

## Chapter 116 Go All Out

"Which clause are you referring to?"

Upon hearing Mabel's question, Kimberly promptly placed her cup down and raised her eyes to meet Mabel's. A strange sensation stirred in her heart as she recognized the clause Mabel was indicating.

She kept her expression calm, met Mabel's serious look, and gave a slight nod. "Yes, I know about this one."

Mabel's expression turned to concern as she sharply snapped the file shut with a "clap" and seized Kimberly's wrist. "Kimberly, you haven't agreed to any unsuitable conditions with Chris, have you? Is that the reason he's willing to invest in the Holden Group?"

It made sense for Mabel to think this way. After all, Chris's behavior towards Kimberly was plain for everyone to see, his motives quite apparent.

Otherwise, why would he dine frequently at the Holden Mansion, where Archie could easily discern his motives and even support their burgeoning relationship?

Feeling cornered, Kimberly responded, "Absolutely not. What kind of person do you take me for?"

"It's not really about you. It's about Chris..."

"Please stop this!" Kimberly cut her off, not wanting to hear any further negative comments about Chris.

She frowned slightly, her tone earnest. "You know the saying, loose lips sink ships. If Chris really is as dangerous as you believe, and he learns of your low opinion of him, what might he do? Moreover, our families are now linked through business. We're in this together, for better or worse. It's better if such comments are avoided."

Mabel's eyebrows knitted together as she scrutinized Kimberly, trying to

read her expression. Ultimately, she found no hidden motives and appeared helpless.

Kimberly's reasoning was sound, prompting Mabel to concede.

"Alright, I'll hold my tongue, as you wish. However, I'm still not supportive of you two being together!"

There were things Mabel could let slide, but not this.

She couldn't just stand by and watch Kimberly potentially face more heartache!

Somehow, her aunt's strong opposition made Kimberly feel slightly constrained, yet she managed a polite smile and said, "I understand."

Their conversation continued for a bit longer, focusing on business issues.

Suddenly, a knock sounded at the door, and Ansell's voice said, "Ms. Holden, Mr. Howard's secretary is here to see you."

Chris's secretary?

Kimberly felt a flicker of surprise, but her curiosity quickly propelled her to her feet. She strode to the door and opened it to find Leif and Ansell waiting.

"Leif, what brings you here?"

With a courteous smile, Leif stepped forward, presenting two gift boxes. "Good afternoon, Ms. Holden. These are from Mr. Howard, featuring the latest haute couture dress and matching jewelry."

He hesitated for a moment, perhaps concerned about a misunderstanding then added, "Mr. Howard hopes that these will help you make a breathtaking entrance and outshine all at tonight's auction."

Leif's manner of delivering the gifts was charmingly thoughtful, a stark contrast to Bryce's approach.

This was indeed the proper way to present a gift!

Kimberly's eyes sparkled as she took the gift boxes, looking at Leif with a beaming smile.

"Please extend my gratitude to Mr. Howard for his generosity."

Leif, seeing his delivery warmly received, unlike Bryce's, smiled broadly, his eyes glowing with genuine happiness.

"Absolutely, Ms. Holden. You're very welcome."

"Ansell, would you mind escorting Leif out?"

The butler, observing Kimberly's pleased demeanor, treated Leif with high regard, a stark contrast to his treatment of Bryce.

After departing the Holden Mansion, Leif settled into his car, took a deep breath, and dialed Bryce's number. Once connected, he couldn't resist sharing a bit of his success.

"I've just been to the Holdens."

"You got kicked out too?"

"No, I was courteously escorted out by their butler."

Leif couldn't suppress a proud smile. "Ms. Holden was delighted to accept Mr. Howard's gift."

"..."

On the line, Bryce sounded rather deflated. "So, are you calling just to brag?"

"Ha-ha, just making conversation, Bryce. Don't read too much into it."

Leif would never confess to such pettiness.

Bryce, somewhat irked yet feeling vindicated, retorted, "No hard feelings, our boss just bumped up my salary by 20%. Actually, I'm feeling quite good about it!"

"..."

Leif's smile quickly disappeared as he gritted his teeth. "Bryce, you're really something."

Leif knew that when it came to being sassy, Bryce always had the upper

hand!

As the sun set, Kimberly slipped into a black fishtail gown that hugged her contours elegantly.

Her dark hair fell in soft waves, pinned up to expose her slender neck, which was adorned with a rare and costly black diamond necklace, casting an air of elegance and mystery around her.

She admired her reflection in the full-length mirror, a content smile curling her lips.

Turning around, her gown clung to her slim waist, and the sheer fabric offered a glimpse of her long, slim legs, adding an enticing touch to her ensemble.

Kimberly's eyes sparkled with pleasure. "Do I look good in this?"

Mabel was briefly speechless, her eyes wide with admiration. She recognized Kimberly's beauty, a blend of her parents' finest traits.

Indeed, Kimberly's mother had been the most beautiful woman of Javille!

"You look breathtaking!" Mabel couldn't hold back her praise. "Chris truly has an eye for detail. This L-brand haute couture dress suits you better than it would on any runway model. It's no surprise he believed you'd be the highlight of the evening"

Her eyes then fell to the black diamond necklace gracing Kimberly's neck, and she was deeply touched.

If her memory served right, she recalled seeing this necklace at an international auction during her studies, where it was acquired by a mysterious tycoon for eighty million!

The black diamond wasn't just rare. It was designed by the famed Eiffel Brewer, an icon who had passed away five years ago. This necklace was his final creation.

"Mr. Howard spared no expense.."

Mabel's emotions were a mix of awe and surprise. She hadn't anticipated that a mere land auction would lead Chris, a man of vast wealth and influence, to invest so extravagantly.

Viewed from another angle, it just showed the extent of Chris's resources!

He truly was the wealthiest heir in Javille!



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