

Chapter 118 Pressuring Isabel to Divorce

So this is what's going on!

Isabel's brow furrowed, confusion overtaking her.

They were so desperate for her to divorce Xander. If she wasn't mistaken, Rachel had to be behind all of this, secretly pulling the strings.

But she wasn't ready to just give in. She couldn't divorce Xander like this—not without a solid plan. She needed to think things through carefully.

Before Isabel could form a strategy, Xander's voice cut through her thoughts.

"Take the money back. I won't divorce her."

At his words, Isabel turned to face him, wide-eyed.

Samuel quickly jumped in, "Mom, this is too much! You're trying to break them apart? Isabel worked so hard to help me with my leg—how can you just throw her out like that? She hasn't done anything wrong."

Samuel's words made Xander add, "Even if she did something wrong, that's between me and her. As her husband, I'll bear the consequences."

"Exactly, Xan's right!" Samuel agreed.

Isabel blinked, shifting her gaze between Xander and Samuel, stunned into silence.

Ivana, on the other hand, was seething with anger. She couldn't believe what she was hearing.

She had been acting in the best interest of her son, but instead of backing her up, the two brothers were standing up for Isabel—someone who had barely been in their lives—and even accusing her of being unreasonable.

This woman, who has only been in our house for a short time, has already won the affection of both my sons. If this continues, what would be left for me in the family?

Rachel was right. Isabel, who seems so innocent on the surface, must have some hidden agenda. She has to be driven out before she gets any deeper into our lives.

"Now that everyone's made their stance clear, I won't keep beating around the bush."

Ivana's voice grew sharp as she glared at Isabel, her expression turning icy.

"Have you ever wondered how it was such a coincidence that she ran into Xander right outside city hall? Of all the people, why did she pick him?"

Isabel raised an eyebrow, replying without a care, "He's the most handsome! Out of everyone, he stood out the most, so of course, I noticed him right away."

Xander, with a small smile, picked up his utensils and placed a piece of food in Isabel's plate.

Silence.

The room seemed to freeze, and for a moment, you could hear a pin drop.

Everyone's eyes were on the food in Isabel's plate—even Isabel herself.

She froze for a moment, then looked up at Xander.

"The chef here is really good. Especially with this dish. I like it a lot," Xander said simply.

He was sharing his favorite dish.

Isabel blinked in surprise. She could tell it was delicious, but wasn't this the wrong time to be talking about food?

Rachel's eyes burned with jealousy as she stared at the dish in Isabel's plate.

She had known Xander her whole life, but he had never once served her food like that.

Samuel rolled his eyes internally. Seriously? Flirting at home is one thing, but doing it here, right in front of Mom? Are you trying to make her lose her temper?

Rachel nudged Ivana, snapping her out of her daze. Ivana took a deep breath and then spoke again. "Xander, have you never wondered if something's off?"

"I have," Xander admitted.

"Then why—"

"I looked into it. Isabel was heartbroken after being hurt by a jerk. I was left hanging by someone, so we connected through that shared experience. That's how we ended up together."

"That's it?" Ivana still didn't seem convinced.

"Do you have proof of anything else?" Xander shot back, his tone challenging.

Ivana fell silent, unable to answer.

Isabel lowered her gaze, focusing on her food.

She wasn't worried about herself. After all, she was Isabel—no one would ever suspect her identity. What really surprised her, though, was that Xander was willing to go this far to protect her, even standing up to his own mother.

Ivana was only looking out for her son, but still, Isabel felt a twinge of guilt.

But there was no way she would harm Xander. Not in a million years!

After a brief silence, Ivana glanced at Samuel before continuing.

"And what about Samuel? So many killers surrounded him, and Isabel was able to stop them all by herself? Doesn't that seem suspicious? What if those people were in on it with her to make you trust her more?"

Before Ivana could finish, Samuel jumped in, shaking his head.

"That's impossible!" Samuel said firmly.

"Impossible? How do you know that?" Ivana retorted.

Samuel's brow furrowed as he recalled that terrifying day.

The car had come at him fast. Isabel had not hesitated for a second. She ran straight at him without thinking, putting herself in danger. The odds of her being hit by the car were incredibly high.

And after that, Isabel had shielded him, putting herself in harm's way to protect him. That kind of selflessness couldn't be faked.

"Because you didn't see how Isabel fought to protect me that day! She almost died!"

Xander's face darkened at the memory. He was determined to make those responsible pay.

"Almost died? She didn't die, did she? Doesn't that prove Isabel is working with them?" Rachel interrupted, a smirk playing at the edges of her lips.

At that, two icy glares turned toward her.

They weren't from anyone else but Xander and Samuel.

Rachel could disregard Samuel, but Xander's glare was so sharp it sent a chill down her spine.

"I agree with Rachel," Ivana added, her tone biting. "It was so dangerous, and yet Isabel came out unscathed. Doesn't that raise suspicions?"

"But these are just your assumptions," Isabel said calmly, meeting Ivana's gaze without flinching. "You don't have any evidence that I'm involved with those people, and you certainly don't have any proof that I have any hidden motives toward your son, do you?"

Ivana let out a deep breath, still glaring at Isabel with hostility.

"Ms. Zimmerman, do you swear on your family that you married my son with no other intentions? Will you swear on your loved ones? If you do, maybe I'll believe you."

At those words, Isabel's expression turned cold, her eyes hard as ice.

Her family was off-limits. She could tolerate a lot of things, but anyone who crossed that line would regret it.

Ivana's eyes widened slightly at the sudden shift in Isabel's demeanor. She felt a shiver run down her spine.

The atmosphere grew tense, and at that moment, Xander stood up, grabbed Isabel's hand, and looked at Ivana with determination. "If you don't want us here, we'll leave right now."

"Xander! You're not leaving today!" Ivana exploded. "We're settling this now! I'm telling you—you have to choose between me and her! Think carefully. Are you divorcing her, or are you choosing me, your real mother?"