

Chapter 112 A Valentine's Day Surprise for Isabel

If Isabel took on a role, she'd fully immerse herself in it.

The idea of Isabel playing the female lead turned Lillian's face crimson, a combination of rage and jealousy making her almost seem like she could scorch the air with her glare.

"Thanks for the offer, but I'm not interested in acting." Isabel's refusal stunned the entire room.

Usually, aspiring actors had to put in years of hard work, rising through the ranks and seizing every tiny opportunity they could find. Or they needed strong connections to get anywhere.

Yet, here was Isabel, with no experience and no ties to the industry, being offered a lead role out of sheer luck and turning it down.

Scout, a seasoned industry veteran, was left speechless. After two decades in the business, he had witnessed countless aspiring actors fight desperately for leading roles. But never had he seen anyone, especially someone with no history in the industry like Isabel, reject such a golden chance.

"Don't you want to be famous?"

"No, not at all. Fame just brings more problems. It isn't worth it," Isabel replied, thinking of Seff, who had to hide behind a mask everywhere they went, even for something as simple as a meal.

"Being an actor pays really well. One movie could make you more money than a lifetime of regular jobs," Scout persisted, trying to entice her with the allure of wealth.

Isabel, though not one to boast, knew that she didn't need money.

"I don't chase wealth. As long as I have enough to live comfortably, that's all I need," she said politely.

She's so carefree!

Her laid-back attitude left Scout speechless.

In an industry where everyone was scrambling to get ahead, using underhanded tactics and pulling all kinds of tricks, Isabel's genuine nature was a rarity. It was a refreshing change.

"Alright, I won't push you," he said, pulling out his business card. "Take it. If you ever change your mind, you can reach out."

Scout felt conflicted. Someone like Isabel, with her qualities, was hard to come by. And what he'd said earlier was true—he had a great script in hand, just waiting for the right person to fill the role.

Isabel was the best fit he'd come across so far.

On the other hand, if Isabel really entered the industry, he worried that someone with her pure and graceful nature might end up being tainted or corrupted by it.

Right when Scout was still feeling troubled, Seff came running over, his energy infectious.

"Boss, sorry for keeping you waiting!"

The words took everyone by surprise, especially Lillian, who stared in disbelief.

They know each other?

And why did Seff call Isabel "Boss"?

"It's no big deal. I haven't been waiting long," Isabel responded, admiring Seff's new armor. It looked incredible on him, after all.

Seff caught her admiring him and grinned, his heart racing.

"So, Boss, how do I look? Pretty awesome, huh?" He spun around, proudly holding his helmet.

Isabel didn't hold back, giving him a thumbs-up. "You look pretty tough."

But once Seff started talking, his adorable tiger-like teeth would show, ruining the effect.

"Is she here to visit the set?" Scout asked Seff, curious about his relationship with Isabel.

"Yeah," Seff answered simply.

Well, that's great! Scout thought while pulling Seff aside.

"I wanted to bring her into the industry, but she turned me down. Maybe you can talk her into it?"

"No need to convince her. She doesn't care about money," Seff replied honestly.

Doesn't care about money? Scout recalled Isabel's earlier words about only needing enough to be happy.

"More money means a better life, though. Who doesn't want more?" Scout argued.

"There are people who say the opposite! My Boss always says she has so much money, she can't spend it all," Seff chimed in with a grin.

Scout shook his head. "Alright, let's drop that. The weather's great today, but rain's coming. We need to wrap things up now so there are no delays. Once we're done, you're free to go."

Seff gave a cheerful "OK" sign to Scout before turning back to Isabel with a wide smile.

Today, he was determined to impress Isabel and prove he was more than just a sidekick.

Just then, Isabel's phone buzzed.

She checked the message and saw it was from Xander.

"Got time to come to the office? The lunch is great today, and there's something you like."

"I'm on the set," Isabel replied.

On the set? Xander paused before texting back, "You're trying to be an actress?"

He didn't want Isabel in the spotlight. He preferred keeping her for himself.

But if she truly wanted fame, he'd support her. After all, she'd be upset if he didn't.

If it was what she wanted, he'd help her make it happen.

"You're overthinking it. I'm not interested in acting. I'm just visiting the set," Isabel replied, wanting to reassure him.

"Visiting the set?" Xander's curiosity grew, and he turned to Leo.

"Does she have connections in the industry?"

He didn't catch that when he reviewed Isabel's files.

Leo shook his head. "I don't think so." Then he thought of someone. "Lillian, her stepmother's daughter, is up-and-coming in acting. But I don't think Mrs. Bennett would visit her."

"Anyone else?" Xander asked, dismissing Lillian. He knew about Isabel's complicated relationship with her.

Leo paused, thinking. "I don't think she know anyone famous, but she might have some friends who aren't that popular."

Xander refocused on his phone, quickly typing, "Male or female?"

Leo, standing behind him, couldn't resist grinning as he read the message.

"Boss, can I leave on time tonight?"

"You have plans?" Xander asked, glancing up from his phone.

"Heh ... " Leo scratched his head, looking sheepish. "You remember that movie date with Mrs. Bennett? Well, I asked out my class president from college ... and it worked! Since it's Valentine's Day, I was thinking of taking her out tonight."

Xander narrowed his eyes, his expression darkening. "Are you bragging?"

"No, no, of course not," Leo muttered, slapping his mouth a few times. But there was a hint of pride creeping into his voice.

Xander had tried taking Isabel out to a movie and got nowhere, but Leo, using the same approach, had successfully won over the class president from college. If he said he wasn't at least a little pleased with that, he'd be lying.

But now, standing behind Xander's menacing face, Leo regretted it.

He had basically dug his own grave!

"Tonight, you're working late until midnight," Xander said coldly.

Leo's heart sank. He had worked so hard to win over the class president, and now, on their first Valentine's Day, he wouldn't be able to spend it with her. He was worried she would be upset.

"Boss, are you sure? Are you really going to make me stay this late? Don't you want to have a memorable Valentine's Day with Mrs. Bennett?" Leo asked.

Or is Mrs. Bennett not interested in spending time with Mr. Bennet, so he's taking it out on me by stopping me from spending Valentines day with my valentine?

Xander's lips curled into a slight smirk.

"Of course I'll celebrate. But I need you to prepare 99,999 roses."