

Chapter 888 Planned To Propose

Adah possessed a natural beauty that already turned heads. With the touch of expert stylists, she radiated an undeniable star power. When she entered the ballroom, her presence outshone everyone else.

A hush of awe fell over the crowd. "She's even more breathtaking in real life than she is on the screen!"

Fresh from winning Raymond in their verbal combat, Ruben basked in victory. He spotted Adah at once and, with a sharp poke of his cane, nudged Lance. "Quit standing there like a statue! Your girl is here—go greet her!"

Lance's mind was in turmoil. He knew Adah had treated him kindly and maybe even showed a bit of interest. But they hadn't made any real progress—they weren't even officially dating.

Now, Ruben was publicly calling Adah "his girl," and Lance's nerves frayed at the thought of her hearing it and flying into a rage. Adah's temper was infamous. The last thing he wanted was to provoke her and end up humiliated before a roomful of people.

But with Ruben pushing him, Lance took a deep breath and forced himself forward.

Once Lance stepped forward, Ruben shot Raymond a smug smile, clearly savoring the moment. "Just you wait. There's an Evans celebration on the horizon! Once Adah marries Lance, I'll make sure she's treated like royalty!"

Raymond felt a heavy weight settle on his heart, thick with bitterness and regret. He mentally berated Allan over and over.

If that foolish Allan hadn't broken off the engagement, Raymond wouldn't be standing here enduring Ruben's taunts.

The more Raymond's face darkened, the brighter Ruben's grin became; Ruben could hardly contain his glee.

As everyone watched, Lance approached Adah. His heart thundered in his chest, certain that even the crowd could hear it. Summoning all his courage, he managed a polite smile. "Adah, you look absolutely stunning tonight."

Adah's grin sparkled, lighting up her whole face. She had always liked the type of Lance, and now that she was convinced Allan had moved on, there was no reason to hold back for the sake of their silly agreement.

Adah figured that since her friend, Elliana, had already married Cole, if she married Lance, she would officially become part of the Evans family, strengthening the bond with her best friend. That prospect filled her with happiness. Right then, she decided she could treat Lance as her fiancé without hesitation.

That was how young hearts work; once feelings changed, it was clear in every look. The affectionate glimmer in Adah's eyes did not escape Lance's notice. The stiffness faded from his features, replaced by a radiant, genuine smile.

"Happy birthday, Adah," Lance murmured, his tone filled with gentle warmth.

Adah had always been bold by nature, never one to hide her feelings. Stepping close, she hooked her arm around his and gave him a mischievous look. "Thank you. Did you bring me a birthday present?"

"Absolutely!" Lance replied, buzzing with excitement. He had indeed brought a present, but unveiling it right now took more courage than he had. Nestled in his pocket was an enormous diamond ring.

It was Ruben who had insisted Lance buy it, pressuring him to pop the question to Adah during her birthday party.

At first, Lance had thought the whole plan was absurd since he and Adah were nowhere near the stage for a proposal, and the idea of being turned down in front of everyone was mortifying.

But Ruben had threatened drastic measures, even swearing off food, if Lance refused. In the end, Lance had surrendered.

A short while ago, Lance had been a bundle of nerves, dreading the prospect of presenting his gift. But with Adah now treating him so warmly, his doubts began to fade. Perhaps Ruben's advice was right after all. Sometimes, being bold was the only way to win big. If he could just muster enough courage, maybe he'd win the heart of the woman he adored.

"I can't wait to see what you picked out." Adah's eyes sparkled as she grinned.

Lance smiled back. Their gazes held for a lingering moment, both of them beaming.

The crowd around them looked on, completely captivated by their tender exchange.

Ruben's face glowed as he took in the scene. He shot Raymond a smug, triumphant glance. "Do you see that? Aren't they just perfect together?"

Raymond seethed, barely containing his frustration. Adah should have become part of the Shaw family, yet now, she was about to join the Evans family. His chest tightened with bitter regret. Still, the sting of losing her couldn't compare to the torment of watching Ruben parade his victory. Ruben had outmaneuvered him in their youth, and now history was repeating itself; his own grandson was about to lose to Ruben's. It felt like a humiliation he would never live down.

Raymond's chest ached as though it might burst. If not for his iron will to avoid giving Ruben the satisfaction of seeing him collapse, he'd have reached for his heart medication on the spot.

While Raymond's face darkened with frustration, Ruben was nearly giddy with delight. Then, something struck him, and he suddenly got to his feet, marching straight for Elliana.

Ruben was determined to demand an explanation. After all, Elliana had urged him to abandon hope, insisting Adah would definitely marry into the Shaw family, yet everything before him told a different story; Adah had clearly favored Lance all along. Ruben was convinced Elliana had led him astray on purpose.

Raymond, watching Ruben walk away, had no idea what was going on, but he immediately let out a huge, relieved sigh. His relief quickly

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morphed into fury as he turned to those beside him.

His first target was Allan's mother, Eleanor Shaw. "Because of you, our family lost a remarkable girl. All of this is your fault!"



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