

Chapter 140 Isabel and Xander at the Hot Springs

What's going on?

Isabel glanced at Rachel, then at Xander's study.

Before Isabel could say anything, Rachel quickly adjusted her collar in front of her.

"Don't get the wrong idea. Nothing happened between Xan and me."

As Rachel spoke, her face turned as red as a ripe persimmon. One hand was pressed to her stomach, and she subtly trembled, her legs shaking as though she could barely stand.

Anyone with eyes could see what Rachel had just been through.

Even Samuel, who had never experienced anything like this, stared wide-eyed in disbelief.

His brother actually did that to Rachel? No way. If his brother loved Rachel, they would've been happily together long ago, not waiting until Isabel showed up.

Besides, he could tell his brother was genuinely serious about Isabel.

But ...

Seeing Rachel like this, it was clear something had just happened between them, and there was only one man in the study: his brother.

As Samuel's mind spun with shock, Isabel's calm, clear voice echoed through the living room.

"Wrong idea? About what? What could you and Xander possibly have going on? Wait, did he kick you out? You look like you can barely stand—did he, uh, hit you?"

Rachel was at a loss for words.

Xander was speechless.

What kind of logic is that? Would anyone normal think that? Look at that innocent, clueless expression—are you really that naive, or are you pretending not to know?

Rachel had done it on purpose. Se had deliberately gone into Xander's study, then put on this act afterward to make others, especially Isabel, misunderstand, hoping to ruin the relationship between Isabel and Xander.

But who could have predicted that Isabel would completely ruin her plan, throwing everything off track with her unexpected response?

"Xan ... He's perfectly fine. Why would he hit me? Actually, I ... "

Rachel hesitated, playing the part of someone on the verge of saying something but holding back. In her mind, she thought, I've made it so obvious now. This time, you'll have to get the wrong idea, right?

"Ohhh!" Isabel nodded as if suddenly understanding. "I get it now. No wonder you're disheveled, trembling like that, and holding your stomach. So, you purposely undressed to seduce Xander, and when he got upset, he hit you. You're embarrassed to admit it, so now you're stammering and holding back."

Rachel's mouth hung open in shock, forming an "O" shape. Could it be explained that way?

But, when she thought it through, Isabel's explanation was surprisingly clear and logical.

Samuel tried to hold back his laughter. As an observer, he had been confused at first, but now, if he didn't realize Isabel was toying with Rachel, he was too stupid.

At that moment, Xander walked out, shooting a cold glance at Rachel before heading straight to Isabel's side.

"When she came in earlier, I ignored her. Then she left on her own."

The truth was out, and Rachel's face turned bright red.

It was the kind of embarrassing red that made her wish the ground would open up and swallow her whole.

"Oh!" Isabel nodded and turned to Rachel. "So, Xander didn't hit you. Then what's going on here?"

Rachel was already feeling deeply embarrassed, but Isabel's words made her wish she could disappear right there.

Just as Rachel braced herself for Isabel's mockery or criticism, Isabel's next words caught her off guard.

"So, you're on your period."

Silence.

An awkward silence.

Rachel stood there, stiffened, her mouth hanging open and eyes wide in shock, unable to move.

Where was the mocking?

Where was the teasing?

Isabel was always so unpredictable, always throwing her off balance. How was she supposed to react?

In the end, Rachel left the villa alone and dejected.

Isabel watched Rachel walk away with a smile. She wasn't speaking up for Rachel; rather, she was aware that Rachel was Ivana's goddaughter and the daughter of the powerful Lawson family.

Rachel held a very important position in Ivana's heart. If she had pushed Rachel too far today, forcing her into a corner, who knows what Rachel might have done. That woman could say something to Ivana, and Ivana would come storming over here.

Of course, Isabel wasn't afraid of Ivana, and she was confident she could stay with him. Still, Xander had been good to her, and she didn't want to see Xander and Ivana's relationship become strained because of her.

"You really are kind, defending her like that," Samuel said with a pout.

"Ah-choo—" Xander suppressed a sneeze.

"What's wrong? Caught a cold?" Isabel said, taking Xander's hand. "Your pulse is a bit weak. Looks like you really have a cold."

Hearing Isabel's words, Samuel immediately grew tense.

"Isabel, please give my brother some medicine. A cold isn't a big deal, but he can't have a fever. If he gets a fever, he—"

"Sam!" Xander's voice was low and stern, cutting off Samuel's words.

Samuel's sentence was left unfinished, and the frustration built up inside him.

Isabel turned to Samuel and, after a brief pause, asked, "What happens if he gets a fever?"

Samuel glanced at Xander, then at Isabel, before finally deciding to speak. After all, it was Isabel who had asked.

"When my brother was a child, he developed this condition—whenever he gets a fever, his mind goes hazy and his whole body aches. Not only that, but the fever can last for several days before it finally breaks. So, ever since we were kids, whenever he gets a fever, the whole family gets anxious."

"Is it really that serious?" Isabel asked, taking Xander's hand again and carefully feeling his pulse.

"Nothing seems off for now."

In her mind, she suspected that his pulse would only change if he were actually running a fever.

"I'm fine," Xander said, pulling his hand away. "Sam is exaggerating."

He was a man, and in front of the woman he liked, he had to appear strong.

Isabel thought for a moment before saying, "Maybe we should cancel the hot springs trip the day after tomorrow. If you do get a fever, it could become a problem."

"I told you, I'm fine. The hot springs trip is not getting canceled."

He had been looking forward to it for so long, hoping to relax in the hot springs with Isabel, deepening their bond. Who knows, it might even end up like Leo and his girlfriend, where a romantic moment in the water could lead to something more.

"But it's not a good idea to go to the hot springs with a cold. When you're sick, your immune system is weakened, and you're more likely to feel cold or develop a fever. Also, in the hot springs' warm, humid environment, the high temperature can speed up dehydration and even cause oxygen deprivation, a worsening cough, or breathing difficulties. It's better to skip it. We can always go another time."

"Do you think I'm some fragile little thing? It's just a mild cold. I'll be fine by tomorrow. It won't affect anything." He insisted, determined to go on the hot springs trip no matter what.

Isabel could tell that no matter how much she tried to convince him, it wouldn't make a difference. She knew just how stubborn he could be.

"Alright, then. But you need to take your medicine first."

She gave in, but only because she knew his condition wasn't serious enough to stop him from going.

On Friday evening, Xander drove Isabel to a hot spring resort on the outskirts of town.

The place was fairly busy, but thankfully, they had booked a luxury private room, so they wouldn't have to share the hot springs with the crowd.

"Wait here for a moment. I'll go get the room key."

"Okay, I'll wait here."

As soon as Xander walked away, Isabel heard a familiar voice behind her.

"Isabel, what are you doing here? Did you follow me?"

She turned around and found Kaleb standing there, frowning as he looked at her.