

A Favor 56

Chapter 56

“Don’t waste your time, Winona. He’ll get bored of you soon and come back to me.” A voice laced with spite sounded behind me.

There was no mistaking it. It could only be Leona.

I resisted the urge to turn around, refusing to give her the satisfaction of a reaction. Her petty games were getting old. I rummaged through my purse, pulled out my lip gloss, reapplied it, and ran my fingers through my hair as if I hadn’t heard her. I was almost to the door when she grabbed my arm.

“I’m not done with you, Winona!” she snapped.

I yanked my arm free and turned sharply.

“I have nothing to say to you, Leona. Davidson and I are together now, whether you like it or not. Arguing won’t change anything, so leave us alone.” My voice was as cold as hers.

“He’ll come back to me. He always does. You’re just another one of his little pastimes, Winona. No matter what you think, he always ends up at my feet,” she hissed, her voice low and bitter.

“You can believe whatever story helps you sleep at night, Leona. I don’t care.” I held her gaze, unblinking.

Her desperation brushed against me as I walked past her, but I refused to let it shake me. For a split second, doubt crept in. Would she always have that kind of power over him?

I pushed the thought away and returned to Davidson.

He was waiting by the door with his coat in hand, worry written across his face. The moment he saw me, his concern softened into a gentle smile.

"Everything okay? I thought I saw Leona follow you in," he asked, watching me closely.

"It's nothing. I'm used to it. Let's get out of here." I waved it off with a smile.

Davidson took my hand, threading his fingers through mine, and I let him. Together, we made our way to Carsten, who stood with his fiancée at his side. She was beautiful, with a warm energy that drew me in immediately.

"I was starting to think you forgot about us!" Aubriella pouted playfully as she turned to Davidson.

"No way, Aubriella. You know I wouldn't miss it." Davidson laughed and hugged her affectionately.

Then Aubriella looked at me with a radiant smile. "You must be Winona. I'm Aubriella. I'm so happy to finally meet you."

"Yes, that's me. It's a pleasure to meet you, Aubriella," I replied, returning her warmth.

"All right, let's go. If we wait any longer, the party will start without us." Carsten nudged Davidson. "Everyone's already asking about you. They'll be happy to see you."

"Yeah, I'll be glad to catch up with everyone." Davidson's smile turned genuine.

It hit me that he probably hadn't seen much of his friends since everything ended with Leona. The thought tugged at my chest.

"Careful, Winona. That group is full of wild ones, and they love showing off pretty girls. You'd better keep her close," Aubriella teased, laughing.