

Chapter 55 Quite Sensitive

Alicia diverted her gaze and continued to rub her forehead, choosing not to engage with Joshua.

Joshua drew her closer to his side while keeping a distance from Caden.

He acknowledged Caden with a polite yet distant tone. "Caden."

Alicia discreetly pulled her hand away, wiping off the area Joshua had touched on her dress.

Caden responded with a slight curl of his lips, his acknowledgment casual.

Joshua questioned Caden, "You're always so busy. How did you manage to bring Alicia here today?"

Caden answered with indifference, "It was merely a chance encounter."

"Quite the coincidence, isn't it?" Joshua remarked, his tone still carrying a hint of hostility.

Caden let out a soft chuckle.

"If you're intrigued by the coincidence, perhaps you should inquire with your ex-wife," he suggested.

This left Alicia speechless, as Caden's implication hinted at an affair.

Was it not Caden who had offered her a ride?

Joshua's intense gaze made Alicia uncomfortable, prompting her to use a tactic from the book.

"I was walking too quickly and accidentally collided with Caden," she explained softly, her hand still on her forehead. Feeling overwhelmed, she added, "I'm feeling a bit dizzy. May I go inside to rest for a while?"

Joshua brushed off her hand, revealing a red mark on her forehead.

Alicia was not typically so yielding.

Joshua chose not to probe further at that moment. "Go and rest in my room. I'll check on you later."

Reluctantly, Alicia questioned the appropriateness of her resting in his room.

"Is it really okay for me to be in your room?" she asked with a worried look. "What if Miss Green finds out?"

"She's not here today," Joshua reassured her.

"But someone could see," Alicia persisted, still hesitant.

Joshua reassured her with confidence, "With my permission, no one will dare to gossip."

He gently guided Alicia by the shoulders towards the interior. "Proceed, I need to discuss a few things with Caden."

Alicia compressed her lips but reluctantly moved away.

Joshua then turned to confront Caden, a rarity given their usual avoidance of each other. "Do you have an interest in Alicia?"

Caden responded with a dismissive scoff, "What leads you to think that?"

Joshua's frustration was palpable as he clenched his teeth.

"You two have always been at odds. Why did you assist her at the police station yesterday?"

Caden moved toward the living room, explaining, "She's an old classmate. I was merely helping out. Is there an issue with that?"

Not satisfied, Joshua persisted as he followed Caden.

"This isn't merely about old school ties, is it?"

His tone was accusatory.

Caden settled into a chair in the side room, crossing his legs and smirking up at Joshua.

"You seem quite touchy, don't you?" He provocatively questioned, "Does it bother you, thinking something might be going on between me and your ex-wife?"

Joshua's expression darkened instantly.

"Caden, you're crossing a line."

Caden, ever unperturbed, retorted, "Just a question. Why so defensive?"

Joshua balled his hands into fists, his usual indifference towards women overshadowed by the recent shifts in Alicia's behavior.

The thought of Caden accompanying Alicia to the police station, their arrival together today, and their exchanged glances—none sat well with him, unsettling him deeply.

"Alicia is with me now," Joshua stated assertively, standing erect. "You ought to maintain some distance from her," he advised Caden.

Caden's laugh was hollow, the amusement not quite reaching his eyes.

"You divorced your ex, got engaged to the Green family's heiress, and now you're back with your ex. It's quite the tangled web you weave."

Joshua maintained his composure and replied calmly, "Alicia has been unable to move on from me. She's loved me for years. It would be cruel to disregard that."

Caden commented, "It seems Alicia still has a few tricks to keep your attention."

Joshua's expression tightened, his denial evident.

"I merely pity her," he confessed.

"Do you genuinely care for Lilliana then?" Caden inquired, a hint of mockery in his voice. "You criticize me for aiding Alicia, yet you overlook your fiancée's frequent visits to my office. Quite intriguing."

Joshua had a matter to address. "Once Lilliana has the baby, we might consider her returning to work. She slipped up slightly this time. I'll secure her a position with another agency. You don't need to concern yourself, Caden."

Caden responded with indifference, "As you wish."

This exchange deepened Joshua's suspicions of Caden's spiteful motives. He recalled a past scheme designed merely to cause him financial loss and distress.

Meanwhile, the area outside buzzed with activity.

With responsibilities awaiting, Joshua departed with a grave look.

At a table, a variety of fruits lay spread out. Caden nonchalantly picked up a mangosteen.

As he split it open, Alicia suddenly took the seat next to him.

"Where did you pop up from?" Caden questioned, surveying the surroundings.