

Bogus Billionaire by Shining Riviera (Caroline Evans)

Chapter 121

Posted by **Hamaaa**, 167 Views, Released on October 7, 2023

Chapter 121

Kirk **hugged** Caroline. They held each other close, **their** hearts beating as **one**.

His **minty scent** filled Caroline's nostrils, and she **felt** her cheeks turning warm.

Then, she suddenly thought of something and anxiously touched Kirk's body. She asked, "Are you hurt? **Brie's** bodyguards didn't hurt you, did they?"

Kirk felt his body heat up from her touch. He had no choice but to hold Caroline's hands, his voice **low** and hoarse. "I'm fine, but if you keep touching me, I can't guarantee I won't do anything."

When Caroline heard his words, she froze. She didn't realize he'd tricked her until she heard his cheerful laugh. She weakly punched Kirk's chest.

Kirk held her fist and placed a kiss on her fingers. "You'd better not go back on your word, Caroline."

"What?"

"About being with me," Kirk said.

Caroline's face turned red again. "Who said I wanted to be with you?"

Kirk happily pecked Caroline on the lips. "You tease."

Caroline was so shy that she didn't know what to do. "Kirk, you scumbag"

"You're right." Kirk hugged her and cooed, "I am a scumbag."

Caroline shyly buried her face in Kirk's chest, whining quietly.

After a while, she looked up at him, asking, "Are we breaking the rules? According to what we"

agreed on, if we break any of the rules, we have to divor-

Before she could finish her words, she felt a rough kiss on her lips.

Brie's disappearance didn't attract Howard's attention at first. It wasn't until two days later, when

he couldn't contact her, that he realized something was wrong

He mobilized his men to search the entire city, and news about her disappearance reached

"**Could** she have been kidnapped?" Layla asked Eddy, **biting** her lip. She'd lied, saying that she **had**

a headache today, **and** Eddy had finally come to see her.

Eddy sat on the couch, waiting for the nurse to finish taking Layla's temperature. "I don't think so.

Grandpa asked around yesterday and didn't receive any threatening calls from the kidnappers."

Layla's heart pounded. There hadn't been any news since Caroline was kidnapped at Saint Pierre

Grand Hotel that **day**. She couldn't reach Brie on the phone either.

She didn't know what to do, and she didn't dare to ask around.

She asked, "W—will she be okay?"

"If you ask me, she's probably too busy partying elsewhere. She'll be back in a few days."

Eddy didn't notice Layla's strange expression. He got up and asked the nurse, "How is she?"

Layla felt uneasy, **but** then she remembered something. Caroline's husband was just an ordinary

person. There was no way he could do anything to Brie.

Thinking of this, she finally forced a smile on her face. “You’re right. She’s a rich girl with a

bunch of bodyguards. She’ll be fine.”

Eddy was talking to the nurse. When he heard Layla’s words, he turned to look at her. “Layla, you

seem to be worried about Brie.”

He remembered that both of them hardly knew each other.

Layla’s heart skipped a beat. “N–no...”

Fortunately, Eddy’s phone rang. He left the room to answer the call, allowing Layla to catch her breath. Not long after, he returned to the room with a dark expression.

“What’s wrong, Ed?”

“Brie is back.”

Layla’s eyes lit up. Did that mean Brie had dealt with Caroline?

“Someone brought her back.” Eddy

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Although the **big** four families were at odds **with** each other, they had to see each other whenever something happened.

Layla’s face turned pale. “How did this happen?”

Caroline should have been the one who’d disappeared, not Brie.

“I’m not **sure**. I’ll head over there,” Eddy said. Then, he quickly left, leaving behind a panicking Layla.

When Eddy arrived at the Collins family's home, he discovered Brie's situation **was** far more severe than Jude had described

Disheveled, she was lying on the bed as if she'd been tortured. Her entire body, especially her face, was covered in bruises to the point where no part of her was unharmed.

She was muttering something, but her voice was so soft that no one could hear what she was

saying

Howard was heartbroken when he saw his daughter like this

"Did you find out who did this to her?" Eddy asked.

Howard shook his head in distress. "No. I couldn't find anything"

"What about Brie? Doesn't she know who did this to her?"

Howard raised his head in dismay, tears flowing down his wrinkled cheeks

"Look at her! What is she supposed to say in her condition? The doctor said she'd been tortured for

two days straight and had mentally fallen apart. Even if she knows who it was, she can't say

anything!"

Eddy didn't know how to comfort him.

After standing there for a while, he could only say, "Don't worry, Mr Collins Our family will do our

best to help you find out who's behind this "

At this moment, Brie suddenly twitched on the bed and screamed, "Caroline! Caroline's husband is

She passed **out** before she could finish her sentence.

Seeing this, the **doctor** hurriedly **soothed** her **and** brought water to hydrate her. Finally, Brie

opened her eyes again.

“Mr. Collins, we can’t keep letting her **suffer** like this,” the family doctor said worriedly. “We

should take her **to** the hospital.”

Howard clutched his chest. He was worried for his daughter’s life, so he didn’t care about any

scandal this could cause. He waved his hand. “Hurry up and take her there.”

The servants hurriedly arranged a ride to take Brie to the hospital.

Eddy felt sad seeing this. The dignified heiress of the Collins family was now a cripple. He

wondered who would be so cruel as to do this to her.

Suddenly, Brie’s words just now crossed his mind, and his eyes widened. He thought, “How was Caroline involved in this?”

Eddy took out his phone and called his assistant, “Find out where Caroline is right now.”

He had no choice; Caroline had blocked him, so he had to meet her himself.

At the hospital, Gwen was mesmerized by the big diamond ring on Caroline’s hand.

“Oh my God, this diamond ring is so big! It’s basically a shiny rock! Do you feel tired wearing this heavy ring? I’ll wear it **for** you if you are!”

Caroline couldn’t help but laugh when she saw Gwen clowning around.

“Hey.” Gwen was done joking around and got down to business. “What’s going on with you and Kirk

now?”

Caroline's face reddened like a tomato. "We're j-just together."

"What do you mean by "together"?" Gwen wiggled her eyebrows.

Caroline shyly yelled, "I'm ignoring you now!"

"All right, all right. I won't tease you anymore." Gwen said, "I'm on board with y our relationship with Kirk!"

Caroline was surprised **to** hear Caroline's **approval**, "Really?"

"Of course, I was **setting** up **the** proposal **with him at the** restaurant **that** day . **When** he found out **you** were **gone**, he **was** **so** nervous. He contacted everyone he **could** to find you.

"**After** getting word **that** you were **at** Saint Pierre Grand Hotel, he went there without a word. He

must have known that the hotel was the Collins family's territory, but he wasn't phased in the

slightest.

*After seeing how devoted he is to you, I decided **to** give my approval for your relationship, albeit

reluctantly."

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Caroline was taken aback. **The amount** of **information** in Gwen's words was a **lot to** proce ss.

For a white, **she didn't** know what to say or ask. After a while, she stammere d, "**Y**-you **guys**

prepared **for** a surprise proposal at **a** restaurant?"

“Yeah!” Gwen said regretfully, “It’s probably all gone now. After all, we **don’t** own the restaurant.

It’s **a** pity. I didn’t **get** to take pictures and capture the moment.”

Caroline felt regretful as well. After a while, she pulled **herself** together and asked, “I passed out

when Kirk arrived at the hotel. Do you know what happened after that?”

“I wasn’t with him, so I **don’t** know.”

Caroline asked worriedly, “Are the public talking about this?”

Kirk had left the hotel unharmed and taken her away. There was no way Brie would give up after

this.

“No.” Gwen took Caroline’s hand. “Don’t worry, Carol. If Brie dares to cause any more trouble, we’ll

let Mr. Morrison Senior handle this.”

“Don’t. Grandpa is old and in poor health,” Caroline refused. “We’d better not get him involved.”

Heartbroken, Gwen said, “You always think about others and not yourself.”

As she spoke, she sighed. “I hate that I can’t do anything.”

The Jameson family was just **a** small family. The only reason Mrs. Jameson could even stay in

Morrison Corporation’s private hospital was because of Caroline.

Caroline smiled. “I’m doing fine now, aren’t I? Before I can get back on my feet, I’ll play things by ear with Brie for now. I’ll bring the Evans family back on top sooner or later. When that happens, I

can finally settle the score with them.”

Gwen smiled back at her. “I believe in you, Carol.”

The two chatted for a while longer. Noticing that Kirk wasn't back yet, Gwen asked, "Where's Kirk?"

"I asked him to handle the flight tickets. I'll be discharged from the hospital and go to Flonza in

two days."

"So soon? Your head hasn't fully healed yet," Gwen said, surprised

Caroline said, smiling gently. "I'm afraid he doesn't have enough vacation days, so it's better to

head over there sooner. I'll just recuperate over there."

As a corporate slave, Gwen fully understood her friend's point. "**That's a** good idea It's not like Kirk

is a rich, powerful man or something. He can't get breaks so easily."

The two of them chatted more before a knock sounded on the door.

Gwen got up and walked to the door. "Who is it?"

When she opened the door, she saw Eddy's pathetic face

Gwen was about to close the door, but Eddy stopped her I'm here to see Caroline

*She doesn't want to see you," Gwen said sharply. She couldn't stand looking at him

Caroline had already seen Eddy at the door. She frowned slightly and said, "Let him in, Gwen"

Gwen begrudgingly let Eddy enter the room

"Is there something I can do for you?"

"Are you involved with what happened to Brie?" Eddy asked

He noticed the gauze on Caroline's head and wanted to say a few words of concern Still, when he

saw her stern gaze, he held his tongue.

Caroline said, "I don't understand what you mean "

"Caroline."

Eddy said sternly, "Things are really serious Someone beat Brie within an inch of her life, and Howard wants to know who did this to her I'm offering you a lifeline. You just have to explain what happened If Howard finds out that you did this, it'll be too late

"What did you say? Gwen said gleefully. "Brie got beaten within an inch of her life, you say? Haha!

Karma's a bitch"

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Eddy's **expression** darkened. He snarled, "**Gwen!**"

Gwen said with contempt, "What's **wrong?** Did she **expect** to escape unscathed after kidnapping Caroline and dragging her to Saint Pierre Grand Hotel?"

"What did you say?" Eddy was utterly confused.

Caroline looked **at** the foolish Eddy, who seemed to always come and question her whenever something happened.

"Mr. Eddy, please get the details right before you start pointing fingers. I have no idea why **Brie** was beaten up. If you have proof that I was behind this, feel free to show it to the police."

"Hear that?" Gwen giddily watched Eddy's face turn livid. "Also, Carol is married..."

She picked up Caroline's hand, waving the diamond ring right in front of him.

"You've got to stop looking for Caroline every chance you get. Even **if** you're not afraid of being misunderstood, I'm worried people would call Carol a philanderer."

Eddy's expression turned even darker. "Caroline, you're becoming really cruel. Even **if** you had nothing to do with what happened to Brie, can you say the same **for** your husband?"

Caroline's eyes widened slightly, but she gave a small smile.

"Even if he's involved, that's for us to handle as husband and wife. It doesn't concern an outsider like you. If there's nothing else, you may leave, Mr. Eddy."

Eddy felt anger welling up in his chest. He was pissed.

After discovering that Caroline had been hospitalized, he'd rushed here without eating anything. He hadn't even gotten a word of appreciation for his actions, and they'd ridiculed him instead.

The day he would care about her again was when hell froze over.

Eddy was so angry that he stormed out of the room, not bothering to spare any more pleasantries.

Meanwhile, Kirk strode toward the elevator downstairs. His phone was glued to his ear, and unlike how he acted with Caroline, there wasn't a trace of tenderness on his **face**.

"Sir, I've booked the plane tickets." Charles turned **on** his tablet and continued, "The people we

you'd entered

Don't worry. **The** doctor has diagnosed her, and she'll spend the rest of her life bedridden and delirious. No one will believe a word she says. Expect "he paused

Except what?

Charles shivered, hearing his boss' cold voice. Bracing himself, he answered, "We still haven't found the two men who kidnapped Ms Evans that day"

Kirk looked up at the elevator to see that it had reached the second floor. He ordered, "I'll give all of you half a month to find them. If you still can't find them, figure things out yourself."

“Yes, sit “Charles trembled and **hung up** the phone hastily

As Kirk put away his phone, the elevator door opened

Eddy walked out **of** the elevator and was stunned when he saw Kirk Uncle Kirk What are you doing here?”

Then, he realized something ‘Are you here to see Caroline? You’d better not go, Uncle Konk She a just an ungrateful witch

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"She's a patient. She needs **to** recuperate **in peace**. **If** she sees you, it'll affect her mood," Kirk

explained

Eddy **silently** remained in **the** elevator.

After **the** elevator **door** closed, Kirk turned **around**, his face darkening momentarily. Then, **he**

walked into Caroline's hospital room with steady steps, smiling once more.

"You're done so **soon**?" Caroline **couldn't** hold back her smile when she saw Kirk return.

Taking the hint, Gwen said, "I'm leaving. I'm not going to be a third wheel."

With one final glance at them, she waved her hand and left.

Kirk sat beside Caroline, asking, "How are you feeling?"

"A lot better. The doctor said I can remove the bandages tomorrow." Caroline gripped the hem of

her shirt, her face flushed.

She asked nervously, "I'm going to see your dad soon. Is there anything about him that I need **to**

take note of?"

Kirk patted Caroline's head with a smile. "My dad's easy to get along with."

"What about your siblings?"

"I'm an only child."

Caroline let out a sigh, feeling much more relaxed. "Have you seen the gift I got for your dad? Should I get anything else?"

Kirk hugged Caroline, smelling the faint, flowery scent on her body. He mused, "At the moment,

what he wants the most is..."

"What?" Caroline asked innocently.

Kirk's lips curled into a wicked smile. "A grandchild."

His hot breath fanned against Caroline's ears. She felt half of her face turn warm instantly, and she angrily shoved him away. "You're weird."

Since when is having children weird?" Kirk asked cheekily.

Caroline's face flushed red, and she turned away. "I'm not talking to you anymore."

Kirk hopped her from behind muzzling his head against the neck like a puppy I'm just enjoying."

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"**Yeah,**" Kirk said casually.

"Who do **you** think did it?"

"I **don't know.**" Kirk remained impassive.

"How did you get out of the hotel that day?" Caroline asked.

Brie had so many bodyguards with her. It was impossible **for** Kirk to leave that place unscathed.

"The bodyguards had already collapsed after I arrived." Kirk **wasn't** exactly lying.

Caroline stroked **her** chin, lost in thought. "That means there was another group of people that

day. Could they **be** responsible for what happened to Brie?"

Kirk held Caroline's hand. "Don't think about it too much."

"I'm just afraid..." Caroline looked up at Kirk tearfully.

Kirk's heart melted instantly, and he held Caroline in his arms, saying softly, "Are you afraid that

the Collins family will direct their anger on me if they can't find the culprit?"

Caroline nodded in his arms.

Kirk kissed her forehead. "Don't worry. The Collinses wouldn't dare to cause me trouble."

A smile finally appeared on Caroline's face.

"You're right. You have nothing to do with what happened to Brie. Mr. Collins won't come after

you unless he's desperate."

Kirk smiled but didn't explain the actual reasoning behind his words.

Two days later, Kirk helped Caroline check out of the hospital. Then, he hailed a car to go to the

airport.

Gwen had taken half a day off from work to see **Caroline** off. She said sadly, "I'll miss **you, Carol**.

Caroline was also upset, but she **still** tried her best to comfort Gwen. "I'll be back **in** half a month.

You can video call me when you have the time."

"Okay, Gwen sniffled, hugging Caroline.

Sean and Kirk watched them nearby, not interrupting their goodbye.

After Caroline and Gwen broke their hug reluctantly, Kirk walked up to remind Caroline it was

time to board the plane. "Carrie."

Caroline nodded. She patted Gwen on the shoulder. Then, she followed Kirk into the gate.

Seeing Caroline leave her sight, Gwen couldn't hold back her emotions anymore.

Sean

hugged her, comforting her. "Oh, don't cry. Didn't she say she'd be back in half a month?" (1

Gwen burst into tears, wailing, "Just let me cry for a little bit! A pig has taken my best friend away

from me!”

Sean’s expression turned dark.

At Morrison Manor, Howard stood up, slapping the table in front of him.

“Mr. Morrison Senior, I have nothing else to say. Since you insist on taking Caroline’s side, don’t

blame me for what happens to her.”

Jude calmly reasoned with him, saying, “I’m not taking **her** side. I just think it’s ridiculous that

you think Caroline is behind what happened to Brie. The Evans family has been in decline for years, and she’s just one woman. How can she do something like this?”

“Then, **it** has to be her husband.” Howard’s face was flushed with anger. “Otherwise, Brie wouldn’t

keep repeating their names.”

Jude said, “I understand that you want to avenge your daughter, but...”

Howard waved his hand, cutting him off. “Enough, Mr. Morrison Senior. I came here to inform you

of my intentions. **If** you insist on meddling with my plans, don’t blame me for what happens.” **With** that, he stormed out of the room.

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After Caroline and Gwen broke their hug reluctantly, Kirk walked up to remind Caroline it was

time to board the plane. “Carrie.”

Caroline nodded. She patted Gwen on the shoulder. Then, she followed Kirk into the gate.

Seeing Caroline leave her sight, Gwen couldn’t hold back her emotions anymore.

Sean

hugged her, comforting her. “Oh, don’t cry. Didn’t she say she’d be back in half a month?” (1

Gwen burst into tears, wailing, “Just let me cry for a little bit! A pig has taken my best friend away

from me!”

Sean's expression turned dark.

At Morrison Manor, Howard stood up, slapping the table in front of him.

"Mr. Morrison Senior, I have nothing else to say. Since you insist on taking Caroline's side, don't

blame me for what happens to her."

Jude calmly

reasoned with him, saying, "I'm not taking **her** side. I just think it's ridiculous that

you think Caroline is

behind what happened to Brie. The Evans family has been in decline for

years, and she's just one woman. How can she do something like this?"

"Then, **it** has to be her husband." Howard's face was flushed with anger. "Otherwise, Brie wouldn't

keep repeating their names."

Jude said, "I understand that you want to avenge your daughter, but..."

Howard waved his hand, cutting him off. "Enough, Mr. Morrison Senior. I came here to inform you

of my intentions. **If** you insist on meddling with my plans, don't blame me for what happens." **With** that, he stormed out of the room.

said casually.

"Who do **you** think did it?"

"I **don't know**." Kirk remained impassive.

"How did you get out of the hotel that day?" Caroline asked.

Brie had so many bodyguards with her. It was impossible **for** Kirk to leave that place unscathed.

“The bodyguards had already collapsed after I arrived.” Kirk **wasn’t** exactly lying.

Caroline stroked **her** chin, lost in thought. “That means there was another group of people that

day. Could they **be** responsible for what happened to Brie?”

Kirk held Caroline’s hand. “Don’t think about it too much.”

“I’m just afraid...” Caroline looked up at Kirk tearfully.

Kirk’s heart melted instantly, and he held Caroline in his arms, saying softly, “Are you afraid that

the Collins family will direct their anger on me if they can’t find the culprit?”

Caroline nodded in his arms.

Kirk kissed her forehead. “Don’t worry. The Collinses wouldn’t dare to cause me trouble.”

A smile finally appeared on Caroline’s face.

“You’re right. You have nothing to do with what happened to Brie. Mr. Collins won’t come after

you unless he’s desperate.”

Kirk smiled but didn’t explain the actual reasoning behind his words.

Two days later, Kirk helped Caroline check out of the hospital. Then, he hailed a car to go to the

airport.

Gwen had taken half a day off from work to see **Caroline** off. She said sadly, “I’ll miss **you, Carol**.”

Caroline was also upset, but she **still** tried her best to comfort Gwen. “I’ll be back **in** half a month.

You can video call me when you have the time.”

“Okay, Gwen sniffled, hugging Caroline.

Sean and Kirk watched them nearby, not interrupting their goodbye.

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time to board the plane. “Carrie.”

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Posted by **Hamaaa**, ? Views, Released on October 7, 2023

Chapter 127

Daddy walked in just as Howard was leaving angrily. He asked, ‘Grandpa, what’s with him?’

Daddy sighed and questioned. “How’s the investigation going for Brie’s case?”

No updates The surveillance cameras at Saint Pierre Grand Hotel were all destroyed

Jade mused. Who had the audacity to hurt fire Collins

Daddy frowned and went over to whisper to him, ‘Grandpa. I think Cartine student is highly

suspicious. **The** case at the Saint Pierre Grand Hotel was similar to my print investigation

the surveillance cameras **were** destroyed and the witnesses went missing

“But if her husband is the culprit, he must be a rather powerful figure”

Jade stood up with his walking stick if he’s bold enough to harm the Collins family he must be

more powerful than them in Easton, there is only one family

He suddenly paused

Eddy waited for an answer “Grandpa

Jude’s eyes sparkled “Why didn’t I think of ham?

“Grandpa, what are you **talking** about?” Eddy was confused

Jude looked at Eddy sternly “Where’s your Uncle Kick!

Eddy chuckled “Your memory isn’t the best thule Kirk told you a few days ago that he & **bong** his

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“How about Caroline? Where is she?

Eady acted funny “I don’t know

Ever since he 4 returned from the hospital that day, hed forced himself to stay out of bes business

Jude’s eyes dimmed, but he couldn’t push the thoughts out of his head it bothered sun alue

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To avoid sing Caroline’s suspicion, Charles had booked aronomy class seats f or them

was Xuk’s first time taking economy class The space was tight and he felt cra mped with his

felt uncomfortable leaning against the hard chan

She noticed his discomfort and handed him a cushion. He accepted it, but inst ead of using **it for** himself he placed the cushion at the back of her waist

The **motion** between his fingertips and her **outfit sent** a tiny **electre feeling t hrough** her body

Blushing she said “I don’t need it”

Then she tried to remove the cushion. He stopped her. The thigh will take ten hours or so I don’t

mind the seat because I'm built tough

Feeling sweet, she eventually fell asleep after a few hours because she was dizzy She woke up to

his voice whispering near her ear. "We're almost there"

She got up groggily "Did I sleep for that long?"

He found her sleepy look endearing "Yeah"

"Oh, I forgot to give you the cushion" She was concerned Is your back fine?"

He rubbed his lips against her ear. "You'll know when we test it out **at night**"

His low, raspy voice was barely audible to the others. Still, her cheeks burned in embarrassment

She pinched him on the waist "Behave

His muscular body didn't feel anything from the pinching. He gave her two pecks on the lips and

grinned cheekily I can never behave myself around you

She couldn't **bring** herself to be mad at his thuggish teasing

When they landed, Kirk helped her unbuckle her seat belt, and they left the plane together

As **they** were about to step off the stairs, a blond stewardess rushed over to them and handed Kirk

a business card with a **lipstick** mark

By the time they'd left the airport, Kirk had received more than ten business cards of similar

nature

Caroline

hadn't **realized** his attractiveness until that moment Some women even made a U-turn

Chapter 128

Kirk threw all the business cards he'd received **away** 'No'

"You're lying, Caroline accused him with a **tiny** smile.

He tilted his head and stared at her. She quickly wiped off her smile. "What?"

Are you jealous? He smirked at her.

Her face was as red as a tomato. She denied it, saying, "No."

At that moment, a man in a black suit jogged toward them. He nodded at Kirk and spoke fluent

Celonish.

Since Caroline had been sent abroad when she'd been eight years old, she was fluent in Celonish.

However, it took her some time to figure out what the man was saying because of his thick

accent. It turned out that Kirk's family had sent him here to pick them up.

A car was parked across the airport. She followed the man's gaze, and her eyes landed on a Rolls-

Royce. She was startled.

Kirk was similarly surprised to see the car. They followed the man to the car, which confirmed

Caroline's guess. "Is this your family's car?"

Kirk acted normal. "No, they rented it. My dad has a big ego, and he probably wants to leave a good

impression on your first visit."

Feeling assured, she entered the car, and the man drove them to their destination.

Kirk suddenly noticed that something was off based on the views from the car window. They

weren't on their way to his rented apartment.

He texted Ivan, "Why am I not heading to my apartment?"

Ivan replied in no time, "Stay out of this. I've made arrangements."

Kirk looked grim.

"What's wrong?"

Caroline **stared** at his long face and was confused by the sudden change in his mood.

1/2

"**Nothing**. Kirk tried to wave **his** frustration away, "**You** should catch up on your sleep. I guess **it'll**

be some time before we reach **there**."

She joked, saying, "Do you not know how long it'll take to **reach** your place?"

Then, **she** settled down in a comfortable position and **got** some shuteye.

He smiled at her. She looked adorable when she was asleep. He'd be willing to lie about his family background forever if need be.

An hour later, the car finally rolled to a stop. Caroline was deeply shocked by the villa in front of her **eyes**.

"K—Kirk, are you a rich heir or something?"

No way. It seemed that Gwen had guessed right.

Kirk placed a finger on his forehead and stared solemnly at his father, who was grinning widely at the entrance.

"Kirk!" Ivan went **out** and waved at them. His smile grew when he got closer and had a better look at Caroline's face. "Is this your wife? Good. She is pretty!"

“Hello, Mr. Morrison.” Caroline greeted him demurely.

Ivan was well-kept and looked no older than 50 years old.

“Why the formality?” Ivan looked displeased, which sent her into panic as she gave Kirk a helpless look.

“Dad!”

Caroline clumsily followed suit and addressed Ivan. “Dad.”

Ivan had a bright smile on his face. “That’s it! Come on in, my daughter-in-law.”

Caroline followed Ivan into the villa. There were two other people there. One of them was a young

man in his 20s. It was hard to guess the age of the other woman, though.

After Caroline entered the villa, the woman kept staring at her. Caroline

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Chapter 129

Ivan enthusiastically introduced the strangers **to** Caroline. “These are Kirk’s childhood friends.

They came here just **to** meet him. **Avery**, Bryan, this is Kirk’s wife, Caroline.”

The **young** man introduced himself. “**Hi**, Caroline. I’m Bryan Mendeley. This is my **sister** Avery.”

Caroline reached out to shake Bryan’s hand before looking at Avery Mendeley

It only **took** Avery a moment to shake her hand with a wide smile. “I couldn’t believe that Kirk’s married! I thought you were...”

She lifted a brow and examined Caroline with her alluring eyes. “Caroline, you’re pretty. **No** wonder Kirk was in a hurry to marry you.”

Although Caroline was receiving compliments, she felt like Avery was throwing shade at her. She looked at Kirk.

He nodded at the two as a curt greeting.

“You guys must be hungry. Right?” Ivan gave Caroline his full attention. “Come, Caroline. Let’s eat at the dining hall.”

Caroline was led into the dining hall. Her favorite food was served on the table.

Ivan explained, “Kirk requested that we prepare these dishes. What do you think? Do they suit

your taste?”

She was surprised and touched by the gesture. She stole a look at Kirk and lowered her head shyly. “Yeah.”

Ivan smiled merrily. “Great. Come. Take a seat. Try this signature dish of our family’s...”

Kirk coughed loudly. Ivan took the hint and immediately corrected himself, “Try my cooking!”

“Did you prepare the food yourself?” Caroline was touched by his sincerity. “That must have been a lot of **trouble.**”

“No problem. We’re family! Have a taste. If you like it, I’ll cook for you every day.”

Caroline found Ivan’s welcome a little too enthusiastic. After the meal, Kirk went upstairs to chat with Ivan. She could finally breathe easily.

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with Ivan. She could finally **breathe** easily.

During **the** meal, **she'd** been so busy replying **to** Ivan **that** she **hadn't** had a chance to talk **to the**

Menteley siblings,

Now that the father son duo had left, she finally asked Bryan, "**Hey**, Bryan. Kirk's family **seems**...

pretty rich

The villa appeared to be worth at least 10 million dollars. Was Kirk really the heir of a wealthy

family?

The siblings were on their phones. They looked up **at** Caroline when she asked the question, and **they** exchanged glances.

“Why the question, though?”

The villa is.. Bryan smiled and explained, “It belongs to my sister. She knew that you were visiting, but she was worried that the apartment might be too tiny. So, she lent Kirk the villa.”

Caroline stared at Avery quizzically.

Avery nodded, for it was true that she was the real owner of the villa. However, she hadn't lent it to

Kirk for convenience. There was another reason.

Her eyes gleamed with a cunning look.

Soon, she plastered a graceful smile on her face. “Kirk is just an ordinary dude. You don't have to

overthink.”

Her words were loaded, but they went over Caroline's head.

Caroline sounded apologetic instead. “I never thought that I'd cause trouble by visiting.”

Avery thought that Caroline was indeed trouble. However, she purred, “Caroline, **you** must be

kidding me. It's my honor to be of help.”

Her expression changed when she noticed the pink diamond on Caroline's fingers.

“That diamond ring...”

Caroline followed her gaze and stared at her ring with a sweet smile. “Oh, Kirk gave it to me.”

Bryan saw the ring too. **Flustered**, he blurted out, “That's the Morrison

Posted by **Hamaaa**, ? Views, Released on October 7, 2023

Chapter 130

Avery **stopped him** before he **spilled the truth**. “**Hey**, Bryan, can you serve the desserts?”

Bryan **caught** himself **when he** noticed he **almost** slipped **up**. **Then**, he went into the kitchen

moodily,

Caroline **watched** Bryan **leave**. She asked with curiosity, “So, Bryan was just saying that...”

“It’s nothing **Avery** clenched her fist underneath the couch pillow and smiled calmly. “Just **ignore him**.”

She took Caroline’s hand and examined the diamond ring that had been tucked away **for** years.

“What a lovely ring.”

Secretly, she thought, “This should have been mine.”

“It is.” Caroline glanced at the ring with tenderness.

Meanwhile, Kirk frowned after listening to Ivan’s explanation. “Why did we have to trouble Avery? It’s not like we don’t have villas **for** this occasion.”

Ivan’s eyes twinkled as he laughed jovially.

“Are you sure you want to show Caroline our villas? They’re worth way more than this one. Well, Avery was fine with lending us the villa. You shouldn’t be complaining.”

Kirk rested his hand on his forehead. He wasn’t about to fall for his dad’s lie.

“You must have suspected a fraudulent marriage. And **you** wanted to put Caroline and me to the test by involving some outsiders as well.”

Ivan smiled after his plan was exposed by his son. “That’s nonsense. Of course, I believe in **you**. Caroline looks quiet and sweet. I can tell that she’s a nice lady. Treat her well.”

Kirk ignored his dad’s praise. “Yeah, you better curb your enthusiasm. Don’t make trouble and

mess this up. Else, you won't be having grandkids anytime soon."

Ivan was delighted to hear that. "Have you been planning for a baby?"

Kirk left the question hanging and opened the door to the study.

He waved to **Caroline**, who was in the living **room**. "Caroline, come **up** here

She looked up **with a sweet** smile. "Sure."

Then, she turned **to** Avery **and** Bryan. "Thank you. I'll **go** upstairs for a rest. Talk to you tomorrow."

"Sure. The siblings stood up and **watched** as Kirk and **Caroline** entered the room.

After that, Avery **wiped** the smile off her **face**.

Bryan lamented, "I'm afraid Kirk's married. Otherwise, he wouldn't have given Caroline the ring

that Mrs. Morrison left her daughter-in-law."

With a sour face, Avery puffed "**You** know Kirk well. He's a meticulous guy. If he even put the ring

on display, that would only mean they are putting on a show."

She refused to believe that Kirk had fallen for another woman. As his childhood friend, she knew

that Kirk had been indifferent to women over the years. He'd only smile at her.

That's why she believed he should marry her, not a random woman whom he'd known for a mere

few months.

She looked at the study and said, "Bryan, go home without me. **I need** to talk to Kirk's dad."

"But I can't have you going home alone at night."

“I can stay the night here too. This is my home, with dozens of rooms. Are you worried I won’t

have a place to stay tonight?”

With that, she strutted up to the second floor and knocked on the door of the study. “Ivan.”

Ivan beamed at her. “**What’s** the matter, Avery?”

Avery whispered something to Ivan. He frowned after hearing her plan.

“That **doesn’t** sound good. Kirk might blame us if something goes wrong. Just now, he assured me

that he was married to Caroline, and they are thinking of having a baby.”

Avery dug her fingernails into her palms and squeezed a smile.

“But Ivan, if we don’t try it, how can we know whether he’s lying? Plus, it’s just a test. Don’t **worry** about safety. Nothing will go wrong.”

Iván hesitated before asking, “Are **you** sure?”