

Chapter 884 Ace Up His Sleeve

Adah found herself at a loss for words, barely able to keep a smile from breaking through. She never would have guessed that Ruben thought so highly of her, or that he'd be so intent on seeing her join the Evans family.

Elliana nudged Adah impatiently. "Well? What are your thoughts about Lance? Wanting to marry him and join the Evans family?"

"Lance?" Adah repeated softly as she conjured his face in her mind. She hesitated for a bit. "He's definitely my type. But..." A groan escaped her lips.

Even as Adah uttered Lance's name, it was Allan's face that flooded her thoughts. It had already been over two weeks since their last meeting. Before vanishing he'd mentioned going away for a bit to get her birthday present ready. He'd even set a wager: if she truly loved his gift, she had to marry him. If it fell short, he would disappear from her life forever.

Adah had already made up her mind to make Allan lose, no matter what he gave her. Even if she liked his present, she would force herself to claim she hated it. That was the only way to finally shake him loose. Still, she had agreed to the bet, and she had every intention of sticking to her word. She couldn't start seeing anyone else before then. She had to wait for her birthday, see the present, turn Allan down, and only then move on.

"But what?" Elliana urged.

Adah snapped back to the moment. "We'll have to discuss it next month."

Elliana looked baffled. "Why wait until next month?"

Adah never kept Elliana in the dark, so she explained the bet in detail. "So, you see, there's no point thinking about Lance right now. Not until after my birthday."

Elliana nodded thoughtfully, a spark of light flashing across her eyes. Allan wasn't the type to set himself up for failure. He would never make



such a bold gamble unless he was sure he'd win. But what exactly did he have in store? What kind of gift could he be so confident about, one that he was sure would melt Adah's heart?

Jewelry? A luxury home? Fast cars? No, Elliana was certain Allan was too clever for such a predictable move. He understood that Adah had already lived in extravagance. He wouldn't insult her with something shallow or flashy.

Elliana suspected it had to be something that spoke directly to Adah's soul. But what could it be? Adah was proud and kept her heart closely guarded. There were very few things in this world that could genuinely reach her.

Allan hadn't spent much time with Adah, and they barely knew each other on a deep level. Yet, he was willing to gamble everything on this one gesture. That meant he believed he'd discovered her greatest vulnerability, a guaranteed win.

If that were true, there could be only one explanation. Sally. Was it possible? Had Allan really found Adah's mother?

The idea made Elliana's eyes widen in shock. She could almost see Allan's strategy unfolding a net slowly drawing Adah in, leaving her with no way out.

Unaware of Elliana's thoughts, Adah looked puzzled. "Why are you staring at me like that?"

Not wanting to spoil the surprise, Elliana just grinned. "Forget about Lance. I'm telling you, you're destined to end up with Allan. You might as well get used to the idea of being Mrs. Shaw."

"What are you even talking about?" Adah's eyes widened, caught between disbelief and amusement. "My decision is already set, and nothing is going to change it. Whatever he decides to give me, I will insist that I dislike it. He will not get another opportunity to bother me, and I am certainly not going to end up as Mrs. Shaw!"

Elliana didn't argue. She just nodded toward the car window. "We're here. Out you go."

Adah, thrown by Elliana's reaction, opened her mouth to ask more, but

Elliana waved her off. "Go on. I've got a husband and kids at home waiting for me."

With a resigned chuckle, Adah stepped out of the car.

As Elliana pulled away from Rosewood Villa, she took out her phone and quickly dialed Ruben. Once he picked up, she got right to the point. "I'm afraid I can't do what you asked. It might be hard to accept, but you'll have to face it: Adah isn't joining your family. She's definitely going to marry into the Shaws."

"Why?" Ruben's tone shot up, thick with disbelief. "Lance is accomplished and handsome, and the Evans family has money and power. You're her best friend and my granddaughter-in-law. Why wouldn't Adah pick us? Elliana, did you even try for Lance's sake?"

Elliana let out a half-laugh, half-sigh. "Trying isn't enough now. Allan is holding a card no one can beat. You could risk the entire Evans fortune, and you still wouldn't stand a chance."

Not wanting to be dragged into further debate, she quickly added, "I have things to do, so I can't come by. Have a nice day!"

She ended the call before he could answer and immediately dialed Cole's number.



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