

Zillionaire 681

Chapter 681 Are You Ready To Face Collin

Linsey lowered her gaze, eyes lingering on the closed door, then asked quietly, "Did Gorman hint that I have to be at

tomorrow night's banquet?"

Dolores's tone shifted, becoming more serious. "Yes. Before I left, he mentioned it more than once. And just now, he texted me again, stressing how important it is that you go."

A chill ran through Dolores as she added, almost to herself, "I don't get it. Why is Gorman so set on having you there? I asked around earlier-the banquet is completely optional. Designers aren't required to attend. The follow-up work will

be

handled by the company reps anyway."

Linsey's eyes narrowed slightly. She let out a quiet sigh. "I really thought Gorman might've changed over the years. But he's still the same-always overthinking things. That said, he's helped me a lot over the past four years. I can't fault him too

much."

Dolores hesitated, then asked, "So... Have you figured out why he's doing this?" Linsey didn't think long before answering softly, "He probably wants to see if I still have feelings for Collin."

Dolores was silent for a few seconds before gently asking, "Do you?"

That question made Linsey pause.

After a moment, her voice came low and a little unsteady. "Dolores, I won't lie to you. I don't even know myself. It's been four years. I should've moved on, but somehow... I just haven't."

Dolores felt a tightness in her chest hearing that. After a beat, she reminded her, "Do you remember what you said when I first brought up the design competition? You were so sure of yourself. I asked if you were worried about seeing Collin again, and you told me your dreams mattered more than your ex-husband ever could."

Linsey let out a laugh, light and surprised. "Did I really say something that bold?"

"You did. So, there's no need to be afraid of running into him. If it happens, it happens. It's not like he can kick us out of

town."

At that, both women fell silent for a moment.

Now that Collin's identity as the founder of CR Corporation was public, and his influence in Grester had only grown, they

both knew that technically, he probably could.

"Okay, maybe I was wrong. Maybe we should be avoiding him," Dolores mumbled.

Linsey tried to hold back a laugh. "I doubt he'd go as far as to drive us out of town."

Still, her tone shifted, tinged with worry. "What I'm scared of is him finding out about the kids. What if he learns that I

gave birth to them in secret? With his power, if he wants to fight me for custody, I'm afraid I won't stand a chance."

Dolores grew tense. "Zenia wouldn't be much of an issue. She doesn't look like him-she takes after you. claim she's someone else's daughter, just to throw him off. But Zander..."

You could even

Her voice dropped. "That's the problem. He looks just like Collin. And he even has a few of your features too. If Collin sees him, there's no way he won't get suspicious."

She hesitated, then added, "Remember when Caylee took Zander to the play area at the restaurant? Dustin saw him and mentioned how much he looked like Collin. That can't happen again. We have to keep Zander away."

"I know. Even if I do go to the banquet, the kids will stay at the hotel. Caylee can watch over them," Linsey said with a nod.

Dolores paused, a bit surprised. "So... You're really going? Are you ready to face Collin?"

Chapter 682 Who Said Anything About Me Likin...

With firm resolve, Linsey said, "That mistake was Collin's, not a betrayal on my part. I have no reason to continue avoiding

him. Since you're attending tomorrow night's banquet where fashion topics will surely arise, having me there could be

beneficial."

Moved by the gesture, Dolores responded warmly, "You're truly thoughtful, Linsey! And don't stress, if Collin starts any

trouble, I'll have your back, even if it costs us our promotional resources!"

Linsey reassured her, saying, "I know it wasn't simple securing this for you, so make sure you leverage it fully!"

She then added, "Actually, I'm eager to test whether I can maintain my composure around Collin at the banquet."

Pausing for a moment, Linsey continued, "There's also something I need you to inquire about on my behalf."

The celebratory banquet for the design competition unfolded as planned at an opulent hotel in Grester's heart.

Dressed in a tuxedo, Collin cast a reserved glance around the room.

Dustin walked up with his hand resting in his pocket and inquired, "Catching your interest?"

Collin, with a grave tone, said, "Aurora is supposed to be here tonight. I need to check if she's the same person I saw at the

competition yesterday."

Raising an eyebrow, Dustin questioned, "Why are you still concerned about that, Collin?"

Appearing nonchalant yet playful, Dustin spun around before Collin and asked expectantly, "How do I look? Am I looking

sharp today?"

Collin cast a quick, indifferent glance at him and said with a shrug, "It's a bit much."

In disbelief, Dustin stared at him. "Are you serious? I spent forever putting this look together!"

Without much sympathy, Collin let his eyes drift to the excessive jewelry around Dustin's neck and fingers. "You've got too

much going on. There's no focus. Honestly, you look like someone trying too hard to show off."

In a flash, Dustin yanked off the necklaces and muttered under his breath, "Here I was thinking I looked good... guess I look

like a mess instead."

With a look that carried more weight than his words, Collin asked, "What's gotten into you today?"

The question caught Dustin off guard. His face stiffened, then flushed with embarrassment. "Dolores asked me to be her

companion."

Relief flickered across Collin's face as he heard that. "Did you finally tell her how you feel?"

Dustin nearly choked on his own breath. "W-what? Who said anything about me liking Dolores?"

His face turned a deep red. "Stop spouting nonsense, Collin!"

Instead of answering, Collin tilted his head and looked past Dustin toward something-or someone-behind him. "You sure about that?"

Suddenly at a loss for words, Dustin fumbled for a reply, saying, "I—I just..."

A slow, almost bored voice called out from behind them. "Seriously, Dustin? Why are you talking like that?"

The sound hit him like a shockwave. Dustin stiffened, spinning around with a startled look. "H-how long have you been standing there?"

Without so much as a blink, Dolores closed the distance between them, her face unreadable. "Long enough to hear you blurt out, 'Who said anything about me liking Dolores?'"

Words tumbled in Dustin's throat as he tried to recover, but nothing coherent came out.

Before he could pull himself together, Dolores waved him off and spoke with a casual shrug. "Come on. You think that would bother me? You don't like me. I don't like you. No need to turn it into some dramatic scene."

Chapter 683 Let's Go Inside

Dustin opened his mouth as though to say something but quickly shut it again.

The look on his face as he stared at Dolores was one of sadness.

Finally, he opened his mouth and began, "You..."

Dolores, however, didn't let him finish. Not sparing Collin a glance, she pulled Dustin away, saying, "Come with me. I have

something urgent to talk to you about."

Dolores had to keep a close eye on Dustin and ensure he didn't leave her side.

Linsey was attending the banquet as the designer Aurora. Neither of them was sure if Collin would actually be able to

recognize her.

However, Dolores decided to take preemptive steps to ensure Dustin wouldn't be able to connect the dots.

Dolores' plan was to keep Dustin away from the banquet and in that way prevent him from noticing anything amiss.

However, in her bid to do this, she failed to notice the look of shyness that had settled over Dustin.

At that moment, Linsey, who had on a stunning mask and an elegant gown that hugged her body perfectly and trailed on the floor as she moved, walked into the banquet arm in arm with Gorman.

Her perfect figure drew attention even though most of her face was hidden behind the mask.

Gorman could see how much attention her presence drew, and his expression darkened slightly at this.

His grip on Lindsey's arm tightened ever so slightly.

Linsey noticed the tightening of his arm as she turned to him, a look of confusion on her face.

"It's nothing." Gorman said when he noticed the question in her gaze. His eyes met hers, and in that moment, his heart skipped a beat as yearning flooded through him.

He, however, managed to maintain his composure. Trying to draw attention away from himself, he attempted to adjust Lindsey's mask.

As his fingertip brushed against her cheek, he could see a trace of her makeup cling to his fingers.

Gorman paused, showed Linsey his fingers, and said, "Your makeup tonight seems to be quite different."

"Yes, it is. Sorry about that," Linsey replied as she retrieved a wet wipe from her purse and cleaned his fingers. "I changed my makeup. I used a heavier foundation to hide my identity."

Gorman stared intently at Linsey as she wiped his hand. Finally he said, "I thought it was because you're trying to avoid being recognized by someone you know."

Linsey's expression remained unchanged as she flatly asked, "Who else could I possibly know in Grester aside from Dolores?"

However, within her, Linsey had made up her mind to feign ignorance, even if Gorman insisted on probing.

Tonight, she needed to know if Collin's presence would affect her emotions.

This, however, didn't mean she would allow for Gorman's prying into her thoughts.

The two fell into an uneasy silence.

Gorman finally broke it by chuckling softly. "We're here for Dolores' fashion brand, aren't we?" he asked.

Linsey's fist clenched, and she averted her gaze.

It wasn't entirely because of that...

Gorman didn't miss the change in Linsey's look.

His expression darkened momentarily.

However, he quickly put on a smile and said, "Linsey, let's go inside. If everything goes as planned, we will get back to

Zenia and Zander sooner."

Chapter 684 Long Time No

See, Collin

Linsey's chest tightened at the mention of the children.

Gorman seemed to always know how to hit her where it hurt the most.

Yet he acted as though he wished her well.

Linsey took a deep breath and then nodded in response.

"Isn't that Gorman Green, the head of Green Group? He hasn't been in town for a long while now. Why has he suddenly

returned?" someone whispered.

"Who's the masked woman with him? She's quite stunning," another person said.

"There are rumors that it is the winner of this year's design competition, Aurora Bright."

"That's strange. Wasn't Aurora representing the Davidson Group in the competition? How then is she connected to Gorman?"

"Who knows. However, you must admit they make a striking pair together."

Gorman, upon hearing the last comment, smiled slightly, the moodiness that had been around him dissipating.

Linsey, however, pretended to not hear what had been said. She and Gorman then proceeded to walk inside.

Soon, she spotted a familiar figure she hadn't seen in a while.

Her breath caught in her throat, and her pulse quickened.

She struggled to maintain her composure, as she didn't want Gorman to see that anything was amiss.

Gorman, too, also saw Collin, and his eyes narrowed.

Without a word, he walked up to Collin with Linsey in tow.

"Long time no see, Collin."

Collin turned his gaze towards the voice he had heard, and his gaze caught on to a familiar pair of eyes.

His heart skipped a beat.

Linsey didn't understand why Gorman had brought her to Collin.

However, she steeled herself and met Collin's gaze with practiced indifference.

"Yeah, it has," Collin replied, after a moment of awkward silence. As he spoke, his eyes rested on Linsey.

Gorman took note of Collin's reaction, and a smirk tugged at his lips. He released Linsey's hand and instead placed an arm

around her shoulder. "Allow me to introduce the champion of this year's designer competition, Aurora Bright."

Linsey kept her eyes on the floor. Her fist clenched involuntarily.

What on earth was Gorman planning?

She had thought that with her mask, it would be easy to avoid being recognized if she kept her distance.

But now, Gorman had brought her right in front of Collin!

Linsey's breath grew labored underneath her mask.

Taking note of Linsey's distress, Gorman tightened his arm around her shoulder.

"Oh yeah?" Collin said, his eyes still on Linsey as though he could see beneath her mask.

Just as Linsey was about to lose her composure, Collin extended his hand towards her. "Nice to meet you, Aurora. Your

work in yesterday's competition was breathtaking." He paused, then finished, "I really liked it."

Linsey's lips parted slightly like a fish caught out of water.

She stood, motionless and rigid, in Gorman's arm.

Although Gorman still wore his smirk, his eyes had grown cold as he studied

Linsey the way a hawk would study its prey.

Chapter 685 Who Is She

"The founder of CR Corporation just paid you a compliment. Don't you think you should respond?" Gorman said to Linsey.

She took a deep breath and then turned to Gorman with an intent stare.

The smile on Gorman's face immediately disappeared.

Being so near, he could finally see that Linsey's eyes were red with emotion.

Those eyes had a questioning gaze.

In his daze, Gorman let go of Linsey.

Without a word, Linsey hiked the hem of her dress and walked away, briskly brushing past Collin.

As she walked past Collin, a recognizable sweet scent lingered in the air, causing his heart to skip a beat.

It was at that moment that Collin finally realized that the masked woman, the famous designer Gorman had introduced to

him, was actually Linsey.

Gorman finally regained his composure and turned to see Collin standing completely still. Smiling suggestively, Gorman

said, "You appear to be quite enamored with my companion, Collin."

Collin stared back at him with a look of cold indifference.

"Your companion?" he repeated.

Gorman smirked arrogantly and replied, "Of course."

He paused briefly, then continued, "You should understand one thing. Much can change in four years. It would serve you

well to stay away from those who will never belong to you."

With that, Gorman walked away, leaving Collin standing alone.

Collin remained standing where he was, his mind replaying the interaction that

had just occurred not more than two

minutes earlier.

Even with her face concealed, he could still identify Linsey.

Collin felt a sharp pain in his chest at this thought.

So Linsey was the renowned designer Aurora.

The designer in the third booth during yesterday's competition was actually Linsey.

She had been the one who had endured through the heat to finish her work and had also been the one who had used her

left hand through the entire design process.

At this realization, a plethora of questions flooded Collin's thoughts.

Why had Linsey used her left hand for designing, and why did she just vanish all of a sudden?

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Before Collin could further ponder this, his assistant showed up and said to him, "Mr. Riley, Miss Walton is here and

requests to see you."

Collin frowned, a look of confusion on his face as he asked, "Who is she?"

The assistant paused, giving off the vibe that Collin had just asked an awkward question.

Finally, he answered, "She's Haven Walton, the person your grandmother once arranged for you to marry. She had left you five years ago on the day of your wedding. She recently returned to the country, and upon discovering that you are the founder of CR Corporation, she was eager to meet you in person and apologize for her suddenly leaving that day."

Collin listened, his face a mask of indifference. His thoughts were still on his brief encounter with Linsey, so he barely registered what his assistant was telling him.

It took him a few moments to realize that his assistant had stopped speaking. "The banquet tonight is open to everyone. I won't stop anyone who wants to attend," Collin said indifferently.

The assistant frowned in confusion.

Did Collin agree to meet Haven or not?

However, based on Collin's tone, he didn't seem to have any aversion to meeting Haven.

Chapter 686 Linsey, Are

You Serious

Elsewhere, Gorman located Linsey discreetly enjoying a glass of wine in a secluded corner.

Linsey sensed his approach but didn't acknowledge him, continuing to sip her wine with a cold demeanor.

"Linsey," Gorman called softly, his smile warm.

Abruptly, Linsey set her glass down hard on the table.

The noise of the banquet barely registered the sound, but for Gorman, standing so close to her, it made his heart skip a

beat.

As Gorman opened his mouth to speak, Linsey's stern gaze met his, silencing him mid-breath.

Taking a moment, Linsey said, "Gorman, your support over the years has meant a lot to me, and I've truly valued our friendship. However, your actions this evening have left me perplexed."

Her expression softened ironically as she gestured to her masked face. "I even consulted Dolores about wearing this mask tonight to ensure my anonymity, altering my makeup specifically."

Linsey sighed deeply before adding, "Yet, your behavior tonight has undermined all my precautions."

Gorman's smile vanished, replaced by a solemn expression as he locked eyes with Linsey.

After a tense pause, Gorman posed a direct question. "Linsey, what's the reason for your disguise around Collin?"

His gaze was piercing. He attempted to capture any fleeting emotion in her response.

"It has been four years since you last saw Collin. You're supposed to be unfazed by his presence, yet you still seem terrified, hiding your face whenever he's around," Gorman said before scoffing meaningfully. "Doesn't this suggest you still haven't gotten over him?"

Linsey stared at Gorman, taken aback.

She suddenly perceived a different side of Gorman, one that was assertive and unnervingly profound.

Taking a moment to steady her breathing, Linsey composed herself.

"Gorman, my feelings towards Collin are my affair. I'll manage them on my own without needing anyone's interference."

Linsey spoke with a remarkable sense of calm and composure. "I appreciate your help, but if you intend to leverage that to

pressure me, we might need to redefine our relationship strictly in terms of business. I can settle any debt with money."

Gorman's eyes flickered, his voice shaky as he responded, "Linsey, are you serious?"

Linsey's gaze did not waver; her voice carried a grave sincerity.

Continuing, she said firmly, "Gorman, I'm aware you want more than friendship from me, but I must be honest. Regardless

of my future with Collin, pursuing anything romantic with you isn't an option."

She paused briefly, and her voice softened slightly. "I do value your support, especially for Zenia and Zander. However, my feelings for you will always remain strictly platonic."

Gorman's face darkened rapidly, his stare hollow as he looked at her. "Linsey, do you really have to be so cruel to me?"

Chapter 687 That's Something I Just Can't Do

Linsey gave a patient explanation. "If I were really heartless, I would have embraced your affection blindly, pretending to be

oblivious."

"I wish you had," Gorman murmured, his smile tinged with bitterness. "To be honest, Linsey, I'd prefer if you weren't so

honest with me. It would allow me to preserve the illusion I've crafted."

Shaking her head firmly, Linsey whispered, "That's something I just can't do, Gorman. I really can't."

She bit her lip, continuing, "There are many women far better suited for you than I am."

They faced each other, each striving to maintain a steady voice.

However, it was Gorman who found it challenging to control his emotions; Linsey was unaffected by his distress.

At times, Gorman found himself wishing Linsey would just once lose her composure with him, believing it would signify

that she had some emotional stake in him.

Gorman averted his gaze, concealing the mix of frustration and anger brewing inside him.

He struggled to accept Linsey's assertion that no matter her situation with Collin, she could never be with him.

A bitter laugh echoed in Gorman's mind as he thought about her words.

He couldn't accept that Linsey felt nothing for him.

In his thoughts, he reassured himself that Linsey's emotional outburst was just a reaction to unexpectedly encountering

Collin.

When Gorman looked up again, his sadness had vanished.

"Okay, Linsey," he said, managing a forced smile. "I was too hasty before. It was wrong of me to confront you with Collin like that. I'll give your words some thought when I'm alone."

He inhaled deeply and, with a smile, said, "We can still be friends, can't we? The kind where there's no underlying agenda. You know, over the years, my support wasn't solely rooted in my feelings for you-it was also for Zenia and Zander. They're such endearing children, and I find myself easily swayed by them. For my own sake, I'd like to remain a part of their lives, watching them grow. Would that be alright?"

When Linsey heard him bring up Zenia and Zander, she acknowledged that the children did depend on Gorman to a certain

extent.

She believed that the complications between the adults shouldn't affect the kids. Gorman had expressed a willingness to

still hang out as friends.

Considering this, Linsey gave a soft nod. "Alright."

She looked at him and suggested, "Perhaps we shouldn't see each other for a bit,

to give you some space to process everything. Once you feel ready, you're welcome to visit Zenia and Zander."

At her words, Gorman felt a tightness in his fists at his sides, which he quickly eased.

"Understood," Gorman replied with a mild smile. "Could we perhaps start that after tonight's event? We might still need to

assist Dolores in networking with some potential business partners."

Linsey was momentarily taken aback, impressed that he still considered Dolores' business needs.

She nodded once more. "Thank you for that."

Despite his turmoil, Gorman kept up a serene façade. "You're welcome."

Linsey sensed a discomfort watching him maintain his composure.

Realizing she might have been too stern before, she softened her tone and added, "I need some time to myself. If you're

needed, I'll reach out to you."

After their exchange, Gorman recognized that he couldn't push Linsey on any matter at this point.

Reluctantly, yet showing support as a friend, he agreed, "Alright, take the time you need."

Chapter 688 How Have You

Been, Collin

Linsey smiled and fixed her dress as she walked to the othe

Gorman watched Linsey walk away with a thoughtful expression on his face.

He stood like that for a while, pulled out his phone and dialed a number. "How goes the matter I instructed you on?" he

said coldly.

"There's nothing to worry about, Mr. Green. Haven is already at the banquet," the person on the other end of the phone

said.

"Good. Keep me informed of any changes."

"Yes, Mr. Green."

The banquet hall bustled lively even as the courtyard seemed to grow emptier.

Linsey walked down the path, her thoughts running wild with her recent meeting with Collin.

This time she had seen Collin closer and clearer as compared to the last time, when she had caught a glimpse of him

through a car window.

It had been four years. Collin seemed more mature and thoughtful. However, he seemed to give off a certain coldness she

had never felt from him before.

Maybe it was because she hadn't known back then that he was the founder of CR Corporation.

Previously, she had been unaware of Collin's other titles and identities.

However, now that she knew this, the relationship between them changed significantly.

It was difficult for them to go back to how they used to be.

Linsey's thoughts wandered for a while before finally she snapped back to reality with a bitter smile.

As Gorman had said, she really couldn't forget Collin.

In that moment, a female voice rang out. "How have you been, Collin?"

Linsey's heart skipped a beat upon hearing this.

Hurriedly, she hid in a corner and turned in the direction of the voice.

It was Collin and a woman.

Linsey immediately put her hand around her mouth in a bid not to make even the smallest of sounds.

From her hiding spot, she could hear Collin say, "I've been well."

Although his tone wasn't particularly friendly, it wasn't cold either.

Linsey felt there was a deeper meaning in Collin's words. However, she wasn't

sure if that was the case or if it was just her imagination.

What confused her the most, however, was why she was hiding and eavesdropping on them.

Annoyed at her actions, she wanted to leave, but her legs refused to move.

Collin and Haven, however, hadn't noticed Linsey yet.

Haven smiled at Collin and said, "That's good. While I was overseas, I was worried you weren't happy. I'm relieved to see

that this isn't the case."

Although Collin's face was a mask of polite civility, irritation had begun to build up within him.

However, he kept up the polite act because of the call he had gotten from his grandmother a few minutes ago.

Five years ago, he had agreed to marry Haven, the daughter of the Walton family, because of his grandmother's closeness to the Walton family.

However, Haven had suddenly left on the day of the wedding.

His grandmother had been extremely angry when she had heard the news. However, she later calmed down when she

learned that Haven had to leave because her mother had suddenly fallen ill.

This explanation, coupled with the closeness of both families, caused Ivy to not further press the matter.

Chapter 689 You'll Find

Someone Better

Years had gone by, and Ivy had long let go of her anger.

Just moments ago, she had even called Collin herself, asking him to keep an eye on Haven. Haven had just come back and

wasn't used to Grester anymore.

That was why Collin stood patiently in front of Haven now, quietly listening as she chatted about little things.

But in truth, ever since he had run into Linsey again, his mind had been full of her. He had no interest in anyone else.

Haven noticed his long silence and felt annoyed. Still, when she remembered how she had left him on their wedding day,

she couldn't bring herself to blame him.

She told herself maybe he was still hurt by what happened back then.

As she thought of that, a faint sweetness bloomed in her chest.

She looked at his long legs and smiled. "Back when you were in a wheelchair, I really thought your legs were injured. I felt

bad for so long. Later, Ivy told me it was all fake. I was so relieved."

Collin frowned slightly.

He knew Haven had visited Ivy after returning, but he didn't expect Ivy to tell her so much.

He stayed quiet for a while, unsure what to say. In the end, he just gave a small nod.

Haven's eyes lit up as she stared at his face. Then she pressed her lips together and said softly, "Collin, about the wedding

five years ago... I never meant to leave you."

In the shadows nearby, Linsey gasped and quickly covered her mouth.

In that instant, everything clicked. The woman with Collin-the one speaking now- was the same woman who had left him

at the altar.

From what she overheard earlier, Linsey could tell Haven and Ivy seemed close.

When she realized this, Linsey's heart sank.

Now she understood why Collin had barely reacted when he saw her with Gorman. His runaway bride was back.

And clearly, he no longer cared about her.

The thought stung. Linsey let out a quiet, bitter laugh and looked down with a cold smile.

She told herself to let it go. The past was the past. They had been divorced for four years. Whoever Collin was with now

wasn't her business anymore.

No more holding on to old feelings. No more heartache.

She took a deep breath, steadied herself, and turned away with a frosty expression.

The moment she left, Collin spoke calmly. "Haven, let's leave the past where it belongs. We've both moved on. You'll find

someone better."

Haven was briefly stunned, then said quickly, "But we were so close to being married. If that accident hadn't happened, we

might have kids by now. I-"

Before she could finish, Collin shook his head and cut in, voice firm, "After you left

me at the altar, I met someone else.

She's the one I love. I won't be with anyone else."

Haven froze. Her face stiffened.

But deep down, she wasn't surprised. She had heard about Collin's marriage. People said he truly loved his wife.

Chapter 690 Start Digging

Into That Woman

Haven's expression softened almost instantly. She gave a faint smile and said, "But you're already divorced, aren't you? It's been four years now."

Collin's gaze darkened, and his voice grew firm. "Divorce doesn't change the fact that I still love her."

Haven's smile faded. She stared at him, stunned and speechless.

Collin looked down slightly and continued, "I know my grandmother is close with your family. I'll show you and your

family the respect you deserve. But beyond that, I've made myself clear."

With that, he gave a polite nod. "If there's nothing else, I'll take my leave. I have matters to attend to at the banquet."

Before Haven could respond, Collin turned and walked off without hesitation.

A wave of humiliation washed over her.

Her fists clenched tightly, and her face burned with anger.

All her life, she had been spoiled and adored.

With her beauty and wealthy background, no one had ever dared reject her.

This was the first time a man had spoken to her like that-and it stung.

Just then, soft footsteps approached from behind..

Haven turned to see her friend, Joanne Ellis.

"Haven, what happened? Why did he leave like that?" Joanne asked.

Haven's face twisted with a mix of shame and fury. "I only hinted a little, and he shot me down right away. He said he still

loves his ex-wife!"

She paused, then gritted her teeth. "That woman only got the chance to marry into the Riley family because I walked away

from the wedding. And now I've lost to her-a nobody who was just a stand-in!"

Joanne looked surprised. Then she said seriously, "I heard his ex-wife was Linsey Brooks-a designer who used to be well-known here in Grester. No family, no background. Just an orphan. Who knows what tricks she pulled to stay in Collin's

heart?"

Haven's eyes narrowed with disdain. "Humph! No matter how talented she was, she still ended up divorced. At least I've built a solid bond with Collin's grandmother. If I play my cards right, it won't be long before I become his wife."

Joanne chuckled and sighed. "If we had known back then that Collin wasn't actually disabled-and that he was the founder of CR Corporation-you never would've left him."

Haven shot her a glare. "There's no point crying over spilled milk."

She then snapped, "Start digging into that woman-Linsey Brooks. I want every detail. Maybe there's something I can use to

win Collin back."

Half an hour later, Gorman saw Linsey again.

"Linsey."

She blinked, pulled from her thoughts, and saw Gorman watching her closely.

"Are you okay?" he asked gently, sensing something off.

Linsey gave a small shake of her head. "I'm fine."

But Gorman knew her too well. He could see through the lie.

Still, because she had always kept her feelings guarded, he didn't push her.