

Chapter 80 The Truth About Eva Framing Isabel Is Exposed, and Xander's Tenderness Toward Her

Everything happened too quickly for Isabel to react. Even though she tried to dodge, there wasn't enough time to avoid the coffee completely.

Just when she thought the burning liquid would hit her, her vision was suddenly blocked. A large, strong body had moved to shield her.

Isabel blinked in surprise, looking up to see Xander standing protectively in front of her. His brows furrowed slightly for a moment before his expression returned to its usual calm.

After a brief pause, Isabel stood up and reached out to touch Xander's back. A large patch of his shirt was soaked.

"Are you alright?"

"I'm fine," Xander replied coolly, shrugging off his now-wet suit jacket and draping it over his arm. Despite the disarray, his aura of grace and power remained undiminished.

Xander's eyes locked onto Kaleb, his usually composed gaze now sharp and chilling.

"You're truly blind."

Those simple, cutting words made Isabel's eyebrows twitch.

It was a phrase she had often used to describe Kaleb, and hearing Xander say it now gave her an odd, indescribable feeling.

"What did you just say?!" Kaleb's face contorted in rage as he glared at Xander, daring him to repeat the insult.

Ignoring his outburst, Xander calmly pulled out his phone and tapped on a video.

The footage clearly showed Eva splashing the coffee on herself and then framing Isabel for it. Throughout the entire scene, Isabel remained seated, making no move at all.

Eva's face went deathly pale as she saw the video. Her pupils dilated, and her body started trembling uncontrollably.

Kaleb's eyes widened in disbelief. His arms fell from around Eva as he turned to face her, his voice thick with accusation. "Eva! How do you explain this? Don't even try to tell me that video's fake!"

He could convince himself that the previous video Isabel had shown him was fake, but this? This had happened just moments ago, right in front of him. If he denied this, he'd truly be blind.

Eva was terrified by Kaleb's demanding tone.

She stammered, "I-I didn't want to do this ... "

She admitted it.

She actually admitted it!

The girl he once believed to be kind and pure had just confessed to such a scheming act.

"Why, Eva? Why did you do this? You—"

"Because of you!" Eva screamed, her voice hysterical as tears flowed freely from her eyes. "You're always so indecisive! You promised me you'd let go of Isabel, but did you? Did you really? When we were supposed to get married the other day, you panicked the moment Isabel showed up. You even ran after her!

"She can easily manipulate you with a few words, and you believe that fake video she showed you. I had no choice but to fake a suicide to prove my innocence. What else could I do? I'm so desperate, Kaleb. I can't live without you! I was terrified you'd rekindle your feelings for Isabel, especially with our rescheduled wedding coming up next month. So I came up with this plan to make you give up on her once and for all. I know it's wrong ... I know I've become someone I'm not. But I love you so much. I had no other choice ... "

Hearing Eva's desperate confession and seeing her in such a fragile state, Kaleb was overwhelmed with guilt.

He pulled her into his arms, sighing deeply.

"I'm so sorry, Eva. This is all my fault. I shouldn't have made you feel so insecure. It's my mistake ... "

As the scene unfolded, Isabel's voice broke through the tension, her tone filled with dry amusement.

"Well, I finally understand now. I understand why I lost to Eva. It's not that I didn't try hard enough to win your heart, Kaleb. I just didn't cry enough. Turns out, all it takes to win your love is a lot of tears."

Kaleb frowned, casting a conflicted glance toward Isabel.

At that moment, Xander gently took hold of Isabel's arm, his dark eyes brimming with a tenderness that softened his typically steely gaze.

"I'm not like him," Xander said, his deep voice carrying a sincerity that was impossible to ignore. "I'll do everything in my power to cherish you and protect you for the rest of my life. I'll never let you shed a single tear."

His words, spoken with such heartfelt emotion, combined with his strikingly handsome face, would have made any woman's heart flutter.

Isabel was no exception. Though she usually prided herself on her rationality, in that moment, she felt the pull of Xander's charm. Her ears turned red, and a faint blush spread across her cheeks.

"Ahem—" Isabel cleared her throat, looking away slightly to regain her composure.

She found it difficult to meet Xander's eyes. His ability to captivate and seduce was just too overwhelming. She was afraid that if she looked at him any longer, she might fall too deep.

Xander couldn't help but savor Isabel's flustered reaction.

Not all eyes held the same mirth as Xander's; some glinted with upset.

While Xander felt a sense of contentment, Kaleb was seething with rage.

Seeing Isabel now, her cheeks flushed and eyes averted, stirred his anger even more than when she had kissed Xander in front of him.

Before, when Isabel had kissed Xander, Kaleb had told himself she was only trying to provoke him, playing hard to get. But this? Her shy, bashful demeanor clearly meant that she was truly falling for Xander.

Kaleb clenched his fists, his jaw tightening in frustration.

Eva, who had been observing Kaleb's expression the whole time, noticed how furious he was. She lowered her head, her face contorted with bitterness and resentment.

Isabel! Why don't you just die? Eva cursed silently, her thoughts filled with venomous hatred. I hope you get hit by a car or something!

Meanwhile, Isabel calmly looped her arm around Xander's, turning to face Kaleb.

"Did you hear that, Kaleb? A real man doesn't make women cry. But you? You made me cry, and now you've made Eva cry. If that doesn't make you a jerk, I don't know what does."

Kaleb wanted to argue back, but he couldn't find the words. He opened his mouth, but no response came out.

"And you, Eva," Isabel continued, shifting her gaze to her. "I guess I should thank you. If it weren't for you interfering in my relationship with Kaleb, I might've actually ended up marrying that loser. So thank you for taking him off my hands. Though, a word of advice? Hydrate. Seriously, you'll need it for all the crying you'll be doing."

Eva gritted her teeth so hard she could almost hear them grinding. If it weren't for the situation, she would've pounced on Isabel and torn her apart.

"Honey, let's go." Isabel smiled up at Xander.

"Sure." Xander nodded, slipping his arm around her waist in a protective gesture.

Isabel glanced down at his hand on her waist, then thought back to how he had shielded her from the coffee earlier.

She smiled to herself. I guess I can let him get away with this little gesture.

Just as they were about to leave, Kaleb suddenly ran after them.

"Isabel, wait! I'm sorry!"