

Chapter 80 Good Age

Bryce discreetly slipped his phone into his pocket, briefly lifting his eyes to meet Declan's reflection in the rearview mirror. His heart momentarily raced, but he quickly calmed himself, straightening the gold-rimmed glasses on his nose.

He understood Declan was referring to Kimberly.

Truth be told, Kimberly had indeed undergone a significant change lately.

She seemed to have become a completely different person overnight.

Bryce thought for a moment before suggesting "Maybe... she found out about something you did, and that's what changed her so drastically?"

This appeared to be the most likely explanation.

It couldn't be that Kimberly was possessed by another spirit.

What Bryce didn't realize was that his speculation was not far off. Kimberly wasn't possessed; she had experienced two lifetimes!

"What could I possibly have done..."

Declan initially brushed off the thought, but then a realization dawned on him, and his expression changed. His hands tightened as he sunk into deep contemplation.

Could it be that Kimberly had found out he had been poisoning her?

But it was only a slow-acting poison. At worst, it would take three years for Kimberly to fall into a coma, suffer brain damage, and become incapacitated.

He had only started administering the poison six months ago.

The symptoms were supposed to be just mild drowsiness, fatigue, and weakness.

How on earth did she discover it?

Declan was deep in thought, unaware that a pair of eyes was watching him quietly, noting every change in his expression.

Bryce lowered his eyes, his curiosity deepening

What exactly had Declan done to Kimberly to caused such a change?

Feeling a mix of apprehension and curiosity, he resolved to keep his eyes open and continue observing.

Meanwhile, at the Holden Mansion, Archie was watering the roses in the garden when he saw a lively figure dash out of the house. He paused and called out with a warm smile, "Sweetheart, you're up? Take it easy; watch your step!"

Kimberly was dressed in a white V-neck T-shirt that fit her snugly and light denim shorts, carrying a laptop bag. Her minimal makeup and long hair flowed with her movements.

Under the sunlight her skin shone, giving her a simple yet captivating appearance.

"Grandpa, I finally found you."

Kimberly approached quickly, slightly breathless, her face flushed. Her outfit today gave her the fresh look of a young college student just beginning to explore the world.

Archie looked at her with warm affection. He set down his watering can and pulled a handkerchief from his pocket to dab the sweat from Kimberly's forehead. "Has it really felt that long since last night that you missed me this much?"

Kimberly was momentarily taken aback by the tender gesture but soon smiled warmly. "Not really. I need to step out for a little while, really."

Archie paused, a trace of disappointment showing on his face. "You just got back. Didn't you say you would spend a few days with me? Why the rush to leave?"

"Grandpa, I have some exciting news," Kimberly said, her expression

becoming earnest, her eyes shining with anticipation.

She decided it was time to share. "I've managed to secure an investment from the Howard family. I'm currently negotiating a partnership with their CEO. Once everything is finalized, the Holden Group's new energy project will be ready to launch!"

"Really?"

Archie was briefly taken aback, then his face lit up with a broad smile, full of admiration. "My dear Kimberly, you are truly remarkable!"

This news was indeed a significant breakthrough for both the Holden Group and the Holden family.

Archie, though retired from the business world, knew that the Holden Group had been focusing on new energy initiatives in recent years. However, research and development were expensive, and the project had not yet turned a profit. Just as it was about to launch, his eldest son and daughter-in-law sadly died in a car accident.

This tragedy hit the Holden family hard. Without Mabel stepping in to lead the Holden Group, the company could have been in chaos.

However, societal biases against women were significant, and the new energy project was resource-intensive, which made it less attractive. Many partners doubted Mabel's leadership and sided with Declan, contributing to the Holden Group's current challenges.

Resources were scarce, and they desperately needed a breakthrough.

If they could genuinely secure the Howard family's investment and align with such a powerful ally, the Holden family could take this opportunity to rise to dominance.

"Good girl, go on and take care of your business. I will be here, waiting for your good news."

Archie had complete faith in Kimberly's capabilities, his manner tender and reassuring, showing no doubt in her ability to close the deal.

The Howard family was known for their meticulous and strict investment criteria. Few passed their evaluations, but once a partnership was approved, it was a significant endorsement in the investment community.

Kimberly was touched by his faith in her, nodding earnestly. After a pause, she added, "Could you please keep this between us for now?"

Especially from Uncle William. Kimberly worried he might interfere with her plans.

As for Christian, she still hadn't discovered his true nature.

Having been bitten once, she was twice shy, unable to fully trust anyone, not even her closest relatives.

She had decided to confide in Archie only after careful consideration, confident that her grandfather would not let her down.

Archie was a bit surprised, his gaze significant. "Alright, I promise you. Should I have the driver take you?"

"Thank you, Grandpa!"

Kimberly's relief was noticeable, her smile broad and shining.

Archie walked her to the gate, watching as the car drove off into the distance. His smile slowly waned as he turned to the butler standing next to him, his voice low, and instructed, "Find out who Christian and William have been in touch with lately and what they're planning. I need a full report."

The butler looked taken aback, his expression one of surprise. "Are you thinking of stepping back in?"

His reaction wasn't unnecessary. Archie had seemed resigned lately as if he had given up on taking any active role. The butler had assumed Archie would continue in this withdrawn state. But now, just after Kimberly had just returned and met with Archie, he was already planning to regain his energy.

Archie glanced at him, laughing softly. "Why not? My dear granddaughter is striving so hard. If I don't step up as her elder, I'll be left in the dust by the younger people."

He straightened up, his energy renewed, a slight smile playing on his lips.

"I'm only seventy-six. Still a good age to make things happen!"