

Chapter 102 Archie's Unique Recipe

Declan was here?

Kimberly's expression subtly changed as she lifted her gaze towards the kitchen. From her position she could see the animated figures of an experienced elder and a younger man in the spacious kitchen.

Chris was dressed in a black shirt, sleeves rolled up, with a navy apron tied around him. He was expertly chopping vegetables, his long, pale, slender fingers standing out, his profile strikingly handsome. He focused intently, his eyes gentle.

His broad shoulders and lean waist, paired with his remarkably attractive face, were bathed in sunlight, making him resemble an ideal husband.

Every so often, he would turn to chat with Archie, his face lighting up with smiles. Archie appeared very pleased with him, creating a warm and pleasant atmosphere.

Kimberly's eyes flickered slightly. The scene was so pleasant she hesitated to disturb it, but Declan had arrived...

It was clear that once Declan entered the Holden Mansion, chaos would follow!

"Mr. Holden!" Just then, a hurried figure entered from outside, heading straight for the kitchen. Kimberly's eyes narrowed, and she swiftly stood up, quickly seizing the butler's wrist.

"My grandpa is busy in the kitchen preparing dinner. If you need something you can tell me."

The butler stopped, his lips pursed, caught in a dilemma.

"Ms. Holden..."

Noticing the butler's hesitation, Kimberly's eyes narrowed further, her tone taking on a chilly edge. "Is Declan outside?"

The butler looked up at Kimberly in surprise. "Ms. Holden, how did you know...?"

Confronted by Kimberly's intense stare, the butler paused briefly before nodding reluctantly. "Yes, Mr. Walsh is here. He's waiting at the front gate. Mr. Holden instructed us to inform him immediately if Mr. Walsh arrived."

Upon hearing this, Kimberly frowned. She had clung to a glimmer of hope that Declan was only joking with her, but now it seemed he had already reached the gate of the Holden Mansion, simply messaging her to ask where she was.

Regarding Archie's directive, it seemed he planned to deal with Declan sternly without her involvement.

Kimberly took a deep breath, steadying herself. She said in a firm voice, "Don't tell my grandpa yet. I'll handle it."

"What? But..."

"No buts." Kimberly cut off the butler, glancing discreetly towards the kitchen, her voice low. "Mr. Howard is also here. Our families have just begun a partnership. You see how happy my grandpa is. We wouldn't want Declan's presence to spoil this mood, right?"

The butler hesitated for a long moment before finally nodding. "Alright, but I'll accompany you. I'm worried Mr. Walsh might intimidate you."

Declan couldn't intimidate her.

Kimberly merely offered a slight smile, accepting the butler's offer without objection. She nodded gently, let go of his wrist, and headed briskly outside.

The butler gave a meaningful look towards the kitchen, sighed, and quickly followed her.

Inside the kitchen, Chris momentarily halted his chopping and lifted his head to observe the two figures hurrying away. His eyes flickered with concern.

Though physically present in the kitchen, his attention was focused on Kimberly. He had been keeping an eye on her discreetly from the corner of his eye.

It was evident from her hasty departure with the butler that something urgent had come up.

Archie turned off the stove, plated the fish, and added a garnish of broccoli, nodding in satisfaction. As he turned around with the plate, he noticed Chris looking pensively towards the door. Catching Chris's gaze, Archie's eyes narrowed, a sharp gleam appearing briefly.

"Chris"

Chris snapped back to reality and turned to see Archie looking at him with a warm gaze, holding a steaming plate of fish that looked and smelled absolutely delicious.

"How does the fish look?"

Chris smiled, reaching for the plate. "It looks delicious!"

However, Archie playfully pulled the plate back, his smile filled with meaning.

"This dish is Kimberly's absolute favorite. Her father wasn't much of a chef, but he perfected this recipe, surpassing even five-star chefs. Do you know why?"

Chris was momentarily taken aback.

Was Archie testing him?

He chuckled and said, "It must be because of love. Mr. Holden loved his daughter deeply, so he dedicated himself to learning this dish just for her."

"That's part of it. The main reason is that the recipe for the dish is a secret one that I've specially modified." Archie laughed, his white beard twitching as he looked proudly at Chris. "Would you like to learn how to make it?"

Chris paused, genuinely surprised. "You'd teach me?"

"That depends on your dedication. I've only ever taught her father this recipe."

Upon hearing this, Chris couldn't help but grasp the deeper meaning behind Archie's words.

Archie's readiness to share his secret recipe of the whole red snapper with ponzu suggested he was considering entrusting Kimberly to Chris. Even Declan had never been offered this opportunity. It seemed Archie recognized Chris's feelings for Kimberly!

Chris looked earnestly at Archie. "I would be honored to learn, Mr. Holden. Please, teach me."

"Excellent!" Archie smiled, finally passing the plate to Chris. He grabbed a wet towel from a servant to clean his hands, then placed a firm hand on Chris's shoulder, his expression becoming serious. "Please, call me Archie from now on."

Chris's heart warmed at the gesture, and he nodded in agreement. "Archie."

Earning the approval of the most important person to his beloved filled him with excitement.

This meant he was one step closer to marrying the person he loved!

"Chris, I trust you won't let me down." Archie chuckled, walking out of the kitchen with him. As Chris set the plate on the dining table, Archie said, "I saw Kimberly leave. Go and bring her back for dinner."

Chris nodded, already moving to follow Kimberly, his apron still on. He had been eager to find her, partly out of concern that she might face a situation she couldn't handle alone.

"Mr. Holden, why are you..." Nearby, Sonia the servant glanced at Archie with a puzzled look, pausing before asking, "You've only just met Mr. Howard, and yet... You trust him with such a secret recipe?"