

Chapter 103 Chris Must Love Kimberly Deeply

Everyone in the Holden family was well aware of the significance of the secret recipe.

They all understood that Kimberly was Archie's pride and joy, his most valued treasure. While many thought that Kimberly's parents were exceedingly fond of her, it was less known that Archie held even greater affection for her than they did.

Sonia, a loyal employee of the Holden family for over forty years, had seen Kimberly's father, Caiden, grow up. She was a respected figure in the household, respected by three generations. She often thought that if Caiden weren't Archie's son, Archie wouldn't have entrusted the recipe to him.

But Chris? What had he done to deserve such favor from Archie?

It wasn't the recipe itself that mattered. It was the love Archie held for Kimberly that was truly important.

Archie looked at Sonia with a smile, shook his head, and walked back to the kitchen, talking as he worked. "I modified this recipe because Kimberly enjoys this flavor. I see more promise in Mr. Howard than in Caiden. Giving him the recipe seems like the correct decision."

Sonia struggled to understand Archie's decision and murmured to herself in confusion, "But you've barely known him. How can you be sure he's not another Declan?"

At the mention of Declan, Archie stopped what he was doing and a sharp look crossed his face. He scoffed dismissively and said confidently, "He's not Declan, and he'll never be like Declan. Sonia, do you understand why I insist Kimberly marry someone from a family as influential as ours?"

Without waiting for Sonia to answer, Archie washed his hands and faced her, his expression serious. "A person's background shapes them.

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Kimberly has had the finest upbringing. While the Holden family may not be as wealthy as the Howard family, our home is peaceful and harmonious.

The Walsh family is wealthy, but Declan was raised in a world full of deceit and power struggles, where even survival was uncertain. He's focused on gaining advantages, not on personal growth. I knew from the start he wasn't suitable for Kimberly. They would never be happy together. And time has shown I was right."

Archie sighed, looking towards the doorway, his tone grave. "But Mr. Howard is different. He has only had eyes for Kimberly, never wandering. He respects me greatly because I am Kimberly's grandfather. But Declan wanted to marry her because she's the heiress of the Holden family."

Then he looked back at Sonia, who appeared taken aback, and added meaningfully, "Do you see what I'm getting at?"

Sonia was quiet for a long moment before she slowly nodded.

Honestly, she didn't entirely understand, but she grasped that someone like Chris, with his stature, would only show such respect and humility before Archie because he genuinely cared for Kimberly. He exhibited the deference and respect expected from the younger generation, despite his high status.

She realized that Chris truly loved Kimberly!

At the front steps of the Holden Mansion, Kimberly stood tall, her gaze fixed on the man in the wheelchair below her. Her brows were furrowed, and her eyes showed clear hate.

"What exactly do you want?"

Her tone made it obvious she was not happy about Declan's visit.

The butler, standing behind her, kept his face emotionless but his eyes were sharp as they glared at Declan.

Seeing the look on Kimberly's face, Declan was swept by a mix of emotions. He began to doubt his choices, feeling that he might never win back her affection.

This frustration led him to pull out a black invitation with gold embossing

from his pocket and hand it to her.

"What is this?"

Kimberly looked at it, took it, and unfolded it to discover it was an invitation to a land auction.

She gasped, remembering that in her past life, she had gone to this very auction with Declan at around this time.

That night a lot of things unfolded. She recalled a businessman who was nearly bankrupt. He purchased an ordinary piece of land and, in just six months, turned himself into a real estate tycoon, watching his net worth soar from deep debt to billions.

Kimberly had been at that auction with Declan because the organizer was a woman who had won over numerous hardships after being betrayed by her first love, her childhood sweetheart. Declan chose to bring Kimberly along instead of his sister Valerie because of the organizer's story.

At that event, Declan was accidentally drugged and overwhelmed by a powerful desire. She also took a sip of the drugged drink, which left her dazed and confused. They ended up having sex and were caught in the act. As a result, she was labeled a dissolute woman with strong sexual desires. Eventually, she became pregnant and was confined by Declan, unable to leave the house again. ❌

Remembering that night made Kimberly's expression turn cold. She forced herself to look away from the invitation and faced Declan, lifting the invitation.

"Is this what you wanted to give me?"

"The auction is tomorrow at seven. You're coming with me," Declan said, his gaze intense as he looked at her cold yet beautiful face. "It's important to me. Make sure you dress nicely."

Flooded with memories of the scandal in her past life, Kimberly trembled, her eyes sharpening. "I don't want to go."

"You don't have a choice." Declan frowned deeply, clearly upset by her rejection. "Remember our agreement."

He was reminding her that to get a divorce, she needed to comply with his demands.

In her past life, this auction had completely destroyed her reputation.

Kimberly clenched her teeth, an idea sparking in her mind. She narrowed her eyes and let out a soft chuckle. "Fine, I'll go with you."

Back then, Declan had unknowingly consumed a strong aphrodisiac, which could only be countered with a woman's help, or else he would suffer impotence.

And although she had been affected too, she hadn't drunk much and had some awareness. If Declan hadn't forced her, she wouldn't have ended up in that mess.

What if this time, she refused to help him and stayed away? How would things turn out then?

With this thought, a mischievous smile played on Kimberly's lips. Things were about to get very interesting.