

Zillionaire 671

Chapter 671 Exactly The

Attitude You Should Have

Dolores cast a disapproval glance at Linsey, though she didn't refuse to check a message for her.

Without a word, she offered Linsey a glass of water before snatching the phone off the bedside table.

Something on the screen grabbed Dolores' attention right away.

As her eyes darted across the message, her face tightened, the seriousness creeping in with every line she read.

A beat later, she muttered under her breath, "Damn it."

Linsey blinked in confusion, her stomach sinking as she feared the worst about the competition. "What happened? Did something go wrong? Do they need me back right now?" she asked quickly.

Dolores let out a tense sigh and answered, "No. The judges are still waiting on the rest of the contestants to finish explaining their designs. The final announcement's still two hours away."

Then her tone shifted. She turned to Linsey, her voice dropping low. "Collin showed up at Booth 3 asking for you."

The words hit Linsey hard, sending a jolt straight through her chest.

Her expression turned distant as she mumbled, "What? Why would he even..."

Dolores didn't hesitate. "He doesn't know you're Aurora Bright. He just stormed in and asked to meet her directly. Thank god Caylee was already there. She handled it and got the staff to keep it quiet."

A storm of emotion stirred inside Linsey, her thoughts spinning out of control. She pressed her lips together and said slowly, "I never planned to reveal who I was when I started submitting under Aurora Bright. I always knew there was a risk Collin might catch on, but I didn't think it would be this soon. What made him suspicious?"

Dolores shook her head, clearly just as baffled. Her gaze drifted down to Linsey's bandaged right hand. "Back then, your right hand was completely fine. You never designed with your left. What gave him a reason to start putting the pieces

together?"

A sudden realization struck her. "Wait. Did you say something while explaining your design that tipped him off?"

Caught off guard, Linsey paused before replying, "No, that can't be it. I specifically mentioned that Aurora is a mother. Why

would he think that's me? Just because I said I wanted a peaceful life with a happy family? That's ridiculous. Plenty of people grew up without parents. It's not like I'm the only one."

Dolores went quiet for a beat before she let out a sharp scoff and waved her hand like she was swatting a fly. "Don't waste

another second thinking about him. He's only doing this because he's bored. Pretending he cared all this time? Please. That's just pathetic."

As she heard that, Linsey's face faltered ever so slightly, a trace of sadness slipping through her calm exterior.

But she didn't let it linger. With a small shrug, she said in a breezy tone, "It's whatever. If he finds out, then so be it. I've already moved on. Started over. He can do what he wants-it has nothing to do with me anymore."

A spark of approval flashed in Dolores' eyes as she gave an emphatic nod. "Exactly the attitude you should have. He's not

worth our time."

With a soft touch, she placed a hand on Linsey's shoulder. "Get some more rest.

I'll drive you back once it's closer to the

announcement."

"Okay," Linsey replied, her voice calm.

Not long after, Dustin tracked Collin down at a hotel suite on the top floor, just a short walk from the competition venue.

As soon as he stepped inside, the heavy stench of liquor clung to the air, making him wince.

The deeper he walked into the room, the more the mess came into focus-until he finally spotted Collin slouched on the

sofa, half-lost in the cushions.

"Again with the drinking?" Dustin muttered as he strode over and reached out to grab the half-empty bottle from his friend's grip.

But despite the dazed look in his eyes, Collin jerked away fast, pulling the bottle out of reach like it was the only thing

keeping him grounded.

"Don't start," he said. "Just leave me be."

Trying to tamp down the uneasiness crawling through him, Dustin eased himself

onto the edge of the couch. His voice dropped a notch as he said, "Alright. If that's

what you want, I won't stop you."

Chapter 672 Is He Coming

Back Alone

Collin didn't bother to give Dustin a look and took a long drink from the bottle in his hand.

Watching him, Dustin let out a quiet sigh. "Collin, the competition results are about to be announced. Don't you want to

see how it turns out?"

Collin placed the empty bottle down with a steady hand and casually opened another. His tone was flat. "Contestant No. 3

is Aurora Bright."

Dustin raised a brow. "You saw her just now?"

Collin didn't answer. He continued, "She's going to win first place."

Dustin knew just how brilliant Aurora's work was, but even so, he was surprised by how little faith Collin seemed to have

in their own designer-Arthur.

"Come on, Collin. Arthur's the one representing us. He's a seasoned pro in the industry," Dustin argued.

Collin gave a faint, almost cynical smile. "That's the problem. He's been in the game too long-set in his ways, blinded by years of praise. His skills have slipped, and now he's trying to win by cheating. He's teamed up with one of the judges, hoping to grab the prize and the huge bonus we promised."

Dustin stared at him, stunned. "You're saying Arthur's cheating?"

Collin gave a small nod. "Next year, remove Andy Lambert from the judging panel."

That caught Dustin off guard.

He had thought Collin was only paying attention to Aurora. He hadn't realized Collin had already seen through all the

shady dealings behind the scenes,

"Alright, I'll handle it," Dustin said after a pause.

He pulled out his phone and began typing out the necessary instructions.

Collin gave a short nod. "You can go now."

Taking the hint, Dustin didn't push it. He knew better than to linger when Collin was like this.

This wasn't the first time he had seen Collin in a mood like this-withdrawn and heavy-hearted.

With that thought, Dustin stood and headed for the door.

But just as he reached it, his phone buzzed. A message came in, and as he read it, his steps faltered.

Something in the message made his heart skip. Without hesitation, he turned back and rushed over to Collin.

Collin frowned. "Why are you still here?"

Dustin was too shaken to care about Collin's tone. He nearly shouted, "Collin! I just got word-Gorman is coming back!"

At those words, Collin's entire demeanor shifted. His expression darkened, and his grip on the bottle tightened.

He held his breath, voice low and tense. "Is he coming back alone?"

Linsey had vanished without a trace four years ago.

It wasn't long before Collin learned that Gorman had also disappeared around the same time. And since then, neither had

returned.

He had long suspected that Linsey had left with Gorman.

And if Gorman was now returning with her by his side, that meant they had spent the last four years together.

The thought hit Collin like a punch to the chest.

He and Linsey had barely lasted a year before divorcing. Yet she might have shared four whole years with another man. His

heart ached at the thought.

All he could do now was hope Dustin's next words would ease his worst fears.

Dustin glanced down at the photos sent by his people. His expression was a mix of surprise and confusion. "I don't think so," he replied

Collin felt a sharp pain swell in his chest.

A hollow smile tugged at his lips as his eyes dimmed, full of sorrow he could no longer hide.

Chapter 673 I Need To See For Myself

Just as Collin began to believe Gorman had returned with Linsey, Dustin's next words shattered his train of thought. "Collin,

Gorman seems to be traveling with a child."

Collin's brows knit sharply together. He turned to Dustin in disbelief. "What? A child?"

Still fixated on the blurry photo on his screen, Dustin gave a slow nod. "Yeah. He boarded the flight to Grester with a kid.

Our team couldn't get close enough to see clearly, but from what they could tell, it looked like a little girl."

Then, in a tone laced with confusion, Dustin muttered, "Gorman has a daughter now? But... Didn't he always insist he'd

only ever be with Linsey? He-"

Dustin stopped abruptly. His voice faltered, and his eyes hesitated to meet Collin's.

If Gorman, the man who once swore he would never marry anyone but Linsey, now had a daughter... Then the chances

were high that Linsey was the mother.

As he realized what he had just implied, Dustin's stomach dropped. He wished he could take the words back.

He had just twisted the knife in Collin's heart.

A long silence followed. Then, in a rough, low voice, Collin finally asked, "When does Gorman's flight land?"

Dustin quickly gave him the scheduled time-early evening. Then his eyes widened. "Wait, are you going to the airport?"

Collin's face was pale and hollow, shadowed with pain. His eyes were empty of light.

"Yes. Gorman is my only lead to Linsey. I need to see for myself," he said with a heavy heart.

Dustin knew instantly that Collin couldn't be swayed.

When it came to Linsey, Collin's determination was absolute. Nothing could stop him.

"Alright, then. I'm coming with you tonight," Dustin said.

He couldn't bear to let Collin face this alone.

If Gorman showed up with Linsey and a child, he worried Collin might lose it right then and there.

If that moment came, Dustin hoped he would be able to hold Collin back from doing something he would regret.

"Are we still heading back to the venue to hear the results?" Dustin asked tentatively.

Collin placed the bottle down and stood with a blank expression. His tone was flat. "No. I'm going to shower and get

myself together."

The smell of alcohol clung to him.

He thought of the chance-however small-that he might see Linsey tonight. And if that happened, he didn't want her to

smell liquor on him.

"Got it. I'll wait for you," Dustin said, slightly relieved to see Collin stop drinking.

At least now, Collin was moving, doing something, rather than sinking deeper into despair.

Ten minutes before the competition results were to be announced, Dolores managed to bring Linsey back just in time.

Inside the Davidson Group's resting lounge, Caylee was already waiting.

The moment Linsey walked through the door, Caylee rushed to her. "Linsey! Are you okay?"

Though still pale, Linsey offered a faint smile. "I'm alright. Don't worry too much."

She gently pulled away from Dolores' steadying hand. "I can walk on my own now. You don't have to keep holding me."

Chapter 674 I Really Am

Dolores shot Linsey a stern look. "You're being stubborn again. Sit down on the couch. Don't just stand there."

Caylee quickly nodded. "Yes, please sit. They're about to announce the competition results."

Linsey obeyed and sank onto the sofa. As her eyes drifted toward the still-dark screen, something clicked in her mind.

"Gorman and Zenia's flight lands tonight. Once this is over, we need to head to the airport to pick them up," she said

suddenly.

Dolores let out a helpless smile. "Gorman's a grown man. Does he really need you to pick him up? You're still recovering.

You should go straight to your hotel and rest after this."

Linsey shook her head, her tone firm. "I promised Zenia yesterday I'd be there. She's just a child-I can't break my word.

She'd be really upset."

Caylee joined in gently, "But Zenia cares a lot about your health. If she knew you weren't feeling well, she'd be worried sick."

"I'm honestly fine now," Linsey replied with a soft chuckle. "It was just a bit of heat exhaustion. I rested at the hospital and

feel much better."

Her gaze dropped to her right hand, wrapped in a fresh bandage. "As for this... It's nothing new. I've already adapted."

Dolores' face darkened with anger. "All because of those bastards from four years ago! You're a designer, and they damaged

your dominant hand. And it got worse after you gave birth!"

Every time Dolores remembered what Linsey had gone through, her blood boiled.

Carol might be gone, but Jeffery was still out there.

And it all traced back to Collin.

If he hadn't kept his identity from Linsey, none of that would have happened. Carol wouldn't have lashed out in jealousy, framing her again and again.

But Linsey said nothing. She simply reached out with her left hand and gave Dolores' shoulder a light pat, silently telling

her not to be angry.

Dolores' heart sank deeper. She glanced down at Linsey's hand, her voice catching slightly. "You basically had to start all over, training your left hand to draw. You worked day and night for two years to get here. If your right hand hadn't been injured, you'd be even more amazing now."

Linsey blinked, noticing the mist forming in Dolores' eyes.

To lighten the mood, she teased, "Dolores, you're getting soft. You used to be the tough one."

Just like that, Dolores' sadness melted into a laugh. "Are you serious right now? I'm trying to feel bad for you and you're

messing with me? You're too forgiving-it's almost heartless."

Linsey smiled warmly, her eyes crinkling. "I really am content. I have a wonderful friend like you, a sharp assistant like

Caylee, and two lovely kids. What more could I ask for? I'm happy."

Dolores let out a quiet sigh, then smiled back. "If you're happy, then I'm happy."

She paused for a second, then brightened. "You know what? No matter how the results turn out today, I'm treating you to

something special. You name it-I'll get it. I'm rich now, you know!"

Linsey laughed. "Then I won't hold back."

Chapter 675 Is That Little Girl Really His Daughter

Just then, the large screen in front of Linsey and Dolores lit up

Since the competition was held anonymously, none of the designers were present at the venue.

The host stepped forward with a mic in hand and smiled knowingly. This year's design competition was truly a sight to behold. So, which company's designer will take the crown? let's take a look at the screen!"

Meanwhile, across the city, the airport bundled with late-night travellers.

In a quiet corner of the arrivals hall, Collin and Dustin stood waiting for Gorman.

Suddenly, Dustin's phone buzzed. He glanced at the screen, then leaned toward Collin. "Aurora Bright, from the Davidson Group, won first place. Arthur came in third."

Collin's expression remained unreadable. "Terminate Arthur's contest

Dustin hesitated, surprised. "Alright"

He had personally brought Arthur into the competition, certain that such a top-tier designer would clinch the win. But

clearly, things hadn't gone as expected.

As Dustin mulled over the results, Collin's voice broke through his thoughts. "He's here,"

Both men looked ahead. Gorman had appeared, walking through the gate with a small entourage.

Just as Dustin had seen in the photos, Gorman carried a little girl in his arms

She was fast asleep, her face tucked against his shoulder.

Oddly, Collin's eyes locked onto the tiny figure, his focus tightening without him realizing it

And then, he had

Dustin muttered beside him, "Hard to believe Gorman's changed this much. He used to be so short-tempered. Is that little

girl really his daughter?"

As if on cue, the child stirred and slowly lifted her head

She mumbled something softly to Gorman

Even now, the warmth in Gorman's eyes and the soft smile on his lips were unmistakable.

Then she gently set her down and held her hand as they began walking

As they got closer, Collin could finally see the girl's face-and that instant, his heart skipped a beat.

stating She looked just like Linsey

Dustin gasped, his voice lowering. "She... She really looks like..."

He didn't dare finish the sentence. But the resemblance was impossible to

ignore-especially her eyes and her smile.

Then the little girl tugged on Gorman's hand and asked sweetly, "Daddy, when can we see Mommy?"

Gorman smiled down at her. "Very soon."

He gently patted her head. "Are you hungry, sweetheart?"

But Collin didn't hear anything else.

His ears rang, and his breath caught

It felt like the ground had shifted beneath him. Linsey had a daughter-with Gorman.

It hit him like a punch to the gut

He could only watch as the two walked away, hand in hand. The ache in his chest deepened with every step they took.

That child had to be Linsey's. And he had just heard her call Gorman Daddy.

Everything pointed to the same painful conclusion: Linsey had moved on. She had a family now. And whatever hope he had

held onto was gone,

Chapter 676 Aurora Must

Be The Girl's Mother

Collin's entire demeanor shifted. A cold, distant air surrounded him, his expression turning frosty and unreadable.

"Let's go," he said quietly, his voice low and firm.

Dustin understood the weight behind those two simple words. That brief exchange between Gorman and the child had said enough.

He opened his mouth, unsure of what to say.

Truthfully, Dustin understood.

Four years was a long time-long enough for people to change, for lives to move on.

And now, he finally grasped why Dolores had been so furious the last time Linsey's name came up.

Dustin wasn't just Collin's friend-he was also an outsider to Linsey's life. He had no right to ask about her choices, especially not now, when everything pointed to her having built a life with someone else, with Gorman, and a child.

Still, he hesitated, then said cautiously, "Collin... Shouldn't we follow them? Just to be sure? Maybe the child isn't Linsey's. Maybe she only looks like her. We haven't heard anything about Linsey being back in town. That girl might be Gorman's daughter with someone else."

Collin gave a faint, weary smile. His eyes dropped, a quiet sorrow clouding them. "Confronting Gorman now won't help. Besides, we might end up scaring the child," he said softly.

Dustin blinked, surprised.

He hadn't expected Collin to be so gentle-especially toward Gorman's daughter.

Still, he nodded. "Alright. Let's go."

"Alright."

The two men began walking out of the terminal.

Just as they reached the exit, Collin instinctively slowed his steps.

Ahead, Gorman was helping the little girl into a car, carefully fastening her into the child seat in the back. Collin's gaze locked on the scene.

Then, just as Gorman straightened up to close the door, Collin caught a glimpse of someone sitting inside the car. It was a familiar face.

His expression instantly changed. Without thinking, he stepped forward, his brows furrowed sharply.

But Gorman quickly shut the door and moved to the passenger seat.

"Collin, what's going on?" Dustin asked, noticing his shift in mood.

Collin kept his eyes on the car until it finally pulled away, then slowly turned back to Dustin. "I saw Aurora in that car."

Dustin looked stunned. "Wait-Aurora? The designer from the Davidson Group? She's connected to Gorman?"

That didn't make sense. Aurora was supposed to be the Davidson Group's rising star, someone they had gone to great lengths to bring in. Why would she be involved with Gorman?

But to Dustin's surprise, Collin's expression had softened. Almost like a weight had lifted.

"Then Aurora must be the girl's mother," Collin murmured, thinking aloud.

Dustin blinked. For a moment, he didn't follow. But then it clicked. Collin was relieved. He thought the little girl wasn't Linsey's after all.

But given their resemblance, anyone in their right mind would think that the little girl was Linsey's daughter.

Despite that, Dustin couldn't rule out the possibility that the little girl was Aurora's. After all, he didn't know what Aurora

looked like.

Perhaps Aurora looked like Linsey, and that explained why the little girl resembled Linsey.

But seeing the faint hope return to Collin's face, he couldn't bring himself to question it. He simply nodded, keeping his

doubts to himself.

Still, a quiet thought tugged at him he had to meet Aurora in person. Only then would he be certain.

Meanwhile, Collin took a long breath and finally seemed to breathe a little easier.

"Find out where Gorman's headed next. He might be the only person who knows where Linsey is."

Chapter 677 Remember

Our Little Secret

"Alright," Dustin said with a nod.

Meanwhile, in the car, Gorman glanced at Caylee through the rearview mirror. She was playing quietly with Zenia. His

voice held a touch of concern as he suddenly asked, "Why didn't Linsey come?"

Last night, he had told Zander to talk Linsey into coming. Linsey had even promised to meet them at the airport.

Gorman knew her well. When Linsey made a promise to the kids, she never broke it.

So something must have gone wrong.

Caylee froze for a moment, unsure how to respond.

Just then, Zenia looked up and asked softly, "Caylee, why didn't Mommy come to pick up Daddy and me?"

Caylee's brows lifted in surprise. She glanced at Gorman.

Zenia still called him Daddy?

Gorman stayed calm. He leaned back slightly and said gently, "Zenia, when you see Mommy later, remember our little

secret, okay? Don't call me Daddy around Mommy."

Zenia nodded seriously. "I know, Gorman."

Caylee's focus wasn't on how Zenia addressed Gorman.

What bothered her was that this wasn't the right time to talk about Linsey in front of Zenia.

After thinking it over, she quietly sent Gorman a message explaining what happened.

Then, turning to Zenia with a smile, she said, "Your mom just finished a big competition today. She's very tired, so she

went to rest. But you'll see her soon."

Gorman, seated in front, read Caylee's message. His face darkened in an instant.

He had known this would happen. He never should have let Linsey come to Grester for that design competition.

Her right hand was already in bad shape.

Gorman turned to stare out the window, his face cold and unreadable. The chill in

his expression made the driver grip the wheel tighter.

Then, out of nowhere, he remembered what happened at the airport. A faint,

mocking smile tugged at his lips.

Just as he thought-Collin still hadn't let Linsey go.

But this time, he wasn't going to give Collin another chance.

Soon, they arrived at Linsey's hotel.

The moment they stepped in, Dolores lit up from the sofa.

"Well, if it isn't Zenia! Come here and give me a big hug!" Dolores beamed.

"Zenia!" Zander shouted, jumping from his seat. He had been watching cartoons.

Gorman gave a small nod, letting Zenia run into Dolores' arms. His eyes scanned the room before landing on the closed

bedroom door.

Dolores noticed his gaze and quietly said, "Linsey's resting inside."

Gorman didn't say anything right away. After a few seconds, he turned to Caylee. "Take Zenia and Zander to another room

to play."

"Yes, boss," she said quickly and left with the kids.

Once the door shut, only Gorman and Dolores remained in the living room.

Dolores glanced at him. His face showed just how upset he was.

She sighed and spoke first. "If you're going to blame someone, blame me. I really didn't take care of Linsey like I should've."

Gorman stared at her for a few seconds. Then, out of nowhere, he gave a strange little laugh and sat on the sofa.

"You're her best friend. How could I blame you?" His tone was soft. "I know

Linsey. She takes her work seriously. Since she

agreed to enter the competition under your company's name, I knew she'd give it everything she had."

Chapter 678 Linsey Will No Longer Engage In Designi...

Gorman's smile sent a shiver down Dolores' spine.

Feeling a sudden cold, she wrapped her arms around herself and assured him, "The competition has concluded. Rest

assured, Linsey will no longer engage in designing."

Gorman quirked an eyebrow, asking slowly, "But isn't designing Linsey's passion? How do you intend to prevent her from

pursuing it?"

"It's not about stopping her entirely. My plan is to ensure she avoids using her right hand for any detailed work."

Dolores picked up on an unusual tone in Gorman's question, as if he were subtly suggesting she should keep Linsey from

designing.

Disturbed by her own thoughts, Dolores swiftly changed the subject. "Linsey's in her room. Would you like to go see her?"

With a subtle shake of his head and a soft smile, Gorman declined. "No need, she needs her rest."

He then casually asked after a brief pause, "Has Linsey met Collin during her stay in town?"

His expression was mildly curious, suggesting he would be unfazed by her response.

"You two are quite close. Surely she tells you everything?" he continued.

Dolores felt her pulse quicken at the question.

Indeed, Linsey had confided in Dolores about encountering Collin soon after her return.

Yet, Dolores sensed that revealing this might stir trouble.

Gathering her thoughts, she responded steadily, "Linsey has been wholly focused on the competition since she came back.

As you know, she just wrapped up today. Although CR Corporation sent a

designer here, the entries this year were

anonymous. Collin was unaware that Aurora was actually Linsey."

While discussing, Dolores was suddenly reminded of an unusual episode when Collin appeared at Linsey's booth without

explanation.

The rationale behind his suspicion remained a mystery to both her and Linsey.

Dolores decided against sharing this incident with Gorman.

Her interactions with Gorman had been limited, yet he always struck her as somewhat eerie.

Despite this, Gorman had consistently supported Linsey over the years, caring for her and her two children without any

apparent faults, which left Dolores with no concrete reason to distrust him.

Thankfully, Linsey had never expressed a desire to be with Gorman, prompting Dolores to stay out of it.

"Understood." Gorman responded with a knowing nod. "Collin previously deceived Linsey. I'm worried she might fall prey to his tricks again if they meet."

As Gorman spoke, his face darkened, revealing his clear disdain for Collin, which he made no effort to conceal.

Gorman explained, "Linsey has finally recovered from her previous heartbreak. It would devastate me to see her suffer

again."

Dolores nodded in agreement. "I couldn't agree more."

Her own dislike for Collin was just as intense, given the pain he had caused Linsey.

Their discussion was interrupted when Dolores received an unexpected notification.

She checked her phone, her expression turning to surprise.

"CR Corporation has just announced a banquet for tomorrow night, in light of this year's successful design competition.

They invited all the companies participating in the design competition and their designers. They're also organizing an

auction at the event," Dolores told Gorman, slightly puzzled. "This is a new addition; they haven't done this after past

competitions."

Chapter 679 Mommy, Are You Still Feeling Sick

When he heard Dolores' words, Gorman's mind went back to the airport. He had seen Collin and Dustin there.

Gorman figured the banquet was no coincidence. Collin must have arranged it after seeing him return to Grester with

Zenia.

After all, Zander looked a lot like Linsey.

And when Zenia called him Daddy, it probably stirred something in Collin-enough to make him suspicious.

Gorman guessed Collin wanted answers. So, he decided to show up at the banquet with Linsey and let Collin see them together. Maybe then he would finally give up.

"Alright. I'll go with Linsey tomorrow night," Gorman said, a sly smile on his lips.

When Linsey woke up, the room was dim and quiet.

She sat up suddenly, dazed and confused.

Her heart sank. She had promised to pick up Zenia.

Frustrated, she threw off the blanket and got out of bed. She couldn't even remember when she had fallen asleep.

She vaguely recalled eating with Dolores and Caylee after the competition results were announced.

They had planned to go to the airport together.

Linsey guessed she must have dozed off on the way. But now wasn't the time to figure it out.

She switched on the light, dressed quickly, and rushed to open the door.

Just then, two small figures popped up in front of her.

"Mommy, you're finally awake!" Zander said.

"Mommy, I missed you so much!" Zenia exclaimed.

Zenia and Zander wrapped themselves around her legs, one on each side.

Zenia clung to her, looking up with wide, worried eyes. "Mommy, are you still feeling sick?"

Linsey was stunned. She hadn't expected Zenia to be here already. Her heart filled with joy.

She knelt down and pulled both kids into a tight hug.

With teary eyes, she addressed Zenia. "I'm so sorry, sweetheart. I didn't come to pick you up."

Zenia shook her head seriously. "It's okay. Gorman, Dolores, and Caylee said you were really tired and needed to rest. I

understand, Mommy."

Just then, a warm voice rang out. "Linsey."

She looked up and saw Gorman walking toward her, a gentle smile on his face.

She knew it was because of him that Zenia had made it safely to Grester.

Grateful, she pressed her lips together and said softly, "Thank you for bringing Zenia."

Gorman smiled. "It was nothing. I'm attending a big banquet tomorrow night. I heard you and Dolores will be there too."

Linsey asked, puzzled, "A banquet?"

He nodded and took Zander's hand, motioning for her to bring Zenia over to the sofa.

"It's hosted by CR Corporation. They're celebrating the end of this year's design competition. A lot of important people will

be there. Should be a grand night," Gorman explained.

Linsey gently set Zenia down on the sofa and smoothed her soft hair. She didn't

say much. Her expression stayed calm, as

if Gorman's words meant little to her.

Chapter 680 I'm Not Going

Gorman paused briefly, then said calmly, "Linsey, let's go together tomorrow night."

His voice was gentle, his gaze soft and sincere. "Would you do me the honor of being my companion?" he asked, lowering his tone with genuine humility.

There was no pressure in his words, only quiet persistence-like he would accept any cost if she just said yes.

Linsey didn't respond right away. Her face stayed neutral, but a flicker of emotion passed through her eyes. "I'm not going. I'd rather stay at the hotel with the kids. If you have to be there, ask someone else."

However, Gorman only smiled, even more tenderly this time. "No. Whether you go or not, you'll still be my only choice."

He picked up his phone, scrolling for a moment before adding with quiet emphasis, "But according to Dolores, since you're

the champion this year, you might have to attend. Skipping it could hurt Davidson Group's brand partnerships."

Linsey's brow furrowed, and her voice sharpened. "Didn't they say winning would guarantee top promotional resources?"

Gorman let out a light, helpless chuckle. "Linsey, don't be upset. Let me explain. The promotions are in place-but

partnerships still need negotiation. You know how it works. A product won't succeed on ads alone. It needs the right

backing to really take off."

As he spoke, he calmly sent a message to Dolores.

Then he went on, "Tomorrow's banquet will be packed with major industry figures and potential investors. If Davidson

Group can earn their support, production and sales down the line will go much more smoothly."

Linsey stayed quiet, her eyebrows still drawn as she wrestled with the decision.

Gorman took note of her hesitation, then gently reassured her, "Don't worry about a thing tomorrow. I'll handle everything."

I'll do whatever I can to help Dolores."

"I..." Linsey paused, unsure. After hearing all that, she didn't feel right just staying behind at the hotel.

She finally said, "I'll go back to my room and call Dolores."

"Of course. Talk it over with her," Gorman said with a calm nod.

His unexpectedly soft tone made Linsey's guard ease up, almost without realizing

it.

She left the kids in his care and headed back to her room.

Once she was alone, she closed the door and messaged Dolores to ask if she was free for a call.

A moment later, her phone lit up. Dolores was calling.

"Linsey, are you feeling better now?" Dolores asked right away, concern in her voice.

"I'm much better after that nap. Not as tired now," Linsey replied quietly.

Dolores sighed with relief. "You fell asleep in the car, and we didn't want to wake you, so we took you back to the hotel. I

had Caylee pick up Zenia and Gorman. Luckily, Zenia was very understanding. We explained everything, and she didn't

blame you for not being there."

She paused, then added with a soft note of guilt, "Please don't be mad at us. We didn't mean for you to break your promise

to her."

Linsey's heart softened at that. "You were looking out for me. Why would I be mad?"