

Chapter 81 Xander Rents Out the Princess Charm for Isabel's Birthday

Hearing those words, Isabel suddenly stopped in her tracks.

Xander's brows knitted together, and a rare flash of panic showed in his eyes as he cast a sidelong glance at Isabel.

Isabel's expression was calm, unreadable, making Xander feel even more on edge. His arm, wrapped around Isabel's waist, instinctively tightened.

After a brief silence, Isabel turned to Kaleb. "I really didn't expect the word 'sorry' to ever come out of your mouth."

"I was wrong to accuse you earlier, and I almost—" Kaleb glanced over at Xander before continuing to Isabel, "But I won't fall for you again. I've made up my mind. I'm going to be with Eva forever."

Hearing this, Eva finally relaxed.

"Oh, really? Are you trying to show off?" Isabel asked, arching an eyebrow.

"Isabel, I know you're mad at me. Just think of it as ... fate wasn't on our side. Maybe in the next life—" Before Kaleb could finish, Isabel cut him off.

"Enough! Next life? I'd rather not run into a scumbag like you, in this life or the next."

Kaleb's face darkened, but remembering that he had wronged Isabel just moments ago, he decided to let her harsh words slide.

"On the eighth of next month, Eva and I plan to hold our wedding on the Princess Charm. I hope you can come."

The Princess Charm—Solaria's largest, most luxurious, and most expensive cruise ship, ranked among the top ten in the world.

Kaleb was really going all out. To make Eva happy, he was spending a fortune to host their wedding on the Princess Charm.

Just as Isabel was thinking this, she noticed Eva throwing a smug, triumphant look her way.

Feeling proud, are you? You want to have your wedding on the Princess Charm? Not happening. Watch me book the entire ship for myself—let's see how you're going to hold your wedding on the eighth.

The eighth ... A mocking smile curled up on Isabel's lips.

"Eva, you're really something. You knew my birthday is on the eighth, and you still picked that date for your wedding." Isabel didn't believe it was just a coincidence.

Out of all the dates available, they had to choose the eighth.

Xander glanced over at Isabel. The eighth ... her birthday. He made a mental note to remember it.

"It wasn't Eva's idea. My mom chose the date, so don't blame her," Kaleb said, defending Eva.

"Ha—" Isabel scoffed and stopped looking at Kaleb. She looped her arm through Xander's and left the café.

When Max saw Isabel and Xander coming out, he quickly walked over, his curious gaze bouncing between the two of them.

"Who's this?" Isabel asked, puzzled.

"I'm his childhood friend," Max replied, his eyes full of interest as he looked Isabel up and down. "So, are you really with Xander?"

"We just got our marriage certificate, that's all. It's not what you're thinking," Isabel explained matter-of-factly.

Max clearly noticed that when Isabel said this, a shadow passed over Xander's eyes.

This left Max stunned. He'd always thought there was nothing going on between the two, but now he realized that it was Xander who was secretly pining for her.

His curious gaze lingered on Isabel. What was it about this girl that had managed to melt Xander's ice-cold heart?

Just as Max was staring at Isabel, Xander stepped forward, blocking Max's line of sight.

"If you're that curious, find a girl of your own to stare at. She's mine."

"Wow, wow," Max clicked his tongue. "I was just looking. Didn't think you'd get so jealous."

Xander could tell that Max was deliberately teasing him, but he couldn't be bothered to respond. He had more important things to handle.

Isabel's birthday was coming up on the eighth of next month, and it would be his first time celebrating it with her. He wanted to make sure she had a birthday she'd never forget.

And he was going to do it on the Princess Charm.

Meanwhile, Kaleb and Eva were busy preparing for their wedding all over again.

Kaleb, determined to make it up to Eva, spent his days taking new wedding photos with her and arranging for a new gown and jewelry.

On the way to the bridal shop that day, Kaleb got a phone call.

"What? The Princess Charm has been fully booked?!" Kaleb exclaimed in shock.

That was the biggest, most luxurious, and most expensive cruise ship in all of Solaria! It was also one of the top-ranking cruise ships in the world, and now it had been booked out entirely?

Originally, he'd only planned to reserve a section for the wedding. However, his mother had insisted that since a wedding was a once-in-a-lifetime event, he shouldn't cut corners. So he'd asked Bobby to book an entire floor.

The cost was astronomical!

But when he thought about how happy and excited Eva would be, he felt it was worth it.

"Who on earth would go to such lengths?" Kaleb couldn't help but ask.

Eva looked equally shocked and curious. She wanted to know, too—who had that kind of money?

On the other end of the line, his contact replied, "It's the CEO of Bennett Group. He booked it to celebrate his wife's birthday."

"Bennett Group?!"

Kaleb was both shocked and unsurprised. His Johnson Group was doing well in Solaria, but compared to the top-tier Bennett Group, there was still a huge gap.

"Typical Bennett Group. Booking out the entire Princess Charm, just to celebrate a birthday for his wife!" Kaleb said with a sigh. He glanced in the direction of the bay as he spoke.

Meanwhile, Eva let out a silent sigh. Comparison really could be infuriating. She'd thought she was marrying well, but now it seemed there were people out there doing even better.

There were rumors that the CEO of Bennett Group was hideous, with an unattractive face, but his wealth was unmatched in Solaria—nobody would dare claim otherwise.

Just to celebrate a "little birthday," he'd spent a fortune to book the whole Princess Charm. How enviable!

"The eighth, huh. The Bennett Group CEO's wife's birthday happens to be on the eighth, too. What a coincidence," she said.

Now that she thought about it, Isabel's birthday was also on the eighth. Sure, Isabel didn't have the kind of luck the Bennett Group CEO's wife had, but at least Eva was still doing better than Isabel.

With this thought, Eva felt a bit more balanced. Isabel, oh Isabel, you and the Bennett Group CEO's wife might share a birthday, but that's where the similarities end.

Besides, this year, her wedding would fall on Isabel's birthday, and every year from now on, Isabel's birthday would also be her wedding anniversary. How's that for painful?

At the same time, Isabel received a call from Beowulf.

"Boss, I just got word that the Princess Charm has been fully booked," he said.

"Hm? Kaleb's really going all out, huh?" Isabel was surprised.

That was one of the world's top ten luxury cruise ships, after all. The Johnson Group was doing well, but for Kaleb to book the entire Princess Charm would definitely be a major expense.

Kaleb was willing to spend that kind of money for Eva. Isabel had to admit, Eva had some real skill—she had Kaleb wrapped around her finger.

Just as she was thinking this, Beowulf's voice came through the phone again. "It wasn't Kaleb who booked it."

"Not Kaleb? Then who?" Isabel asked, curious.