

Chapter 71 Are You Here Specially To Apologize

"You're welcome," Archie said, looking at Kimberly with a playful glint in his eye as he affectionately stroked her head.

"You used to be much more outspoken before your marriage. You would tell me exactly what you wanted without ever saying thank you."

A blush crept over Kimberly's cheeks as she remembered her previous boldness. It was true, she had never expressed gratitude to her grandfather before, and now she was overwhelmed with various feelings. "I was younger and less wise back then. I've matured since," she said, her voice taking on a playful tone reminiscent of her youth.

Archie's eyes sparkled as he gently tapped her hand. "Honestly, I wish you didn't have to grow up."

The price of maturity was indeed steep.

From their first reunion Archie had immediately noticed the new worries and uncertainties in Kimberly's eyes, emotions that were foreign to her youthful demeanor.

As they spent more time together, he realized that Kimberly's anxieties were related to him.

She feared he might not accept her or that he could even abandon her.

This realization nearly shattered Archie's heart. Witnessing how William's family treated his cherished granddaughter filled him with rage.

Kimberly hesitated briefly, then offered a small smile. "I need to grow up sometime. I can't stay naive forever."

"In my eyes, you'll always be my naive girl," Archie responded, his voice warm and tender. He was relieved to see that her current expressions no longer showed signs of worry or unease.

He pondered the challenges she must have faced to change this much.

Thinking of Declan, the man who had wronged his granddaughter, Archie's gaze momentarily hardened, then faded just as quickly.

He said, "I had planned to hire a couple of professional managers to help you manage these companies, which would be in your name. But seeing your resolve now reassures me."

His voice deepened as he continued, "And don't worry about the Walsh family. Even if the Holden family faces difficulties, handling the Walshes won't be an issue. Pursue what you want, and if you need assistance, come to me or your Aunt Mabel. Your Uncle Christian would also be there for you, understand?"

Archie cast a look at Christian, who appeared momentarily taken aback before he smiled and said, "Absolutely, if there's anything I can do to help, just let me know, Kimberly."

Christian was a gentleman with a calm and refined demeanor, projecting the image of a steady elder. He regarded Kimberly with kindness in sharp contrast to the sharp and indifferent William.

He had a deep passion for painting and was a somewhat well-known artist. He typically kept his distance from the affairs of the Holden Group, seeming indifferent to fame and fortune.

Having been betrayed before, Kimberly was unsure about Christian's true nature, but she sensed a genuine kindness from his side of the family for now.

Kimberly smiled warmly at him. "Thank you, Uncle Christian. I'll count on you if I need help later on."

Christian simply nodded again with a friendly smile.

After exchanging a few more pleasantries, the family dinner wrapped up. Archie, feeling the effects of the late hour, retired early, instructing the butler to get Kimberly's old room ready.

Christian left with his wife and Gia, driving off from the Holden family estate.

In the expansive main hall, only Kimberly and Mabel were left. They shared a knowingsmile before Kimberly stepped forward and embraced Mabel gently.

"Aunt Mabel, will you be staying at the estate tonight, or are you heading back home?"

"I'm going back home. It's not so bad living by myself, even if the food isn't always five-star. At least I have my freedom," Mabel said with a shrug linking arms with Kimberly and smiling. "Will you walk out with me, Kimberly?"

"Sure."

With no other plans, Kimberly joined Mabel for a walk. They wandered along the garden paths of the estate, savoring the soft evening breeze.

"I meant to ask, why did you travel to that remote island?"

Kimberly's smile briefly stuttered. She had nearly forgotten about that trip. Her eyes darted away, and she forced a smile. "Just a welcome party for a friend."

"A friend?" Mabel narrowed her eyes thoughtfully as they approached the front gate. She glanced at the Maybach parked across the street. "Is this friend the heir to the Howard family?"

Kimberly followed her gaze, surprised. As the rear window of the Maybach lowered, the handsome face of Chris appeared. He acknowledged Mabel with a nod before focusing on Kimberly with a profound and unreadable look.

"Aunt Mabel, I'll explain later, okay?"

Kimberly hadn't expected Chris to turn up here and felt slightly overwhelmed.

"If anything comes up, call me," Mabel advised, casting a final glance toward Chris before climbing into her Rolls-Royce.

The car stayed still, showing no sign of wanting to leave.

Kimberly knew her aunt was concerned that she might be bullied. Taking

< Chapter 71 Are You Here Specially To Apolog. 🎁 +120 Points at most
a deep breath, she made her way step by step toward the parked
Maybach.

Standing beside the car, she faced the man inside. "Mr. Howard, why are
you here so late?"

"Are you still upset?" Chris held her gaze for a lengthy moment, his
expression conveying a hint of helplessness. He then stepped out of the
car, his tall stature imposing as he leaned down to meet her eyes.
"Please, don't be mad. I admit I was wrong, Ms. Holden."

Kimberly was taken aback, surprised that the well-known heir of the
Howard family was actually apologizing.

"Did you come here just to apologize?"

Chris pressed his lips together, silent for a moment as he continued to
stare at her. Eventually, he murmured, somewhat unclearly, "Sort of."
Without allowing her to ask further, he added, "I noticed you hadn't
returned to Lakeview Haven Villas, so I thought I'd offer you a ride."

Kimberly raised an eyebrow. She didn't bother asking how Chris knew
where she was. Given his resources as the heir of the Howard family,
tracking her would be simple.

"I won't be returning tonight. I promised Grandpa I'd stay here to keep him
company for a few days."

Chris's brow creased slightly. "A few days?" He gently reminded her, "Ms.
Holden, remember what you promised me."