


Chapter 24 He Is Into Married Women

Gerry let out a chuckle and said, "You know that's not what I was getting at."

Even though he had been teasing Caden just moments ago, the notion of Alicia and Caden having any sort of romantic involvement struck him as absolutely absurd.

The very idea of two individuals who seemed to despise one another ending up together, mixed with a forbidden kind of tension, was utterly amusing.

Who wouldn't find that kind of scenario entertaining?

But Caden had a peculiar issue, one that made it impossible for him to develop feelings for someone who constantly clashed with him. 

As for Alicia, the thought of getting entangled with her ex-husband's older brother was simply out of the question.

"Let's eat." Gerry decided to shift the conversation. "You're not feeling great, so eat something and head home early."

Alicia responded with a nod.

She brought up the issue of the stained seat once more.

"I'll take the car and have all the seats replaced for you," she suggested.

Gerry, known for being a bit of a clean freak, usually paid close attention to such details.

However, he had just begun collaborating with Alicia and was really impressed with the song she recorded tonight, so it didn't bother him. "It's no big deal. I'll just have someone handle it later."



Alicia wouldn't let it go. "That's not right, Mr. Hopkins. I need to make it up to you properly."

Realizing how determined she was, Gerry gave in. "Alright, I'll just deduct the cost from your payment. Does that work for you?"

Alicia agreed without hesitation. "That works."

With that resolved, Alicia turned her attention to Caden. "How much do I owe you for the jacket?"

Showing no change in expression, Caden replied, "It's a limited edition. You can't put a price on it. Just think of it as a favor."

Alicia immediately felt uneasy.

"I'd rather pay you back. It's best to settle things right away."

He looked directly at her and said, "If we break it down, there's really no exact way to calculate it."

Her eyes widened in surprise.

She stared into his unwavering gaze and began to replay the events in her head.

She had already paid him for helping her with the drug's effects, for borrowing his jacket twice, and for the kiss in the car.

Everything was settled.

Alicia opened her mouth to respond, but Caden anticipated this and cut her off. "They can't be settled that easily."

She found herself at a loss for words.

From the very beginning, she had made the choice to push herself onto him, and paying him was something she decided on her own.

If Caden really wanted to challenge her, she wouldn't be able to argue back.

Feeling uncertain, Alicia abandoned the conversation and focused on her

meal instead.

Gerry tilted his head, eyeing them closely. "What's that supposed to mean? What kind of games are you two playing?"

Caden gave a short response. "Just eat your food."

Sometimes, his mood was unpredictable.

Whenever his demeanor turned cold, he'd become hard to approach.

Sensing the change, Gerry decided to drop his curiosity and quietly said to Alicia, "Don't mind him. He's just acting up. Who cares about a limited edition coat? He's got more money than he knows what to do with. Losing one jacket means nothing."

Alicia responded with a polite smile.

Gerry motioned for her to come closer. "Hey, come here, I've got some juicy gossip about him."

Caden glanced in their direction, showing little interest.

Alicia leaned in, eager to hear the gossip.

Who wouldn't want to hear some secrets about Caden?

Gerry lowered his voice just loud enough. "He's got a thing for married women."

He made sure Caden could overhear.

Alicia's eyes widened in surprise. "Seriously?"

Alicia never expected Caden to be attracted to married women, and she couldn't help but glance in his direction.

Her face shifted between disgust and sympathy.

A moment later, something suddenly clicked, and her expression froze.

She recalled that one time in Caden's office.

He had made a comment about liking sisters-in-law who were married.



Caden sneered, "Go on, laugh. Why aren't you laughing?"

Alicia lowered her gaze and quietly resumed eating.

Once the meal ended, Gerry arranged for someone to handle his Rolls-Royce.

He had urgent business and needed to leave. Before heading off, he told Caden, "You two may argue, but it's late. Make sure Alicia gets home safely. It's not safe for her to be out alone at this hour."

Caden didn't reply, but after Gerry left, he flagged down a taxi.

Alicia had just settled into the taxi when her phone rang.

The number was local, but unfamiliar. Out of habit, she answered. "Hello?"

To her surprise, Joshua's voice came through.

"My father is critically ill and was just taken to the intensive care unit."

Alicia froze for a second, instinctively turning her eyes toward Caden sitting beside her.

Caden remained unmoved.

Without ending the call, Alicia asked, "And what are you expecting from me?"

Joshua's voice sounded weary. "Alicia, we may have had our differences, but we were once close. Can you come see my father one last time tomorrow?"

Alicia didn't give a response.


She understood that Joshua was just trying to manipulate her into acting.

He wanted Jerald to believe he was a devoted son right up until the end.

Thus, Alicia responded, "It's pointless."

Joshua was clearly ready for her response. "He's insisting on seeing you. If people start talking because you didn't show up, and his condition gets


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worse, I'm not sure you'll be able to handle that guilt."

Alicia let out a cold laugh. "So now you're putting everything on me, Joshua?"



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