

## Chapter 177 Is Isabel Experiencing Morning Sickness?

Rachel was in the dark about Christian's phone situation. For all she knew, he might not even own one, let alone have recorded anything. She couldn't afford to take a risk. If she made the wrong choice and Xander discovered her involvement with Christian, she'd be facing severe consequences.

After careful contemplation, Rachel finally made up her mind.

"Fine, I'll accept your terms. But if in a month you still have a copy, or if the video somehow gets out, Christian, I promise you'll regret it more than you can imagine!" Rachel spat out her words, her tone sharp and threatening.

"Relax, it's just one month. A straightforward deal—no tricks."

With that, Christian eagerly pressed Rachel down, and soon the room filled with sounds of pain that took on a different undertone.

Meanwhile, the scene shifted to Isabel, who sat on the couch, phone in hand, speaking with Yvette.

"Yve, I've finally gotten justice for you."

"Seriously?" Yvette asked, suddenly thrilled. "Do you know who was responsible?"

"Yes, but keep it between us."

"Alright, I won't say a word. So, who was it?"

"It was Rachel."

Yvette was so furious, that she nearly sprang out of bed.

"I knew it had to be her! My parents have been keeping me home every day lately—I haven't even interacted with anyone. The only incident was that argument I had with Rachel at the bar, and now this happens. Who else could it possibly be but her?"

As Yvette spoke, her anger only grew. She couldn't comprehend why some people could be so cruel. All it had been was a simple argument, yet they wanted to ruin her life entirely.

They were all women—why make life harder for each other?

"Isabel, what's your plan for getting back at her?"

Isabel picked up an orange from the table, peeling it slowly. "Simple, treat others the way they treat you."

"Wow, Isabel! You're d\*mn incredible!" Yvette exclaimed, giving a thumbs-up.

"Now that you're expecting, you really shouldn't be swearing—it's bad for the baby's development," Isabel replied, casually munching on an orange, legs crossed, enjoying herself.

Yvette rolled her eyes. "Oh? And what about when you're the one who's pregnant? I bet you won't be so relaxed then."

"Pregnant? Me? That won't be happening anytime soon, blegh ..." Isabel suddenly gagged mid-sentence.

Yvette's eyes sparkled with excitement.

"Isabel, are you actually expecting? That nausea sounds all too familiar to me!"

Yvette secretly wished Isabel was pregnant too, so they could go through it together.

Isabel rolled her eyes and sighed. "There's no chance I could be ... blegh ..."

Isabel was speechless.

Yvette was so excited. "Isabel, I told you everything the moment I could, and you can't keep anything from me! If you do, that's just not fair!"

At that moment, Isabel was stunned, her heart pounding. Could it be that, like Yvette, she had become pregnant after just one time?

No way.

Isabel set the orange aside and glanced at her wrist.

By the timeline, even if she were pregnant, it was too early for morning sickness to kick in.

But everyone's body is unique, and some people experience things differently from the norm.

"Isabel, have you checked your pulse yet? Hurry!" Yvette's voice came through the phone, her excitement now far greater than when she first heard the news about the pregnancy.

Isabel lightly chewed on her fingers before checking her pulse.

At that moment, the deep, resonant sound of a cello drifted up from upstairs.

"Feeling ill again?"

The sudden voice caught Isabel off guard, making her pull her hand back quickly. She knew she didn't need to overreact like that—it would only make the man more suspicious.

She couldn't shake the feeling of guilt and found herself unable to control it.

Xander narrowed his intense gaze, studying Isabel's wrist. He thought that even when he caught her taking oranges before, she didn't seem this nervous. Was she hiding something from him?

"I ... I'm fine, I was just deep in thought, and you surprised me," Isabel said, forcing a smile as she looked at Xander.

"Oh, and my stomach doesn't hurt," Isabel added, quickly popping the rest of the orange into her mouth.

Xander watched her swollen cheeks, and honestly, he felt a strong urge to kiss her.

"Then why were you checking your pulse just now?"

"It's just a habit; I check myself from time to time." With that, Isabel settled back onto the couch, pulling out her phone and casually scrolling through it to distract him.

Suddenly ...

"D\*mn!" Isabel exclaimed, her eyes widening as she saw a shocking message.

Noticing Isabel's reaction, Xander leaned to see what was on her phone. After a quick glance, his expression darkened, a shadow of anger flickering across his cold face.

In the photo, Isabel wore a champagne-colored dress, her arms crossed in front of her chest while a plump man tugged at one of the straps on her dress.

A chill ran up Xander's spine, and within moments, the temperature in the room dropped, the air suddenly heavy with tension.

"What's going on?" The man's voice was cold, devoid of any warmth.

Isabel frowned, recognizing that this was an incident that had happened to the original owner.

"A year ago, I was out having dinner with some friends. On the way, I ran into this overweight man. He insisted I drink with him, but I refused, and that's when he ripped off my strap."

Thinking back to the incident, Isabel shuddered—it had been a close call.

If she hadn't acted quickly, she might have been exposed.

The event had happened over a year ago, and she never imagined it would resurface.

Who could have brought this up again?

Isabel glanced at the comments under the post, which were filled with harsh and vulgar words.

"I told you before, that Isabel is a manipulative woman, but you didn't listen. Do you believe me now? Just look at her—shameless and seductive, luring wealthy men by flaunting herself in public and ripping off her strap."

"Such a shame to waste her innocent look."

"That's rubbish. I can assure you, that Lily is innocent. The Zimmermans tried to spread lies before, claiming Isabel was in the car that night, but it was Lily who was driving. The truth is, Isabel caused the accident. There was a fight in the car, and Isabel grabbed the wheel from Lillian, which led to the crash."

Upon seeing this, Isabel realized why the photo was being leaked. It was all part of an attempt to improve Lillian's reputation, helping her maintain a career in the entertainment industry after being released from prison.

The entertainment world is cutthroat, where criticism is rampant. Innocent people can be ruined forever, while the guilty often find ways to escape consequences.

What really confused her, though, was how the photo had been leaked in the first place.

Suddenly, Isabel had a realization.

"I know who did it!"

Xander stared at Isabel, puzzled, and asked, "Was it someone from the Zimmermans?"

"No," Isabel replied, shaking her head. "That night, Kaleb got an anonymous photo. The sender demanded a million dollars, threatening to release the photo online, exposing his fiancée's suspicious connection with another man."

When Xander heard Kaleb's name, his face darkened slowly.

Isabel continued, "It's quite funny. After Kaleb made the payment to the blackmailer, he went after the person who had harassed me. To my surprise, the person was revealed to be the chairman of an overseas company. To avoid making an enemy of such an influential figure, the situation was ultimately swept under the rug. Later, I discovered that the Johnson Group had a partnership with that very same overseas company, which felt incredibly ironic."

His fiancée had been harassed, and instead of standing up for her, as any man would, Kaleb chose to make peace with the culprit and form a business partnership.

Xander sat quietly on the couch, his presence heavy with a cold, silent tension.

"So, do you think Kaleb is responsible for this?"

"No," Isabel responded with conviction.

Xander could see her unshakable trust in Kaleb. This realization stirred a sense of jealousy within him.

"Are you that confident?"

"Yes," Isabel nodded. "Despite how he treated me before, I'm certain about this, Kaleb wouldn't try to hurt me like this. He ..."

"That's enough!" Xander interrupted, unable to bear hearing more.