her actions."

His words struck Beth like a bolt of lightning, shattering her composure. With a gasp, she collapsed onto the floor, sitting dazed amidst the swirling chaos of her own making.

"I did nothing wrong!" Beth exploded, her voice crackling with frantic energy as she flung her arms wildly. "You can't send

me to the police! I didn't do a damn thing!"

Her piercing screams reverberated through the room, slicing through the tense air. The spectacle of her meltdown drew

mixed reactions.

Some of her former classmates were visibly disgusted by her theatrics, while others couldn't hide a trace of relief.

Clearly, Beth was spiraling out of control, and it seemed inevitable that she would face some serious consequences. Despite

her vehement protests and struggles, Collin's men were unyielding. With firm grips, they escorted her out of the private

room.

Once Beth was removed, a heavy silence descended upon the room.

The atmosphere grew thick with unease; the crowd exchanged wary glances with Collin.

Although none had openly supported Beth and Kristy against Linsey, their passive stance spoke volumes.

Realizing that Collin was far more formidable than the rumors suggested, a ripple of fear spread among them. The possibility that Collin might target them next for their inaction loomed large, urging them to distance themselves.

Breaking the awkward silence, one classmate awkwardly cleared his throat. "Well, I think I've had my fill," he muttered,

pushing back his chair with a nervous glance. "Guess it's time for me to head out."

Chapter 324 Ready To Go

Home

As soon as one person expressed a desire to leave, others echoed the sentiment. "Yeah, my mom keeps texting me to come home. I need to go," one remarked.

"I'll go with you," another agreed.

Just then, Collin interjected before anyone could depart. "Let's not hurry. It's been ages since you've all seen each other as college classmates. Opportunities like this are rare, so why not stay till the end?"

A hush fell over the room. No one moved, tension palpable.

Collin remembered every word Beth had uttered earlier.

His presence had shifted the room's atmosphere dramatically.

The group no longer saw Linsey's husband as the unremarkable man they once underestimated.

His commanding presence made them rethink their plans to leave. They instead resumed their seats reluctantly.

"Yes, you're right, Mr. Riley. We should stay longer," someone conceded.

Collin appeared completely composed, unaffected by the underlying tension. He served Linsey some of her favorite dishes, speaking softly. "Eat a bit more." He was mindful of the fact that Linsey had been unwell recently and needed proper nutrition.

The discomfort in the room was palpable, with everyone seemingly cautious around Collin, although he had merely suggested extending their gathering.

Linsey, puzzled by Collin's insistence but trusting his judgment, chose not to question his motives. She quietly continued

eating.

"Shari, try some more too," Linsey suggested, serving her friend without drawing attention.

Shari accepted the food and thanked her, careful not to draw attention to herself.

Everyone else remained rigid, unable to even enjoy the delicious food laid out before them.

Collin, observing their hesitance, inquired with a knowing look, "Why is no one eating?"

Silence enveloped the room, all eyes shifting towards Kane.

Kane managed a strained smile. "Oh, yes, thank you, Mr. Riley."

Collin merely lifted an eyebrow. "There's no need for formality. I've hardly done anything noteworthy."

Relieved, Kane was the first to begin eating.

His action prompted others, though with visible reluctance, to also start eating.

The tension was palpable. A few were so jittery that their hands shook, causing one to accidentally knock over a glass, shattering the silence with a crash.

"I'm so sorry!" exclaimed the person, rushing to clean the spill.

Linsey offered a soothing voice. "Don't worry. Just ask the waiter for another glass."

As the dinner concluded, Linsey, having satisfied her hunger, caught Collin's attention as he watched her clean her face and hands. He then asked softly, "Ready to go home?"

At his words, Linsey instinctively looked over at Shari.

Though they had reconnected, the night's events had precluded a meaningful conversation.

Shari said promptly, "It's getting late. We'll find time to talk later—I need to get back to my child."

Aware of the situation, Shari understood that Collin intended to take Linsey home and did not want to impose any further.

Acknowledging this, Linsey agreed, "Okay."

Chapter 325 Is There Something You're Not...

The group inside the room watched as Linsey and Collin, flanked by their entourage, made their exit.

A collective sigh of relief washed over the room once the door clicked shut, breaking the tense silence that had hung over them like a thick fog.

"Holy crap, that scared the life out of me!"

"I wasn't sure I'd make it back in one piece tonight."

"Can someone explain what the hell is happening? After all these years, those rumors turned out to be total bullshit?"

"Totally! Just take a look at Collin—does he look like some clueless nobody? He carries himself like he owns the place!"

While some remained rattled by the encounter, others expressed a hint of

remorse.

"It's such a shame, really. If Collin weren't crippled, he'd be a real force to be reckoned with."

"Lesson learned—I'm keeping Linsey's name out of my mouth from now on. It's clear as day how protective Collin is of her. Cross him, and we might just disappear."

Meanwhile, oblivious to the whispers and wary glances, Linsey and Collin were ensconced in the quietude of their car.

Linsey's mind raced as she replayed the evening's interactions, a knot of suspicion tightening in her stomach.

She turned to face Collin, her eyes searching his, seeking the truth. "Collin, is there something you're not telling me?" she

asked, her voice steady but firm.

Collin was thrown off by the sudden accusation, his expression turning to confusion. "What do you mean by that?"

Linsey held his gaze, her eyes narrowing slightly as she scrutinized his face, searching for any trace of deceit.

"This gown I'm wearing-it was designed by Arthur Flores, wasn't it?" she questioned, her voice steady but insistent.

Raising an eyebrow, Collin was taken aback by her knowledge but saw no point in concealing the truth. "Yes, that's right,"

he admitted, his response straightforward.

Despite having confirmed this detail with Arthur himself, Linsey couldn't help but draw in a sharp breath at Collin's

confirmation.

Did Collin truly grasp the significance of Arthur's renown in the fashion industry?

How had he managed to commission a designer of such stature?

And the way he had casually arranged for the gown's delivery, as if it were no more consequential than ordering a bouquet

of flowers, baffled her even more.

Linsey gnawed on her lower lip, her thoughts a whirlwind of confusion and curiosity.

There were countless questions bubbling up inside her, clamoring for attention, and she hardly knew where to begin

Finally, one concern pushed its way to the forefront. "And those gifts you were handing out so generously. Her voice trembled slightly with the weight of her inquiry. "Tell me the truth. Did you spend a fortune on all of that?"

Collin's response was nonchalant, almost dismissive. "Well, I guess you could say that."

His vague reply left Linsey reeling, her eyes wide with incredulity. "What does that even mean?"

She couldn't contain her frustration any longer and, in a sudden move, seized his collar, her words punctuated with desperate clarity. "Collin, didn't you say you were drowning in debt? Something about owing a billion? So, how on earth do you suddenly have the means for such extravagance?"

A horrifying suspicion dawned on her.

"Collin, don't tell me you took out another loan just to flaunt in front of them? Her voice cracked, laden with a mix of anger and concern. "Those old classmates don't mean a thing to me. You didn't have to..."

Linsey's agitation mounted, and a wave of dizziness washed over her, blurring her vision momentarily.

Noticing her distress, Collin quickly grasped her shoulders, steadying her with a firm yet gentle touch. "Easy there," he murmured, a soft chuckle escaping him as he patted her back comfortingly. "Come on, Darling, Do you really see your

husband as that worthless?"

Chapter 326 No One Will

Dare Underestimate You

Linsey pressed her hand against her chest and offered Collin a playful, teasing look.

Her luminous eyes sparkled with an adorable hint of reproach.

In response, Collin's laughter was a low, melodic chuckle as he explained, "I'm not actually as poor as they think. My

family might dismiss me, but I inherited a substantial sum from my grandmother and mother. Plus, I've been managing a

small company these last few years, and it's been quite lucrative. Technically, your husband stands pretty well-off in town."

With a knowing raise of his eyebrow, he continued, "How else do you suppose I afford living in the lavish Vista Villa?

We've got a decent collection of cars in the garage too."

At that revelation, Linsey remained a bit stunned, her mind whirling. Unbeknownst to her, the "small company" Collin

referred to was none other than the globally acclaimed CR Corporation-the very firm where she was employed.

Even as she processed his words, she knew Collin's life had always been absorbed by his work to the point of neglecting

meals and sleep.

If it weren't for his business engagements, he likely wouldn't have crossed paths with Dustin as often.

Still, Linsey couldn't shake off her worries.

"But Collin, we can't keep splurging like this," she protested gently. "A few of my former classmates have been talking

behind my back-why should we hand out such lavish gifts?"

Her lips curled into a pout as she aired her grievances.

Collin couldn't contain his laughter, his large hand affectionately tousling her hair.

"I hate seeing you deal with unnecessary troubles," he explained with a gentle sincerity. "Now, no one will dare

underestimate you. That alone makes everything worth it."

Collin paused for a beat, his tone completely serious. "I mean, it's not like I can send all your old classmates to jail, right?"

A smirk played on Linsey's lips as she playfully slapped his arm. "Stop it, you're being ridiculous."

The room filled with a lighter, more carefree air, washing away any lingering tension.

Then, a thought struck her, spurred by a news report she had caught earlier. She leaned in, her tone casual yet probing. "Since you're just a humble entrepreneur, we might need to tread more cautiously. After all, you're not the elusive founder

of CR Corporation. Did you hear about that? He once blew a billion dollars on a necklace."

Unbeknownst to her, the very necklace worth a billion was the same one resting against her collarbone, a lavish gift from

Collin.

The implications hung heavily in the air as Collin lapsed into a thoughtful silence.

As he watched Linsey's face closely, a sudden, overpowering impulse seized Collin, compelling him to bare his soul to her.

He was on the verge of revealing his biggest secret-that he was the founder of CR Corporation.

"Linsey, I need to tell you something-" he began, his voice thick with unsaid words.

But before he could continue, their smooth ride transformed into chaos as the car jerked violently, the tires screeching

against the pavement in a jarring cacophony.

As the brakes clamped down hard, Linsey, unprepared for the abrupt shift, was thrown forward by the force.

"Ah!" A sharp exclamation escaped her as she nearly collided with the dashboard.

Fortunately, Collin's reflexes were quick. His sturdy arm encircled her waist, pulling her back against him, safe in his hold.

"Are you alright? Did you hurt yourself?" His voice was laced with concern as he gently supported the back of her head,

ensuring she was cushioned from any potential impact.

Visibly shaken, Linsey collapsed into his arms, her heart racing from the fright.

She met his worried gaze and managed a

shaky nod. "I'm okay, really, don't worry about me..."

Despite her reassurance, Collin's features remained etched with worry. He turned sharply towards the driver, his voice

cutting through the stillness. "What the hell just happened?"

Chapter 327 I'll Protect You

The driver hastily apologized "I'm terribly sorry, Mr. Riley. We've hit an unexpected roadblock ahead."

Clutching Linsey to his side, Collin peered forward with a furrowed brow. "How on earth did the road get blocked so

suddenly?"

Ahead of them, a chaotic scene unfolded as several luxury cars sprawled across

the road in a careless display, blatantly violating the rules of the road.

"What's the situation here?" Collin's voice carried a mix of curiosity and annoyance.

Linsey, who had managed to collect herself, joined him in surveying the scene.

A handful of cars sat arrogantly in the center of the road, their drivers seemingly indifferent to the growing line of frustrated motorists behind them.

Til go investigate," the driver declared, stepping out into the cool evening air.

When he returned, he brought news that added a layer of complexity to the situation. "I made some inquiries," he reported, catching his breath. It turns out this disruption is tied to Gorman Green. Having just returned, he decided to step out publicly tonight after a long period of laying low. Looks like all of Grester's elite are eager to cozy up to him."

He paused for a moment before continuing, "The police are on their way to sort this mess out."

Collin's expression hardened as he processed the information. "So, they're all here to cozy up to Gorman, huh?"

He had always known Gorman was insufferably arrogant, but he hadn't expected him to display such brazen and reckless

behavior.

Could it be that Gorman was orchestrating something sinister?

Was this audacious spectacle tonight part of his plan?

Linsey's pulse quickened when the driver mentioned Gorman.

Her mind immediately flashed to the man she had encountered before.

"Who is this Gorman guy? Linsey inquired, her voice tinged with curiosity.

The driver answered, "Gorman has been a thorn in the side of CR Corporation's founder for years. He's been meddling in

their affairs both in plain sight and behind the scenes. This is no secret in town."

Linsey's eyes widened in shock. "He's actually the founder of CR Corporation's rival?"

The revelation added another layer of complexity to the already convoluted situation.

Having harbored disdain for Gorman, Linsey was even more disturbed to learn about his long-standing vendetta against the founder of CR Corporation, a man she had admired and revered for years.

Indignation stirred within her, yet Linsey knew she had to conceal her feelings.

The last thing she needed was for Collin, ever the jealous type, to discover her longstanding admiration for CB Corporation's founder.

Oblivious to the turmoil brewing within her, Collin added, his voice tinged with disdain, "Gorman is not only arrogant, but I've also heard he's got the blood of many innocents on his hands,"

Linsey's eyes widened in shock, disbelief etching her features as she gasped, "How could he possibly do such things?"

The realization hit her like a cold wave; the man she had once helped out of sheer kindness had revealed himself to be

monstrously wicked.

With each passing moment, her annoyance intensified. Had she known his true nature, she would never have lent a hand

-she would have left him to his own miserable fate.

And the audacity of that man, thinking he could propose marriage to her not so long ago, sent shivers down her spine.

She cursed her luck for inadvertently weaving such trouble into her life.

Engrossed in her troubled thoughts, Linsey remained oblivious to Collin's concerned gaze. Noticing her distant and frightened expression, he misread it as fear.

He tightened his grip on her shoulders, a protective gesture, and whispered soothingly, "Don't worry. If we ever cross paths

with him, I'll protect you."

Linsey bit her lip, a wave of unease washing over her.

Only now did the full extent of Gorman's influence in Grester dawn on her.

With his formidable status, he was likely surrounded by admirers.

Considering his exposure to various women, Linsey doubted he would keep pursuing a married woman like her, especially

after she had rejected him.

Chapter 328 I Want Linsey

At a hotel, Gorman lounged on the sofa, casually swirling a glass of red wine in his hand.

Before him, Danny stood with his head bowed, speaking with measured respect. "Boss, as you asked, word of your return

has spread. Just as you predicted, ever since this afternoon, many prominent figures in town have been showing up, all

with expensive gifts-clearly eager to win your favor."

Gorman's face remained unreadable as he asked, his voice low, "Has the Riley family arrived?"

"Of course," Danny answered. "Would you like to meet with them now?"

"Let them in," Gorman said, his tone lazy, almost bored.

In truth, this whole setup had been carefully orchestrated to draw the Riley family

in.

"Understood." Danny nodded and quickly left the room.

A moment later, Fernanda walked in, a smile stretched across her face, her every movement calculated to please.

She had mingled with the other visiting families, hoping for a chance to meet Gorman, but she hadn't expected to be the

first one he would choose to see.

A partnership with the Green family would be nothing short of advantageous for her and her son.

As soon as her eyes landed on Gorman, Fernanda wasted no time and presented the gift she had carefully prepared.

"Mr. Green, this is a small token of my appreciation. I hope you'll accept it," she said.

Gorman didn't even spare the gift a glance. With a casual flick of his hand, Danny stepped forward to take it from her.

Fernanda forced a fawning smile and parted her lips, just about to speak.

Before she could, Gorman's voice cut through the air casually. "Mrs. Riley, I recall you and Mr. Riley have a son together.

Why didn't he come with you today?"

At the mention of Huntley, Fernanda's expression faltered, her mask slipping for just a moment.

The thought of her precious son languishing in prison twisted her insides, a sharp pain that deepened her hatred for Collin

and Linsey.

She had never forgotten who was behind her son's suffering.

Her lips trembled with barely contained anger.

She took a slow, steadying breath to smother the rage rising within her, forcing out the words in a stammer, "Well...

Huntley ran into some trouble, so he couldn't come today..."

Gorman wasn't interested in small talk. He sneered, "Your son isn't here because he's in prison, right? He couldn't even

handle Collin, that worthless man, and now he's still behind bars?"

Fernanda's resentment flared, her face tightening, her breath coming in quick, sharp bursts.

Gorman noticed her reaction but dismissed it.

He leaned forward slightly, his voice cold but piercing. "Mrs. Riley, let me ask you something-do you want your son out of

prison?"

Fernanda's expression shifted in an instant. A flicker of surprise mixed with desperate hope flashed in her eyes. "Mr. Green,

do you mean..."

Gorman set his wine glass down with a deliberate motion, his tone casual yet carrying an underlying weight. "I won't waste

time with niceties-I want Linsey. If you can find a way to make Linsey and Collin divorce, I'll get your son out of prison."

A wicked smirk tugged at the corners of Gorman's lips, his words coated with an enticing but dangerous promise. "Mrs.

Riley, how does that deal sound to you?"

Chapter 329 Haven't I Always Stood By My...

Fernanda's eyes widened in disbelief, a mixture of shock and confusion clouding her features. She had never fathomed that Gorman would have a crush on Linsey,

of all people.

What elusive charm did that scheming bitch possess to make so many men fall under her spell?

Despite her reservations, Fernanda knew she was cornered. With the stakes this high, she couldn't afford to be choosy.

Whatever it took to get Huntley out of trouble, she was ready to do it.

"Alright, Mr. Green, I accept your terms," Fernanda agreed, her voice firm yet tinged with desperation. "You have my word, I'll handle everything."

They continued their tense conversation a little longer before Fernanda made her exit.

As she departed, Danny, wearing an expression of bewilderment, turned to Gorman. "Turns out Huntley came dangerously close to harming Ms. Brooks. You're not really planning to hold up your end of the deal and get him out, right?"

Gorman responded with a knowing chuckle, the corners of his mouth twitching upwards in amusement, "Of course, I am. Haven't I always stood by my promises?"

But the uneasy feeling still gnawed at Danny.

After all, Kylee had paid a steep price for merely attempting to ruin Linsey's career.

Could Gorman truly intend to let Huntley escape unscathed?

The air grew heavy with tension as Gorman's expression darkened, his eyes brimming with a chilling malice. "But I never

assured Fernanda that her son would escape fate, did I?" His voice carried a frosty sharpness, each syllable laced with

intent.

With a sinister curve of his lips, he added, "After all, it's challenging to make moves while he's still confined. Once he's free,

well, things will get significantly easier."

Danny shivered, an icy dread crawling up his spine.

It was unmistakable-Gorman's ruthless nature hadn't softened in the slightest.

Witnessing this side of Gorman again, Danny understood with chilling clarity that crossing paths with him was

tantamount to sealing one's own doom.

Collin was no exception, especially since he had stolen the heart of the woman Gorman cherished above all others.

Meanwhile, enveloped by the steam in her bathroom, Linsey sank deeper into the bathtub, the warmth of the water soothing her weary bones.

The foggy haze around her seemed to mirror the turmoil in her thoughts.

Memories of the evening's reunion flickered through her mind like an old film, leaving her more baffled than ever.

Since marrying Collin, she had braced herself to shoulder a daunting debt alongside him.

Yet, the reality of Collin's hidden wealth-evident from the lavish gifts he distributed, from that designer dress to fine wine and exquisite perfumes-left her reeling in shock and disbelief.

Linsey's brow knit together in deep confusion.

If Collin wasn't the loser the rumors painted him to be, then why had he so readily accepted her abrupt marriage proposal?

The question haunted her, looping endlessly in her mind without a shred of a convincing answer.

Was it possible that Collin had fallen in love with her from their very first encounter?

The mere thought sent a wave of crimson spreading across her cheeks, mingling with the heat radiating from the steaming bathwater, deepening the blush on her already warm face.

Lost in her thoughts, Linsey entertained countless explanations, each more bewildering than the last.

As she pondered, a fleeting shadow darted across her vision, startling her.

Her skin lost all color, turning ghostly pale as a scream tore from her throat-a sharp, instinctual cry of alarm.

At that same moment, Collin was seated in a wheelchair by the bedroom door, his expression unreadable as he listened to

his assistant detail Gorman's recent interactions.

"Tonight, Gorman got quite a few visitors, each vying for his favor. Yet, of all these suitors, he granted an audience to just

one-a detail I find particularly intriguing."

"And who might that be?" Collin asked, his voice steady, betraying no emotion.

The assistant was just about to reveal the name when Linsey's scream echoed through the hallways, slicing through the

tense atmosphere like a knife.

Chapter 330 Honey, There's A Spider

The voice was unmistakable it was Linsey's, and she was the only one in the room.

Collin's calm expression shifted in an instant, his focus narrowing

Was something wrong with Linsey?

Without pausing, he quickly turned his wheelchair around and headed straight for the bathroom.

"Linsey!" he called out, his voice barely above a whisper as he pushed the bathroom door open.

A wave of thick, damp heat hit him as soon as he stepped inside.

He didn't blink, his gaze scanning the room, searching for her.

Linsey stood there, wrapped in a towel, her hair loosely tied up and still damp.

Fear etched across her face, and when she saw him, she exhaled a breath she hadn't realized she had been holding.

Collin's eyes swept over her quickly, relief flooding through him when he saw she was unharmed.

He let out a quiet sigh, his voice soft as he asked, "What happened? I heard you scream."

Linsey's gaze was fixed on a distant corner of the room, and she spoke in a whisper, as though afraid to disturb something

"Honey, there's a spider..."

Her voice trembled just enough to be noticeable.

Noticing her anxiety, Collin followed her gaze and spotted the spider in the corner of the bathroom.

It clicked.

"So, you're afraid of spiders?" Collin teased, his tone light.

Linsey shoved him playfully, her voice laced with warning. "Collin, stop it. Don't make fun of me."

But her nerves were frayed, her body frozen in place as she watched the spider, terrified it might spring at her.

If that spider really jumped on her, she would probably lose it!

"Collin! Do something!" Her voice trembled, barely holding back tears.

Collin immediately dropped his teasing and reached out for her. "Come here, sweetheart. Take my hand and move slowly.

Don't worry, it won't come down."

Linsey let out a soft whimper, her eyes glued to the spider, as she quickly grabbed his hand.

In an instant, she pressed herself into his arms, trembling with fear.

She wanted to run into him completely, her body shaking uncontrollably

"It's stright, it's alright," Collin whispered, gently rubbing her back. His voles was calm and soothing Tom here You're wake

He looked down at Linsey, her face hidden against his cheat, and couldn't help but emile

Seeing Linsey, usually so bold, like this ao fragile and vulnerable was a side of her he rarely saw

But Collin, sensing the moment, wisely chose not to tease her any further

He stayed with her, offering comfort for a long while, until the heat and steam in the balliumom had inally faded

Collin gently touched the back of her neck and murmured, "Good thing the bathroom's heated, or Ed be worried you'd catch

a cold."

Linsey lifted her head just enough to glance at him. "I'm not cold."

Collin tucked a stray lock of hair behind her ear, his voice soft. "Don't worry, the spider's gone now."

"Will it come back?" Linsey asked, her eyes still slightly red from the tears

Collin spoke with quiet certainty. "I'll have Josh send someone up later to take care of it. I promise you won't have to worry

about any more bugs."

With his promise, Linsey finally exhaled, her body relaxing a little.

She glanced around, double-checking for any lingering spiders, before she tried to pull away from Collin

But the moment she moved, a strong arm snaked around her waist, holding her firmly in place.

Linsey looked up into Collin's eyes, ready to ask him to let go, but then her words caught in her throat as she noticed

something different in his gaze...