

Unwanted Girl Spoiled by Billionaire – chapter 21-30

Unchosen 21 -30

Chapter 21 Nicoday was caught off guard when Noelle didnt try to persuade him Meckning in his leather chair with effortless charm , he twirled a pen between his long , elegant fingers while holding the phone in his other hand .

Taking a moment , he finally asked .

Elly babe , arent you going to convince me Convince you of what ? Noelle sounded genuinely confused .

Toad I cant come .

Shouldnt you try to change my mind ? he pressed , his tone light but trasing How would i do that ? Noelle replied carently .

Youre busy , I wouldnt want to bother you ? Nicolas arched an eyebrow , intrigued .

When did you become so considerate ? Tve always been considerate , she said , as if it were the most obvious thing in the world Nicolas didnt respond right away , thinking .

This life liar .

Shes one of the most stubborn , self centered people I know .

When did she start pretending to be so thoughtful He finally relented .

Alright , try a little harder to persuade me .

Who knows ? I might change my mind .

But Noelle wasnt playing along .

No need .

Mom and Leis are coming with me tomorrow .

Its fine if you dont come .

at caught Nacolas off guard .

I thought your family wasnt treating you well , right ? Why are you letting them tag along ? That i He recalled what hed learned about the Anderson family after Noelle entered their lives .

They hadn't exactly welcomed her .

On her arrival , most of the family had gone to the hospital to pick up Leia .

Eli , the only one forced to stay behind , had unceremoniously stuck Noelle in a storage room before heading to the hospital himself .

Their rejection of her was painfully obvious , what do y you mean ! Theyre treating me just fine .

Noelle said lightly , brushing it off .

Is there anyone you think doesnt treat you well ? Nicolas asked .

ery time he sees me Of course ! Noelle thought for a second and grumbled , Damon , I guess .

Hes always mad at me every Nicolas sneered .

He wasn't surprised .

Damons arrogance and unwavering favoritism for Leia were well known .

Noelles arrival had obviously disrupted the family dynamit , making her a target of his hostility .

Just steer clear of him .

No need to deal with someone like that , Nicolas advised No way Noelle said firmly .

Im going to work hard to make Damon like me .

Nicolas frowned .

Why ? You dont need everyone to like you I love my y reasons , she said vaguely , avoiding further explanation In truth , Noelles return to the Anderson family was part of a mission earning her familys affection was critical to her goal Every member of the Anderson family was part of that plan .

But she couldnt tell Nicolas .

Anything related to her mission w was strictly c confidential .

Unaware of her real motives , Nicolas assured she just craved her familys approval .

He chuckled softly .

Fine .

Do what you want .

Just dont push yourself , okay ? okay Noelle agreed .

Just then , a knock came at the door , followed by Elinvoice .

Tru cutting with Nick What ? Elis tone immediately spiked with alarm On the other end of the line , Nicolas froze for a second , silently thinking , Babe , you really didnt need to be that honest 9:25 AM d Chapter 21 He sighed lightly , then said with a resigned chuckle .

Looks like well have to end our chat here .

Get some rest .

See you at the mall tomorrone Huh ? Noelle blinked in surprise .

See me at the mall ? Wait , is he coming after all ! Didnt he say he was busy ? she wondered .

Before she could ask .

Nicolas had already hung up .

Meanwhile , Eli pushed the door open and stormed in , glaring at Noelle as she sat on the bed .

Were you just talking to Nicolas ? Noelle put down her phone and shot him a look .

Eli , why do you keep barging in without knocking ? Thats so rude .

You need to work on that Cut it out , Eli snapped , frowning .

From now on , stop talking to Nicolas .

Why not ? Noelle asked , her tone turning defensive , No reason .

Just dont Eli said firmly .

He assumed Noelle was infatuated with Nicolas just because of his looks , oblivious to the idea that marriage couldnt rest on appearances alone might feel giddy now , but shed regret it if she actually married him .

Eli youre so bossy , Noelle huffed , clearly annoyed .

She liked Nicolas because he always took her seriously and looked out for her .

When she got caught sneaking back once , it was Nicolass advice that helped her smooth things over .

Of course , it didnt hurt that he was incredibly handsome he matched her ideal type perfectly Did you even hear what I said Eli asked , frustrated by her lack of response .

Noelle didnt bother answering .

Instead , she flopped onto her bed , hugging her pillow and rolling around like a child .

El youre such a bossy ghost Im not listening ! Her voice rang out , sweet yet defiant Llistared at her , utterly speechless .

The next day , Kimberly took Noelle and Leia to Ishurman Financial Center to shop for clothes and jewelry .

Though the outing was meant for Noelle, Kimberly made sure to it include Leia so neither daughter would feel slighted .

To avoid running into acquaintances , Kimberly bypassed her usual stores and headed two floors higher .

s ranged from At Ishuman Financial Center , the higher the floor , the more exclusive and expensive the items .

The price difference between levels : tens of thousands to millions of dollars .

When Kimberly led them up the extra floors , Leia immediately realized her mother intended to splurge At a luxury clothing boutique , Kimberly smiled warmly at her daughters Leia , Noelle , go pick out whatever you like .

kay ! Noelle nodded enthusiastically and dashed into the store .

Yes , Mom Lela replied politely , though her mood was sout She korw this trip was all because of Noelle .

However , the thought of owning the latest designs from from such a high end brand brightened her spirits .

The Andersons werent toes to skin , but even they dislart typically spend extravagantly on everyday clothes .

Turir regular outfits cost a few thousand dollars at most .

Tut here , prices Mantend at over 100 thousand dollars the kind of attire reserved for major Leia carefully weighed each choler , wanting to strike a balance .

She couldnt pick something too cheap and seem unworthy , but going for the most rajemsive pieces would look inconsiderate .

Every decision felt like a mental battle .

While pomadering her own selections , Leia glanced toward Noelle , curious about her approach .

She assumed Noelle , with her tacky tastes , would brad straiglat for the most expensive items without a second thought .

But what happened first felt Lela and Kimberly in slut k 9:25 AM ¶ Chapter 21 Noelle casually ran her hand along a rack of clothes and declared to the sales assistant , Both Leia and Kimberly stood frozen , stunned by her boldness .

ant , Ill take this whole row .

Pack it all up for me ,

Chapter 22 Noelle ... Kimberly stared , stunned by her daughters extravagant shopping style .

She quickly stepped forward , flashing an apologetic smile at the sales assistant before pulling Noelle aside .

Sweetheart , what on earth were thinking ? she whispered .

e you Huh ? Noelle tilted her head , her round eyes wide with confusion .

Whats wrong ! Didnt you tell me to pick out clothes ! I just thought itd be a hassle to choose one by one , so I figured Id take the whole row , That was how she used to shop quick , easy , and efficient .

Looking at Noelles innocent expression , Kimberly was at a loss for words .

Is something wrong with her head ? she wondered .

Kimberly had purposely avoided her usual stores and gone up few classy outfits suitable for formal occasions .

extra floors to avoid bumping into acquaintances .

The goal was simple pick up a The starting price here was 100 thousand dollars per piece .

Kimberlys plan was to buy one outfit for each daughter , with a budget of about 500 thousand dollars .

Of course , she could stretch it to 650 thousand dollars if they found something special .

But Noelle , without hesitation , wanted to buy an entire rack .

This wasnt some clearance sale at a supermarket ! Leia , equally stunned , stepped in with a calm , elder sisterly demeanor .

She approached Kimberly and Noelle and said gently .

Noelle , you cant be so impulsive .

part of the Anderson family , you need I know this might be your first time shopping in such a high end store , and its exciting , but now th that youre p to act with some restraint Buying like this could make us look bad .

Its like we dont know any better .

Do you understand ? Oh .

Noelle blinked , processing Leis words .

She didnt quite get what made this store so special or why Leia was suddenly asking her to act with some restraint But she decided to let it go .

Shed already learned that the Anderson family didnt think like normal people .

Trying to figure out their logic always left her feeling dirty , Leia liked to talk , so she probably had a point somewhere in all that .

Leia ..

Kimberly glanced at her , impressed .

Leia had taken it upon herself to guide Noelle , showing the maturity and poise of an older sister .

Not long ago , Lea had been heartbroken after learning she wasnt the Andersons biological daughter .

Yet now , she seemed to have adjusted and was doing her best to fill her role as a good sister .

Kimberly couldnt help feeling proud of her .

Kimberly glanced at Noelle , briefly tempted to compare the two girls , but she stopped herself , No , no , she thought , shaking her head .

Noelles had a different life shes been out in the world , so its only natural shes picked up some bad Maybe shes a bit self centered and impulsive , but as her mother , I need to be understanding and patient .

Lrian undoubtedly more polished , but if I , as their mother , start showing favoritism , how will the children feel it would hurt them both .

Noelle has her flaws , but shes also shown her potential she ace that test , after all .

I need to focus on her strengths and help her being a good mother is all about ! grow .

Thats what smiling gently at Noelle .

Noelle , there are so many lovely clothes here .

Lets take our time After this internal pep talk , Kimberly collected herself , smiling ger and pick out a few favorites , okay ? Okay .

Noelle replied , nodding as if nothing had happened Good girl .

Go on , take a look , Kimberly said with a smile .

Okay Noelle nodded and went back to looking Kimberly turned to Leia , her expression soft .

Leia , you keep looking , too .

1/2 9:26 AM c Chapter 22 Yes , Mom Iris replied obediently .

But a twinge of sadness lingered in her heart .

Noelle just caused such a scene , but Mom didn't seem upset not even a little .

She wasn't annoyed or embarrassed .

Blood really does make a difference .

Leia thought to herself Since Kimberly mentioned they'd be visiting several more stores , Noelle only chose one item this time .

Mom .

I'll go with this one .

Noelle said , holding up the dress she had picked ..

Kimberly smiled and nodded .

If you like it , try it on in the fitting room .

Okay , Noelle said , following a sales assistant to the fitting room .

Leia , having already made her selection , went to try hers on as well .

Le was the first to step out , dressed in a flowing pale yellow gown that highlighted her elegant figure .

She looked every bit like an exquisite little princess The sales assistants immediately crowded around her , offering glowing compliments .

This dress looks like it was made just for you , miss .

It's perfect ! Miss , it brings out your elegance beautifully Many customers have tried this dress , but no one has worn it as gracefully as you .

Your figure is absolutely stunning Leia soaked up the praise , feeling a swell of pride .

So what if I'm not the Andersons' biological daughter ? After all these years of upper class upbringing .

Im more refined than Noelle could ever hope to be , she thought .

With a confident twirl , Leia turned to Kimberly and smiled .

Mom , what do you think ? Does it look good on me ! Its gorgeous .

Kimberly said warmly .

You look beautiful in everything .

Leia .

Shall we go with this one ? TII leave it up to you , Leia replied , her tone demure .

The dress was a designer piece , part of a limited edition , priced at 190 thousand dollars -a perfect price without being excessive .

Kimberly nodded , satisfied with the choice .

Then , realizing Noelle still hadnt come out , she glanced toward the fitting rooms and frowned slightly .

Well , why hasnt Noelle come out yet ! As if on cue , Noelles voice called out from behind the door , sounding a little helpless .

Mom , I cant figure out how to put this on Everyone in the store tried to stifle their laughter .

Kimberly felt a flush of embarrassment rising , wishing Noelle wouldnt draw attention in such a way Leia rolled her eyes internally , enjoying the moment .

How typical .

Noelles making a fool of herself again .

Shes completely out of her depth here , she thought smugly Thankfully , the staff in high end stores were highly professional .

Instead of laughing , one of the sales assistants turned to Kimberly with a polite smile .

Madam , would you like me to assist her ? Yes , thank you Kimberly replied , her tone composed despite her discomfort ..

Its no trouble at all , the assistant said graciously , heading toward the fitting room A few moments later , Noelle finally stepped out .

Chapter 23 Noelle chose a gothic style black dress with thin straps and a mid lengthi Her flawless skin stood out against the dark fabric , creating a stunning Petite and aloll like , with delicate features and bright eyes , she looked like a high end doll when she wasnt speaking .

Wow , shes adorable ! When Noelle stepped out of the fitting room , everyone in the store couldnt help but stare .

It was as if a doll had come to life and walked out of a shop window .

Even Kimberly was momentarily stunned by her daughters appearance .

Seeing the way everyones eyes were on Noelle , she felt a swell of pride .

Thats my daughter .

Shes truly something special, she thought Noticing all the attention Noelle was getting Lela laid her lip .

Her heart burned with jealousy as she thought Noelle was just trying to show off Noelle , quiet and composed , was mesmerizing .

But the moment she spoke , the mood shifted entirely .

Mom ! Look at me ! What do you think ? Does it look good ? Noelle called out cheerfully , bounding over to Kimberly like an excited child The onlookers , caught off guard by her sudden burst of energy , felt the charm she had just exuded fade slightly .

kimberly didnt know whether to Laugh or sigh .

She thought Noelle was amazing in so many ways , but she was just too lively sometimes .

This dress suits her perfectly , madam , one of the salesladies said with genuine admiration .

Kimberly nodded with a smile , Judging by everyones reactions , it was clear the dress was a perfect fit .

Well take this one Thank you , madam , the saleslady said with a polite smile .

Including the earlier dress , the total comes to 680 thousand dollars .

Would you like to pay by cash or card ? 650 thousand dollars ? Kimberly blinked , caught off guard .

That was quite the price tag .

The saleslady explained gently , Yes , the dress your younger daughter is wearing is a Judy Zevon design .

There are only three in the world , and one was purchased by the Princess of Verlia Kimberly forced a smile , glancing at Noelle , who was looking at her with eager anticipation .

Not wanting to let her down , Kimberly took out her card .

"I'll pay by card. Thank you very much," the saleslady said, beaming as she processed the payment, seeing Kimberly swipe her card without hesitation.

Leia nearly exploded with frustration.

The total bill meant Noelle's dress alone cost 490 thousand dollars, and hers was only 190 thousand dollars.

Over twice. She had carefully picked her dress to keep the price modest yet impressive.

Now, Noelle had effortlessly walked away with a dress worth over as much.

It felt unbearably unfair.

But in a store like this, Leia couldn't say a word about prices.

Revealing that she had been paying attention to price tags would ruin her crafted image. Ruin her carefully left with no choice, Leia swallowed her resentment in silence.

After buying the dresses, the family continued browsing.

Not long after they left, the store manager rushed in, looking flustered. "Welcome back, Manager," the staff greeted politely.

The manager gave a quick nod and asked urgently.

"Was there a lady with two young girls here shopping earlier? Yes, there was. Why do you ask? Which outfits did that younger girl try on?" asked the manager.

"Which one are you referring to?" a staff member asked.

"The shunter one. Absolutely gorgeous, like a doll," the manager clarified.

"Oh, ber!" The staff immediately knew the manager meant Noelle.

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Chapter 24 "Terribly sorry, but we still have other stores to visit, so we won't linger," Leia said to the sales associate, forcing a polite smile onto her face.

She grabbed Noelle's hand and added, "Noelle, let's go."

Ok Noelle exhaled, feeling suffocated by the overly enthusiastic sales staff.

Leia's sudden intervention was a welcome relief.

Kimberly quickly followed them out, noticing Leia's sour expression.

Leis , why did you drag Noelle out like that ! Leia turned to Exce Kimberly , Iser expression shifting into one of exaggerated concern .

Mom , dont you think something feels ... off about these stores ? Isnt it odd how overly cager they are ! Hmm .

maybe , Kimberly replied with a nod She had to admit , high end boutiques like these usually werent so eager to please .

Their family might be well off , but they were far from being in the league of clite billionaires .

Yet these salespeople were treating them like royalty it was baffling Leia pressed on her tone dripping with feigned innocence .

I think theyre targeting Noelle because shes too polite and easy to influence .

Theyre trying to coax her into buying things Well , salespeople are supposed to sell , arent they ? Kimberly replied .

Sure , but Noelle doesnt know how to say no ! If she gives in and agrees to buy something , do we really wa want to stand there and refuse one thing after another ! It would be embarrassing ! Lelas voice carried just the right mix of exasperation and logic .

Kimberly nodded , considering Leias point .

Youre right So , Mom , maybe we should call it a day .

Weve already bought plenty of clothes , Lela suggested , eager to avoid seeing Noelle soak up more attention To Leias annoyance , Kimberly didnt agree immediately .

Instead , she said , Lets wait a bit .

Weve bought clothes , but Noelle still needs some proper jewelry .

She looks too plain without it .

Well ... alright , Leia replied , forcing a smile .

Inwardly , she sighed , thinking .

Hopefully the staff on the upper floors wont act as strange as the ones here : up three more floors .

The trio headed up When the elevator doors opened , however , they were greeted by another overly enthusiastic welcome .

Welcome , welcome ! Are you shopping for jewelry for your child ? Come take a look at our collection .

Its perfect for young ladies ! Kimberly froze , stunned by the overwhelming reception Leia narrowed her eyes , suspicious .

What is going on with this mall today ? Did everyone collectively lose their mindy ? As if on cue , all all eyes landed on Noelle .

Two stunning sales associates immediately flanked her , each gently taking an arm .

Miss , you must see our store ! We have pieces that will suit you perfectly , they coord Ah ..

Noelle blinked , caught off guard .

She also felt their unusual enthusiasm , but ... they were were so pretly .

Unable to refuse , she united brightly and said , Okay , lets go .

Right this way said the salesgirl .

Kimberly and Leia stood rooted to the spot , watching in disbelief as Noelle was whisked away like royalty .

What on earth is going on ? Kimberly muttered , bewildered .

Leia , meanwhile , clenched her fists , trembling with barely contained frustration .

This must be a dream .

Please , someone tell me this is all just a bad dream Miss , this necklace , Dream of Swan , is our stor that match your aura perfectly , What do you think ? our stores masterpiece .

Crafted by renowned artisans , it symbolizes purity , innocence , amlj | joy qualities 1/3 9:26 AM Chapter 21 ore manager himself was presenting their crown jewel to Noelle .

The store Wow , Its stunning ! Noelle exclaimed , eyes sparkling with admiration .

Tant it Are you satisfied with this piece ? Very much so ! Shall I wrap it up for you ? Sure in her rare .

Wait a second Just as Noelle was about to seal the deal .

Leia stormed over , her forced smile barely masking her rage .

Everyone turned to look at her .

Leia balled her fists at her sides and , through gritted teeth , asked .

How much is this necklace ? The manager gave a courteous nod and replied .

Miss , the Dream of Swan is valued at 10 million dollars 10 million dollars Leia let out a bitter laugh .

We'll pass .

We don't want it Wait , why ! Noelle pouted .

She actually quite liked the necklace .

You're asking why ? Leia had initially intended to keep her cool , but she was now on the verge of losing Today had been completely off the rail .

Everyone was fawning over Noelle , completely ignoring her , Leia .

She had always been the center of attention , and this was the first time she was being so blatantly overlooked And then there was the dress Noelle's mom had bought for her worth 490 thousand dollars while hers was only 190 thousand .

And now Noelle , with her head in the clouds , wanted an 10 million dollar pink diamond necklace .

It was so absurd , so ignorant .

With all the old grudges resurfacing .

Leia couldn't hold it in anymore .

Noelle , are you really that stupid or just pretending Leia's voice was cold .

An 10 million dollar necklace how can you even think about asking Mom to buy it for you ? Have you learned anything at all ? You think just because you're the heir to the Anderson family now , you can get whatever you want ? How about considering reality for once ! Alright , Leia , what are you even saying ? Kimberly , startled by Leia's sharp words , rushed over to stop her .

But Leia , with red eyes , tearfully turned to Kimberly .

Mom , I just think Noelle's being ridiculous .

She wants everything she sees , not thinking about the situation or how you might feel .

I just ... She broke off , covering her face and sobbing softly Kimberly , heart aching , rushed over to comfort her , Leia , please don't cry Today was supposed to be joyful , and now it was all falling apart .

Kimberly was frustrated too , Lea , why are you crying ! Noelle , still perplexed , stared at Leia .

She didn't understand why Leia was so upset .

She wanted to What's wrong with wanting a 10 million dollar necklace ! I spent 30 million dollars on equipment without even batting an eye -money's meant to be spent , right If they didn't have enough , she could always buy it herself .

To Noelle , this wasn't a big deal at all .

2/3 9:26 AM ch Chapter 21 Noelle , stop saying things .

Kimberly sighed , exasperated .

Noelle blinked , confused .

What's the big deal ? She thought about how she'd spent 30 million dollars on gaming gear without a second thought .

Money was meant to be spent , wasn't it ? The awkward tension was suddenly broken by the store manager .

Ladies , I think there's been a misunderstanding .

Actually , you don't have to pay for the necklace Kimberly and Leia stared at him , stunned .

What do you mean ? Kimberly asked , baffled The manager was about to explain when a deep , elegant male voice interrupted from the doorway .

Kimberly , what he means is ... everything Noelle picks today is on me .

All heads turned toward the source of the voice , and there stood Nicolas , exuding charm and authority , as if he owned the entire mall .

Chapter 25 Nick Noelle's eyes lit up the moment she saw him .

Without hesitation , she spread her arms wide and dashed toward him , throwing herself into his arms like a gust of wind .

Right there , in front of everyone , she buried her head into his chest , rubbing her fluffy hair against him with unabashed joy .

Finally , she looked up , her face glowing with delight .

Nick , you actually came ! Nicolas , his hands naturally wrapping around Noelle's petite frame , raised an elegant brow .

His sharp , handsome features softened with amusement as his lips curved into a faint smile .

Didn't I tell you ! I'll see you at the mall .

Noelle beamed , her head snuggling against him once more , as if to soak up every bit of his presence You youre from the Sawyer family ... Kimberly stammered , blinking in surprise as recognition dawned .

At the sound of her voice , Nicolas turned toward Kimberly .

With the air of a perfect gentleman , he inclined his head slightly , a courteous smile gracing his lips .

Good afternoon .

Apologies for showing up unannounced .

I didnt bring a gift , but how about this ? Ill cover all your expenses here today Kimberlys eyes widened in astonishment .

Oh no , no , that wont do .

We dont need you to pay for us .

Her protest was cut short as she recalled the managers earlier words about the necklace being free .

Suspicion flickered across her face .

Wait , the manager mentioned the necklace wouldnt cost us anything and then you show up , saying youll cover Noelles expenses ? Nicolas nodded , his expression composed .

Yes , maam .

Noelle told me last night youd be shopping here today .

So , I made arrangements with the stores beforehand .

In fact , the first store you visited has already refunded the full amount to your card Kimberly hastily checked her phone , and sure enough , a refund notification popped up This ... this isnt right , Kimberly protested , shaking her head .

We dont need you to pay for what we buy Kimberly , Nicolas said with a warm smile , Noelle is my fiancée .

Isnt it only natural for me to spend money on her and her family ? You dont need to feel awkward about it Exactly Noelle chimed in , nodding enthusiastically .

She turned to her mother with an impish grin .

Mom , Nick already said so just let him handle it .

Kimberly was left speechless , This child hasnt even married into his family yet , and shes already acting like she owns the place .

Leias gaze remained locked on Nicolas , her expression unreadable .

She had seen him at a few social events before .

Like many others , she had once been captivated by his stunning looks , but his reputation for being surrounded by countless women had ultimately driven her away .

Whats the use of a handsome man ? Leia thought bitterly .

A playboy like him only leaves heartbreak in his wake .

A real man should be loyal But today , Nicolas seemed ... different .

His demeanor screamed model husband , a far cry from the infamous heartbreaker she thought she knew , Excuse me , Mr.

Sawyer , the jewelry store manager interjected , smiling obsequiously .

Shall we wrap up this necklace ? Nicolas glanced down at the girl clinging to him like a koala .

His deep , velvety voice softened with unmistakable affection as he asked , Elly , do you like this necklace ? I love it .

Noelle replied instantly , her voice bright and unfiltered , as if it was the most natural thing in the world .

Alright , Nicolas said , turning back to the manager , Wrap it up .

Yes , sir , right away ? The manager practically leapt into action- No , wait ! This necklace is out of the question , Kimberly interjected , her tone firm .

Her disapproval deepened as she noticed Noelle still glued to Nicolas .

Noelle , get over here .

This is no way to behave in public ! Whats the big deal ? Noelle countered , still clutching Nicolass sleeve .

Nicks my fiance .

Isnt it normal to be close to him ! 1/2 9:26 AM Chapter 25 Kimberly opened her mouth to retort but faltered .

She has a point .

Theyre engaged ... but still ! Leia stepped forward , her voice laced with righteous authority .

Yes , being affectionate with your fiancé is fine , but this is a public space .

You need to maintain decorum .

Remember , youre an Anderson , a noble lady not some nightclub floozy Nicolass gaze turned icy , his sharp eyes cutting toward Leia .

Leia felt the weight of his scrutiny and instinctively glanced at him , only to be met with a cold , commanding presence that sent a shiver down her spine.

Is he angry ? But what did I say that was wrong ! Noelle , come here , Kimberly repeated .

Reluctantly , Noelle let go of Nicolas , but not before he ruffled her hair with a warm, indulgent smile .

Go ahead , he said softly .

Are you coming with us ? she asked .

Yes , Nicolas replied with a nod .

Her face lit up again as she skipped over to her mothers side .

Kimberly , watching their tender exchange , couldnt help but wonder , When did their relationship become so close ? Mr.

Sawyer , about the necklace .

Kimberly tried to interject again , but Nicolas cut her off with an easy smile .

Kimberly , its just a small gift .

Last time I met Noelle , I didnt bring anything suitable .

Consider this a belated token of my regard .

Its nothing extravagant But its 11 million dollars ! Kimberly argued ..

Money is secondary .

What matters is the sentiment , Nicolas said simply .

Besides , Noelle loves it , doesnt she ? Yes , I do ! Noelle piped up cheerfully .

Kimberly sighed , utterly defeated Nicolas continued , Kimberly , Im more than happy to spend on Noelle .

You should be thrilled ! Are you really hoping your daughter ends up with a miser who won't even spend on his own wife ? How could that be Exactly Kimberly , never one for a sharp debate , was easily overwhelmed by the smooth talking Nicolas .

Her laid back nature couldn't keep up with his silver tongue .

Within moments , she surrendered and allowed Nicolas to buy Noelle the 11 million dollar pink diamond necklace .

With Nicolas by her side , Noelle was unstoppable .

Earlier , with Kimberly and Leia watching , she had been more restrained in her choices , but now , she simply picked out whatever caught her eye .

She didn't even have to speak ; just a glance , and Nicolas would signal to the staff to wrap it up .

As the day went on , despite Nicolas claiming he was covering everything , Leia , ever so poised and refined , dared not add to the pile.

She could only watch in silence as Noelle indulged herself , Nicolas by her side , gentlemanly and doting , paying for everything with ease .

Leia ground her silver teeth so hard she almost shattered them in frustration .

Chapter 26 Thanks to Nicolass indulgence , Noelle had gone on an unchecked shopping spree , filling bags with both essentials and frivolities alike .

Every time Kimberly watched her daughter shop like she was stocking up for the apocalypse , her heart clenched with worry .

Sure , Nicolas had offered to foot the bill , but Noelle wasn't showing even a shred of restraint .

Kimberly couldn't help but fret .

What if Nicolas sees how greedy she is and gets scared of ? But when she glanced at Nicolas , her concerns dissolved into disbelief .

Nicolas stood there , his perfectly sculpted lips curled into a faint smile , his eyes glowing with indulgence .

His gaze never wavered from Noelle , as if the world outside of her ceased to exist .

Whenever she picked out yet another pile of items , he remained utterly unfazed , calmly instructing his assistant to pay .

If anything , he seemed to encourage her .

He almost looked like he wanted Noelle to buy more .

The sheer amount of spoiling and enabling was staggering .

Mr.

Sawyer , Kimberly began tentatively , unable to keep her unease hidden .

Don't you think we've shopped enough for today ? She couldn't even recall how many stores they'd been to , but a rough calculation placed the total damage somewhere around 20 million dollars .

Sure , the Sawyer family was far wealthier than the Andersons , but Nicolas was just one heir among many .

Surely , this level of extravagance would raise eyebrows back home Nicolas turned to Kimberly with his trademark polite smile .

Noelle hasn't finished shopping yet .

If you or Miss Anderson are tired , I've arranged for refreshments on the fifteenth floor .

You're welcome to rest there You're very considerate , Kimberly said .

It's only natural , Nicolas replied , his voice smooth and steady .

We'll all be family soon , after all Kimberly was taken aback .

His words and actions left no room for criticism Her mind reeled .

This isn't the Nicolas we'd imagined The Nicolas she'd heard about was a notorious playboy arrogant , wild , and utterly unrestrained .

He was a walking red flag , the kind of man any mother would hesitate to entrust her daughter to .

But today , he was the epitome of class and gentleness , a perfect gentleman who radiated nobility and charm .

If he'd always been like this , Kimberly thought regretfully , we wouldn't have delayed the engagement for so long .

What a pity .

If Nicolas had shown this side of himself earlier , he might have been a good match for Leia instead .

After a while , even Noelle began to feel tired .

She turned and scampered toward Nicolas , her soft frame practically collapsing against him .

Nick , I'm hungry ... she murmured pitifully Shall we grab something to eat and then continue shopping ! Nicolas asked , his voice filled with gentle amusement .

He supported her sagging figure , making an effort to keep her upright .

No , I dont want to shop anymore .

Im exhausted .

Then lets lead straight to the dining area , he suggested .

Okay .

I want Anything you want Kimberly and Leia trailed behind ther them , reduced to spectators .

Kimberly didnt mind sering her daughter happy with her fiance was a relief .

But Leia was another story entirely .

Leia fumed silently , her thoughts a bitter whirlwind .

Am I Noelles maid ? Why do I love to follow her around while she shops ? She doesnt deserve this treatment .

And now were supposed to have dinner together ? Do I really have to sit there and watch her flaunt her sugar daddy 9:26 дм Chapter 26 The thought made her stomach churn .

Les suddenly coughed , breaking the awkward silence .

Leia , are you alright ? Kimberly asked , her voice filled with concern Leia pressed her lips together , her expression pale and fragile .

Mom , Im feeling a bit weak .

I think I need to go home and rest Kimberly hesitated but ultimately nodded .

Alright , Ill take you home .

Noelle and Nicolas can stay here But before she could act , Leia furrowed her brows in apparent worry .

Hut Mom .

Eli doesnt like Noelle spending time with Mr.

Sawyer , does he ? If we leave and Noelle doesnt come home with us , hell be upset .

Lea turned to Noelle with a seemingly sincere look .

Noelle , why dont you come home with us now ? Theres no way Im letting her bask in this attention any longer .

What ? Noelle pouted .

But Im hungry .

I want to eat first .

Theres plenty of food at home , Leia countered , her tone dripping with reason .

Do you think the Anderson family cant feed you ? And imagine how upset Eli will be if he finds out you stayed with Mr.

Sawyer instead of coming home .

Noelle hesitated , her gaze shifting between Leia and Nicolas .

She didnt want to upset Eli , but leaving now would mean abandoning dinner with Nick Nicolass eyes flicked to Leia , his expression cool .

His smile returned , sharp and calculated .

Miss Anderson , thats easily resolved .

Just tell Eli that Elly ran into an old friend and is having dinner with them .

Problem solved , isnt it ? Leia froze her retort dying on her lips as Nicolass piercing gaze met hers .

For a moment , she felt as though hed seen straight through her .

Why does he look so hostile ? Noelle , oblivious to the tension , clapped her hands in agreement .

Thats a great idea ! Nick , youre so smart ! Nicolas chuckled at her enthusiasm .

His voice was low and lazy , teasing .

What did you expect ? Do you t think Im as scatterbrained as you ! Yes , yes .

Elly is the smartest , Nicolas replied , his tone indulgent as he ruffled her hair .

Turning to Kimberly , he added with a polite smile , Kimberly , Ellys hungry .

Let me take her for dinner .

Could I trouble you to handle Eli for us ? Kimberly hesitated but eventually agreed .

Alright .

Young people need time together .

Just dont spoil her too much .

Thank you , Kimberly .

Would you like me to arrange a car to take y you home ? No need .

Our driver is waiting in the garage : Very well .

Safe travels .

Ill visit soon to formally pay pay my respects After seeing Kimberly and Leia off .

Nicolas turned back to Noelle , who was already tugging him toward the d Leia , meanwhile , remained silent during the car ride home , her expression dark .

Leia , are you okay ? Kimberly asked .

Leia forced a smile .

Tinfine , Mom .

Dont worry about me : dining area with renewed energy .

Kimberly studied her carefully .

Something about Leias behavior today felt off .

After a moment of hesitation , she asked , Leia ... are you regrening something ?

Chapter 27 Me ! Regret ? Leia Blinked , then playfully fluttered her lashes at Kimberly , her lips curling into an amused smile .

Mom , what are you talking about ? Kimberly sighed .

I remember when you first met Nicolas , you seemed to like him .

But after you found out about his playboy reputation and his endless string of women , you flatly refused any talk of marriage to him .

She paused , her tone thoughtful But today , Nicolas is nothing like the man we thought we knew .

Hes courteous , refined , and exudes a grace thats far from the wild , irresponsible heir wed imagined .

Seeing this side of him ... I just wondered if you might regret not agreeing to marry him back then Mom , youre overthinking it Leia interrupted before Kimberly could finish .

Leias smile softened as she added , Til admit , when I was young and naive , I had a fleeting crush on Nicolas .

But that was in the past .

You know full well the person in my heart now is

Her voice trailed off as a faint blush dusted her cheeks .

She lowered her head shyly , her coy demeanor making Kimberly suddenly recall something Oh , right Kimberly exclaimed , chuckling at her own forgetfulness .

How could I forget youve been smitten with Harley Parker all this time ! Speaking of which , I heard from Mrs.

Parker that hes coming back to the country soon.

Yes .

Leas eyes brightened , her voice soft and tinged with delight .

He mentioned in our old class group chat that hes planning to attend university here , at Eston University .

Really ? Kimberlys surprise turned into a delighted smile .

Then you and Harley will have plenty of chances to see each other again ! Harley Parker was the only son of the prestigious Parker family in Reniam City , a paragon of nobility and achievement .

He was widely admired in their social circles , his name synonymous with excellence .

Leis and Harley had shared a classroom during high school , but their connection had been limited to fleeting interactions before Harley left for overseas studies during their first year .

Since then , they had only exchanged the occasional holiday greeting Despite this , Harley had left a deep impression on Leia .

Compared to Nicolass wild , untamed charm , Harleys composed elegance and clean reputation made him Leias ideal partner .

Thats wonderful , Kimberly said , clearly pleased .

If things work out between you and Harley , it would be such a lovely match .

Her joy was tempered by a lingering curiosity .

Kimberly glanced at Leia again , her tone tentative .

But Leia , maybe its just me , but it seems like you dont really like Noelle spending time with Nicolas ? Leias expression didnt waver .

She admitted with apparent sincerity , Mom , youre right .

I do have some concerns about Noelle and Nicolas Not out of jealousy , of course , Leia added quickly , her tone measured .

But dont you think Noelle relies on Nicolas too much ? Women today should be independent and self reliant , yet she always seems to cling to him , expecting him to solve everything for her .

Thats not acceptable behavior for a daughter of the Anderson Family , Kimberly sighed .

When you put it that way , I suppose youre right .

Leia potted the shaft in Kimberlys stance and pressed on , her voice heavy with a resigned wisdom .

Even if Nicolas appears to be a gentleman now , his reputation as a womanizer isnt unfounded .

Sure , hes indulging Noelle now , but what happens when he loses interest Ill be Noelle who gets hurt in the end .

Thats why I hope she can learn To stand on her own two feet and not let herself be led around by a man Youre such a considerate sister , Leia Kimberly said , her face softening with affection .

I only hope Noelle can learn from you and katrinoor just as independent and level headed grow into Dont worry , Moin Leigently looped her arm through Kimberlys .

Im sure Noelle will mature in time .

But when it comes to her relationship with Nicolas , I think you should have a talk with her Kimberly nodded decisively .

I will .

Theyre not even even married yet cant keep clinging to him like this ? * Exactly , Leia replied with a satisfied smile , Iser eyes glining with triumph .

1/2 Chapter 27 Meanwhile , Miles and Nottle had just finished their moral Hearty reverindulged , wadded to the restaurant with one arm heared as her had veched her stars as the Merdars .

Her other proaned dramatically Truck .

Im ay fall i feel like my foods about to come back up the whimpered , her fare wore bed .

not the Survilas shock file heart , half repeated , half amused .

I warned you over .

You didnt have to finish everything you know ? Nicolas took Noelle to earlier Greedy are .

Noelle undered two massive crale , weighing over ten perends in coral the hard harely finished one before she started feeling full , but still , she insisted on finishing the second one .

Now , shes definitely paying the price our Tour Irdnt waste Noelle shot hark baking up at him with a determined pour Those crabs grew so big it wouldve been disrespectful no couldnt at looking thes , yes , you respected the crabs Nicolas said with a chuckle .

He placed a large , steady hand on her soft , round belly and began gently massaging ith this helpin Noelle admitted , her face relaxing Térolas worked his magle .

His hand was warm , firm , and soothing and she found herself swd we walk around a bit to help you diger Nideas suggested .

Cory bette chirped , perking upo They wandered to the entertainment section of the mall .

Nicolas was about to suggest bowling or billiards , but as they passed a row of clas wich plush toys , Noelle frove Nuk Whats that ? the asked , her eyes wide with childlike wonder Nas followed her you and couldnt help but smile .

Despite everything , she was still just a young girl at heart .

s a clew machine , be explained , his tone indulgent .

Havent you ever played one ? Do you want to my Yes loking her heard .

Not far away , 11 › young men descended the escalator of them sported the law machines and it up with excitement .

He tugged at the sleeve of his companion , a tall , aloof figure dressed in black nael wear , with earbuds in and a look that serrated eave me alone Hadley Look , thew machines ! Lets go playe 9:26 AM c

Chapter 28 Harley had returned to the country y three days ago , solely to celebrate his mothers birthday .

Aside from his family , only his closest friends knew about his return like Connor Gordon , the slightly eccentric young man currently captivated by the claw machines .

The two had been inseparable since childhood .

Watching Connors unabashed enthusiasm , Harley shd off his headphones and gave him a flat , unimpressed look .

Connor , are you serious ? Arent you a little too old for this ! Whats wrong with reminiscing about childhood ? Connor shot back .

Its childish Harley made a move to is put his headphones back on , but Connor grabbed his arm Come on , I helped you shop for your moms birthday gift .

The least you can do is indulge me for five minutes .

Lets play a few rounds Before Harley could protest , Connor was already dragging him toward the claw machines .

When they got closer , however , they were greeted with an unexpected sight .

Most of the claw machines were completely empty .

wiped out What the heck ? Connor exclaimed , his jaw dropping .

Why are all the claw machines empty ? Harley scanned the area with his usual disinterest .

Maybe theyre being restocked .

Then why isnt there a sign ! Connor frowned , glancing around before shouting .

Hey ! Anyone here ? A store attendant quickly emerged from a back room Yes , how can I help you !
* their content Connor pointed at the rows of empty machines , his tone incredulous .

What happened to all the toys ? Why are the machines empty ? The attendant bowed apologetically .

Im so sorry .

A young lady just cleared out all the toys in these machines .

Were in the process of restocking them .

If youd like to play , you can wait a bit .

e what ? Connor gaped , gesturing at the rows of machines .

She emptied all of these by herself ? Yes ... The attendants voice trailed off , and they sighed dramatically , clearly still reeling from the ordeal .

She never missed , not once .

Every coin , a prize .

If the gentleman accompanying her hadnt offered to buy all the prizes at market value , we might ve gone bankrupt Connors jaw dropped even further He turned to the indifferent Harley beside her and said , I thought I was already a pro at claw machines , but it turns out theres always someone Harley shrugged nonchalantly .

No matter how good you are , its just a claw machine .

Whats there to be surprised about ? Hey , you little brat ... Connor , feeling the conversation going nowhere , glanced over at the staff and asked curiously .

Do you happen to know which way that young lady Maybe he could still catch up .

she mentioned wanting to try a shooting game , so she headed toward the shooting range over there , the attendant explained , pointing in the direction of the arcade .

Connors face lit up .

Got it , thanks He turned to Harley with newfound excitement .

Harley , lets head over there ! Harley , however , was less than enthusiastic , Shaking off Connors hand , he frowned , Are you serious about this ! Youre acting ridiculous .

Do you really want to embarrass yourself over a claw machine or a pellet gun? Connor rolled his eyes .

Cod , youre such a snob Whats so embarrassing about playing games ? I think its plenty embarrassing 1/2 9:26 AM d Chapter 28 You Connor was starting to lose his temper .

He huffed , spun on his heel , and stalked off toward the shooting range .

Fine ! Stay here and sulk .

Ill go have fun on my own .

Harley pressed his lips into a thin line , watching Connor for a moment before turning away , fully intending to leave But just as he took his first step , a crisp , cheerful voice rang out from the direction of the shooting range .

Nick ! Look , I hit the little bear ! This ones for you ! Harley froze mid step .

The voice struck him like a bolt of lightning , rooting him to the spot .

His eyes widened , and his head snapped toward the shooting range .

Harley thought .

That voice ... Meanwhile , Connor was still grumbling grumbling as he walked , only to feel a sudden gust of wind rush past him .

Huh ? He glanced over his shoulder and saw Harley striding past him with purpose , his usually calm demeanor replaced by something urgent and intense .

Harley ? Connor called after him , stunned .

For a moment , he was confused , but realization quickly dawned , and his face broke into a mischievous grin .

So thats how it is Connor chuckled to himself .

And here I thought this guy didnt care .

Turns out hes just too proud to admit it .

Watching Harley practically sprint toward the shooting range , Connor shook his head and laughed .

Guess he couldnt resist after all

Chapter 29 Won , is she using some kind of cheat ! How does she keep hitting every target ? Inside the shooting range , a group of kids gathered around , their faces a mixture of awe and disbelief as they watched Noelle .

Their eyes sparkled .

with adoration , as if they were witnessing a superhero in action .

It had all started when Noelle grew bored of the standard shooting game .

The targets are too big , and the distance is too short , she had said with a hint of disdain .

After all , back when she was a sniper , her job requires her to hit moving targets from miles away .

A mere 50 feet ? That was childs play So she asked the shop owner to raise the stakes : blindfolded shooting But she didnt stop there .

To make it even harder , Noelle insisted on spinning herself around a few times before taking aim The challenge level skyrocketed .

Most people could barely hit the targets while blindfolded , let alone after spinning themselves into disorientation At first , the crowd had been skeptical , thinking Noelle was just trying to show off .

But when she blindfolded herself with a sleek black ribbon , spun around gracefully , and then hit every single stuffed toy on the shelves with unerring precision , skepticism turned into stunned applause .

Shes incredible ! a kid shouted .

Children , naturally drawn to talent , began crowding around her .

Their voices chimed in unison , Miss , can you teach us how to shoot like that ? You want to learn ? Noelle looked down at the cluster of eager faces .

Yeah ! She sighed dramatically , tapping her chin as if weighing a difficult decision .

Hmm , this is a problem ... Why The kids looked nervous , fearing she'd refuse .

Well , its simple for me because Im a genius Noelle said , flashing a confident smile .

But you guys ? You dont seem to have the talent .

Even if I taught you you wouldn't get it .

The kids exchanged glances .

Wow .

She's so full of herself Unbothered , Noelle skipped over to Nicolas , holding up a stuffed bear with gleaming eyes .

Nick , look ! Isn't this bear adorable ? Yeah , it's cute , Nicolas replied , sparing the bear a glance before his eyes returned to Noelle .

While he'd already witnessed her exceptional skills during hunts seeing her display her talents so casually still left him in awe .

Is she even human ! he wondered .

This is for you Noelle said , thrusting the bear into his arms .

Wow , a gift for me ? Nicolas raised an eyebrow , smirking as he caught the bear .

Of course ! Noelle's smile was as bright as the sun .

I had so much fun today , all thanks to you .

It's only fair to return the favor .

That's called reciprocation You really know your manners , huh ? Nicolas tried , unable to hide his amusement .

Of course ! Noelle puffed out her chest , looking adorably proud .

I'm not dumb , you know , That made Nicolas LaSIGLE even harder , his shoulders shaking as he tried to hold it in .

How does she always manage to make me laugh so effortlessly ? Nearby , Bryan sighed .

Sure , Miss Anderson is thoughtful , but wasn't it Nicolas who paid for the bullets she used to win that bear ! Isn't this just giving his money back to him ! Still , he said nothing .

As long as he's happy , I suppose it doesn't matter Just then , a calm yet uncertain male voice rang out from the entrance : Noelle ? Huh ? Noelle turned toward the sound Standing in the doorway was a tall , handsome man dressed in casual black attire .

His eyes locked onto Noelle , and when she faced him , his cold , 1/2 927 AM c Chapter 29 distant expression melted into joy .

It really is you , the man said , stepping closer .

Nicolas immediately recognized him : Harley Parker , heir to the Parker family .

Known for his aloof demeanor , Harley wasnt someone easy to approach , and hed been abroad for years .

How does he know Noelle ? Nicolas wondered Harley approached with measured steps , his refined smile in place .

Elly , is this your friend ? he asked , glancing at Nicolas .

Noelle tilted her head , scrutinizing Harley before asking bluntly .

Who are you ! Harley froze , his entire body stiffening .

You dont remember me ? he asked , his voice dropping .

Nope , Noelle replied casually .

Have we met before ! Nicolas couldnt help but chuckle .

Noelles complete lack of concern w with and she couldnt care less .

If you dont know him , lets go , Nicolas said , smiling at her .

Okay Noelle linked her arm with his and prepared to leave .

was always refreshing .

A man everyone else would try to ingratiate themselves Harleys gaze darkened when he noticed her casual intimacy with Nicolas .

He immediately recognized Nicolas as the infamous playboy of the Sawyer family .

How could Noelle be with someone like him ? Quickly stepping in front of them , Harleys voice turned cold .

Why are you with Nicolas ? Hes a notorious womanizer .

Did he trick you ? Hearing the tone Harley used for Nicolas , Noelles brows furrowed .

Whats your problem ? Nicks my fiancé .

He wouldnt trick me .

Harley looked as though hed been struck by lightning .

He stood frozen , his face drained of all color .

Your ... fiance ? Just then , Connor arrived , panting slightly .

Harley ! Man , you ran like crazy ! I knew you wanted to play .

Whats going on ? Connors casual tone faltered as he noticed the tense atmosphere .

He spotted Nicolas and frowned .

Whats a notorious playboy doing in a place like this Nicolas , unfazed by the growing crowd , leaned closer to Noelle .

Elly , lets go .

Noelle said , Okay The two walked past Harley , who remained frozen in place .

But as they neared the exit , Harley suddenly called out , his voice sharp : Two years ago .

Dalneau Bay .

Thunder Unit .

Connor flinched .

Harley , what are you talking about ? Noelle paused mid step , her eyes widening slightly as realization dawned .

Oh , she said brightly , I remember now .

What is it ? Nicolas asked , curious Noelle turned to him with a casual shrug .

Two years ago , I saved that

Chapter 30 Two years ago .

.

I worked as an instructor for Thunder Unit .

Once , the unit was tasked with providing special training for students from a prestigious school Unexpectedly , during a wilderness exercise , the group was ambushed by a gang of roaming kidnappers .

That man was taken hostage , and it was me who rescued them from the captors .

Seated in the car .

Noelle casually recounted her past encounter with Harley .

Nicolas , sisting beside her , turned to study the petite , soft spoken Noelle with an amused glint in his eyes .

Elly , you were an instructor for Thunder Uni ! Thunder Unit was renowned globally as a militarized elite force , funded by international alliances and known for producing top tier personnel who often went on to serve in key roles within national armies .

Of course ? Noelle replied , proudly lifting her chin .

I was so impressive back then that I was specially approved as the youngest and most skilled instructor in Thunder Units history , Everyone said so .

Nicolas chuckled at her smug expression , his heartwarming with amusement .

At first , when Noelle had spoken of her past accomplishments , he'd thought she was simply making up stories .

But now , anything she said felt entirely plausible because it was Elly .

She was just that extraordinary .

You're amazing .

Nicolas said softly , his voice laced with a deep , magnetic warmth that carried a touch of affection .

Each word seemed to resonate deeply , wrapping Noelle in a cocoon of comfort and sweetness .

Her heart skipped a beat , then began pounding furiously as she looked up at his strikingly handsome face .

How can Nick be this good looking she thought , her mind spinning .

And that voice so mesmerizing ! Without thinking , she threw herself into Nicolass arms , wrapping him in a tight hug .

Resting her head against his chest , she murmured softly , her tone sweet and sticky like honey , Nick ... Nick ... Nick ... Nicolas , feeling her softness against him , was filled with an unfamiliar yet pleasant emotion .

He wrapped his arms around her , his hold gentle but Then , as if remembering something , he warned her in a serious tone , Elly , from now on , don't casually share details about your past roles or experiences with others .

Understand ? Why not ? Noelle asked , tilting her head in confusion .

You don't realize how sensitive some of your identities are .

It could bring you unnecessary trouble Nicolass tone was calm but carried a hint of protectiveness .

You've been lucky so far most people just think you're exaggerating .

But if word spreads , someone might actually dig deeper , and that could lead to problems .

Okay Noelle agreed , though she seemed only half convinced .

Her bright , cat like eyes blinked up at him , and in a soft , obedient voice , If Nick says so , Ill listen .

You little rascal , Nicolas said , unable to suppress a laugh How did I get so lucky to find someone as sweet as Elly ? she sald Meanwhile , Harley and Connor were walking through the underground parking lot .

only pick a fight Connor glanced at Harleys stormy expression , the frosty air around him unmistakable .

Whats going on , Harley ? Whyd you suddenly with Nicolas ? Dont tell me youre into his girl The dynamic earlier had looked suspiciously like a love triangle .

Noelle isnt his girl , Harley snapped , his tone so sharp it made Connor flinch .

Yan Qings expression suddenly became as ferocious as an evil spirit , and he retorted sharply .

Whoa , okay ! Got it Connor stammered , raising his hands in mock surrender .

Then , his curiosity piqued , he asked , But what did you mean earlier -Two years ago , Dalneau Bay ? Isnt that where you were kidnapped ! Harleys brows furrowed at the memory .

After a deep breath , he said , I told you before , didnt I ? The person who saved me was about my age .

me was a young instructor , 1/3 9:27 AM c Chapter 30 Oh , yeah Connor nndddd .

I remember you saying that you wanted to thank her , but by the time you tried to reach out , she had already left Thunder Unit .

Youve been searching for her ever since .

I found her today , Harley said , his voice low but steady .

Seriously ? Connors face lit up .

Where ? Who is she ? Harley gave Connor a long , almost pitying stare .

Why are you looking at me like that ? Connor asked , his mind racing as he connected the dots .

His eyes widened in disbelief .

Wait , youre not saying that young instructor is Nicolass girl Noelle ? Harley remained silent , his expression grim ..

Thats crazy ? Connor exclaimed , his voice rising .

She looks like a delicate flower raised in a greenhouse .

And she was a Thunder Unit instructor ? Thunder Unit , Harley ! You dont need to remind me .

Harley muttered , his mind flashing back to that fateful day .

Back then , he hadnt thought much of the petite girl his age , until she singlehandedly descended like a storm , dismantling a group of ruthless kidnappers with chilling precision .

She was a legend in the making the strongest instructor in Thunder Units history .

Connors voice broke his reverie .

So , what now ? Noelles clearly with Nicolas , and they look pretty close .

Do you think Nicolas is tricking her ? Hes not exactly known for being trustworthy .

Thats exactly what Im worried about , Harley replied , his irritation mounting- But then he remembered something Noelle had said earlier something that unsettled him deeply She called Nicolas her fiance .

If his memory served him correctly , Nicolass fiancée was supposed to be Leia , the youngest daughter of the Anderson family .

Harleys gaze darkened as a thought struck him .

If anyone could shed light on this , it was Leia With newfound determination , he pulled out his phone and began scrolling through his contacts .

At the Anderson family residence , Eli stared in disbelief at the luxurious gift boxes being carried inside , one after another .

When Kimberly and Leia returned , he immediately confronted them .

Mom , did you seriously buy all this today ? Dumon , standing nearby with a scowl , added .

You never splurged like this on gifts for Leia , but now , for a girl weve barely known , you spend a fortune Is blood really that important to you ? These arent from me , Kimberly said with a sigh , her voice tinged tinged with exasperation .

Theyre from Nicolas .

He bought them all for Noelle What ? Elrs voice rose an octave .

Why would Nicolas buy so much for Noelle ? Darmon sneered .

Great .

Accepting such lavish gifts so soon after meeting him ? If this gets out , people will think were selling our daughter Mom , you should ve stopped her Kimberly frowned .

Damon , thats enough Hi , however , was already seething .

Is Noelle with Nicolas right now ? to him li like a leech .

Who Kimberly hesitated .

Before she could answer , Damon scoffed , Of course she is .

Probably thrilled out of her mind , clinging to cares if hes a playboy , as long as hes spending money un her , right ? Damon , thats enough Kimberly repeated , her tone sharper .

Elis Lace darkened further .

Noelle doesnt listen , does she ! I told her to stay away away from Nicel Nicolas Kimberly watched helplessly as her two sons were already convinced that Noelle and Nicolas were together .

She had no idea how to keep fooling then Lela , however , felt a sense of satisfaction in her heart .

2/3 9:27 AM Chapter 30 .

She walked over and , with exaggerated care , said to Damon and Eli , Damon , Eli , dont be angry with Noelle .

Shes just young and hasnt developed a proper sense of values yet , so she keeps relying on men .

You can teach her slowly , its not too late .

Shes still young Damon sneered , his face full of disdain .

Leia , youre still defending her ! Noelles the same age as you , but can you even compare ! The environment shapes a person .

She grew up in the gutter , and shes already set in her ways .

Dont think a little teaching will make her anything like you Ah , Damon , dont say it like that .

Leia feigned helplessness , but inside , she was grinning like a Cheshire cat .

Noelle , so what if Nicolas is looking after you ? The closer you get to him , the more the brothers will despise you .

Without any family support , see how long youll be basking in Nicolass favor , Leia thought Just as Leia was about to stoke the fire further , her phone rang .

She glanced at the screen , her heart skipping a beat when she saw the name Harley Parker .

