

A hint of pride appeared in Holly's eyes. No matter how connected Mia was, she was only a friend of Gabrielle's, after all. She was actually unable to help Gabrielle in dealing with her.

Mia was a thoughtful and, some would say, unusual, girl. Her ideas came out one after another, and were too obscure for certain people.

Gabrielle, though, was different. She was a simple girl and was more palatable, but that didn't mean she was a doormat or someone to be bullied easily. Her marriage with Westley was quite complicated as it wasn't real. The absence of love would make it easy to destroy their marriage. 2

Holly found it nearly impossible to give up on Westley. When Westley was in love with Helena previously, Holly could not come between them as that was real love. She had to force herself in holding back on him and love him only from a

But with Gabrielle, things were different. There was no love between them, and Westley actually seemed to dislike Gabrielle. This portrayed a crack in their marriage, which allowed Holly to wedge into that crack and give her a real chance with Westley.

"Shouldn't we call an ambulance now? If Mr. Morris is unable to help you, your condition will get worse and it will make it harder for the doctors to treat you if gets really serious." Mia understood immediately what Holly was insinuating. She was so boastful and proud that Westley had gone down to save her.

Mia glanced at Gabrielle discreetly. All the color had drained from her face and she looked upset.

Maybe it was because Westley had climbed down to save Holly, or maybe it was the ugly look of pride Holly wore on her face because she was being saved by Westley.

Maybe it was better for Holly to fall to her death. ①

"No, don't call the ambulance, for real. Westley is coming to save me. I'll be fine. "Holly saw Westley coming in through a small hole in the cracked wall beside her. As soon as he appeared, Holly didn't feel

didn't feel afraid.

"Yes, true, Mr. Morris is very capable and very kind. He'll save anything or anyone—even a cat or a dog if it had fallen through the hole! Obviously he's bound to save Miss Robinson, whom he's known for a long time," Mia said, hoping Holly would hear what she was saying above everyone else. Holly, among everyone else, had heard her clearly.

She was trying insinuate that Holly had schemed to fall into the hole on purpose in order to attract Westley's attention and get him to save her.

If she hadn't done it on purpose, how else would she have fallen into such a shallow hole "accidentally"? It wasn't even deep enough to cause harm or injury.

It had been a harmless self-inflicting injury that would gain Westley's sympathy.

"That's enough, Mia." Gabrielle reached out and patted Mia to remind her to keep quiet.

Mia had said enough for Gabrielle to realize that the accident was orchestrated by Holly on purpose.

But to Westley, they were only friends and Holly was a woman—it was difficult

for him to be indifferent towards her.

No matter how uncomfortable Gabrielle was, she could do nothing but watch Westley save her.

"Gabrielle, I just..."

"I'm sorry, Westley. I was so careless to fall down and hurt myself here. I know you're worried about me, but please come here and save me!" Holly felt very warm in her heart as she spoke to Westley. Her tender eyes blinked softly as she looked at him helplessly.

Westley still cared about her, even if it was just a little.

"Holly, have you been hurt? Let me have a look first." Westley took a look at her face and found that there were some cuts and streaks of blood on it. Fortunately, the wound didn't look too deep and there wasn't an enormous amount of blood to leave any permanent damage or scars on her face.

"I... I'm fine. I think I've sprained my ankle." Holly averted Westley's eyes by all means.

His eyes were cold and deep, enough to

been aware that Westley was too reserved to show his emotions in public. He had always come off as cold and indifferent.

Holly was very clear about this, especially now she was pretending to be seriously injured to gain Westley's sympathy, so she was afraid to look into his eyes.

"Let's carry you out first." Westley wanted to check her leg, but he abandoned the idea after thinking about it for a while; it would be too intimate to touch her legs.

"Westley, thank you for coming down to save me." Holly was naturally lying on his back, seeming to be in a good mood. She even had the audacity to look up at Gabrielle and stare at her face.

"Damn it! Is this woman provoking us?" Mia had followed her glance and felt furious.

"Mia, calm down. Let's just hope she's okay." Gabrielle felt increasingly calm because she knew that Holly had looked at her like that only to make her angry. If Gabrielle gave in and got upset, she would fall into Holly's trap and give her

what she wanted. Gabrielle had to compose herself because she didn't want to sink to her level.

"Gabrielle, you are really something else. This woman is on your husband's back—look at her arrogance! Shit!" Mia had always been an impulsive woman, and her frustration was very visible in this situation.

If Westley had been her man, she would've jumped over to them and forced Holly off his back. But alas, Westley was not hers.

"Mia, they are friends. It's not strange for Westley to carry her if she's been hurt. If I get angry and try to separate them, I would look like a possessive weirdo." Besides, they were not a real couple—they weren't in love, which meant she didn't need to feel jealous. It was not her place.

"Oh, I see. Holly just wants to piss you off and turn Westley against you for that. She really is malicious." Mia finally realized Holly's true intentions.

Although she was impatient, she was also smart and intelligent enough to figure out what Gabrielle thought, too.



Unfortunately, she was too brash to think the whole thing through well and deeply enough.

"It's enough that you're thinking about this for now." Gabrielle glanced at her.

Mia decided not to say anything. Gabrielle was a capable woman, who could take care of herself. She didn't need to do that for her-in fact, Mia's kindness would be counterproductive and would actually create trouble for Gabrielle.

Then, Westley came up to them with Holly on his back.

"Are you okay, Miss Edwards?

Gabrielle asked Holly with true concern, rather than putting on a show like Holly was doing.

Gabrielle was a genuine person. She could not pretend to like any things or people she actually didn't like, and vice versa.

It was too unnecessary for her to be wasting time and energy on being fake.

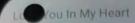
"Don't worry. It's all my fault," Holly apologized, but it was clear that it was

Chapter 157 Westley Carries Holly just superficial.

She was really happy to be on Westley's back and to be touching his body like that. No matter how badly she was actually hurt, the pain had been worthwhile.

"That's good. Let's go down the mountain first, since you're badly injured. We've already almost reached the top of the mountain so there's no need to keep on climbing anymore."

Gabrielle cast a glance at Westley, noticing he wore a hardened look on his face.



At that moment, Holly thought that there was something suspicious between Westley and Gabrielle.

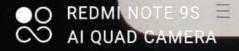
Obviously, the couple didn't love one another. Since it they weren't serious about their relationship, divorce would be inevitable.

Nonetheless, Holly couldn't blatantly sabotage their relationship as Westley would immediately sense that she was up to no good. He was vigilant and unforgiving. If she offended him, he would ruthlessly punish her.

Therefore, Holly didn't dare to do anything that might anger him.

"Everyone, I apologize. It seems that I ruined our supposedly fun vacation. Maybe I can make up by inviting you all for dinner some time? What do you think?" she asked while staring at Gabrielle.

Despite the apparent provocation, the latter kept remained composed. "Don't



Despite the apparent provocation, the latter kept remained composed. "Don't worry about it. Our top priority should be everyone's safety. We can easily return here and hike again next time. However, we can't do that if someone gets caught in an accident. Fortunately, Miss Edwards only hurt her legs and face. With proper treatment, you'll fully recover in no time, "

Gabrielle told Holly with a warm smile. However, those words felt like needles that were stabbing the latter's heart.

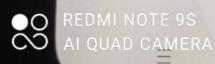
At that moment, Gabrielle seemed like a sweet lady.

When Westley noticed her that moment, his heart softened. A kind and beautiful woman was in front of him.

Nevertheless, everyone else found it weird that Gabrielle wasn't angry. After all, her husband was carrying Holly on his back.

"I'll be more cautious next time. I appreciate your concern, Miss Jones. It's my fault for being clumsy. Maybe you should continue hiking while Westley accompanies me back to the villa. The mountain peak is only dozens of meters away from here. You shouldn't waste this opportunity to see the view."

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Meanwhile, Mia was watching from beside them. She wanted to pull Holly off Westley's back and push her to the ground. The vile woman was pulling the wool over their eyes. Not only was Holly trying to steal Gabrielle's husband, but she was also sending the rest of them away. As such, Mia wanted to slap Holly and tear her to pieces. 1

"Why don't we head for the top, Mia. Miss Edwards's suggestion seems great. After all, we are almost at the mountain top. We might regret it if we turn back now," Gabrielle said in a serious tone as she tight held Mia's hand. Her expectant eyes stared at the top of the mountain.

Immediately, Mia felt confused with what her friend had said. Holly purposely suggested that Gabrielle continue climbing, and the latter agreed despite leaving her husband alone with her love rival.

"What's wrong, Mia? Are you not interested in the view from the top? We're lucky that our legs aren't broken. Otherwise, we won't be able to see the magnificent view from the summit. It's pitiful," Gabrielle subtly mocked Holly.



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Holly remained quiet as she lay on Westley's back. While staring at Gabrielle, she pressed her face against Westley. He felt so disgusted that he wanted to throw Holly down the mountain. However, he decided not to do it as Gabrielle wasn't interested in what he was doing.

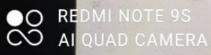
Gabrielle had no space for love in her heart. Aside from Bryce, all men were strangers to her.

Although she married Westley, she felt nothing for him.

When he thought about this, Westley couldn't help but get angry. As the CEO of the Morris Group, a lot of women coveted him. However, Gabrielle paid no attention to him.

Without saying anything, he turned around and climbed down the mountain with Holly. She smirked at the thought of how Westley was furious with Gabrielle. Since the latter didn't even know how to coax her husband, it should be natural for Westley to abandon her.

"Are you going to bring me down the mountain, Westley?" Holly's voice was loud enough to be heard by Gabrielle.



Yeah."

"Gabrielle, please be careful during the hike. There might be more pits like this one. Westley and I will head down first," Holly purposely said to offend Gabrielle.

However, Gabrielle managed to hide her anger. She smiled and glanced at Holly. Although she wanted to see Westley before continuing to hike, she only saw his back.

"Thank you for your warning, Miss Edwards. Fortunately, my eyesight is still good. I won't clumsily fall on such a visible pit."

At first, Gabrielle's reply seemed gentle and harmless. However, the rebuttal cut deep in Holly's heart.

Although Gabrielle seemed like an easy target for bullying, she was actually tough and snarky.

"That's true. Only a blind person would fall over such a wide pit," Mia echoed with a smirk. 2

She was still pissed off at Holly. Unless she was blind, Holly couldn't have fallen REDMIN Oir to such a wide hole. After their sassy Al QUAD CAMPERAs the sirle continued to hike with

bright smiles.

Meanwhile, Holly was furious after getting left behind without a chance for rebuttal. In an anxious tone, she asked, "Have I said anything wrong, Westley?"

suddenly, Westley put her to the ground even before she finished her sentence. A confused expression immediately painted her face. 'I thought he's going to carry me down the mountain. Why did he put me down?'

"Is there a problem, Westley?"

"Hey, Austin!" Westley called Austin without answering Holly's question.

Austin already realized what Westley wanted to do. However, he refused to talk to his cousin and hurried up the mountain instead. However, Westley immediately caught up to him.

"Westley, you're the one who has to carry Holly. Don't even think about passing your responsibility to me," Austin immediately said as Westley reached him.

The latter glared at him with cold eyes.

"Holly had an accident right in front of REDMINOTERS such way should have saved her Al QUAD CAMERA

earlier out of the pit. I only carried her up since you hurt your hand. However, there's no need for me to carry her down the mountain for you. She has injuries in her legs and face. There might be permanent damage if she doesn't get treated at the hospital in time. If that happens, the Edwards family will ask the Foster family for justice and send her there. Do you want that to happen?"

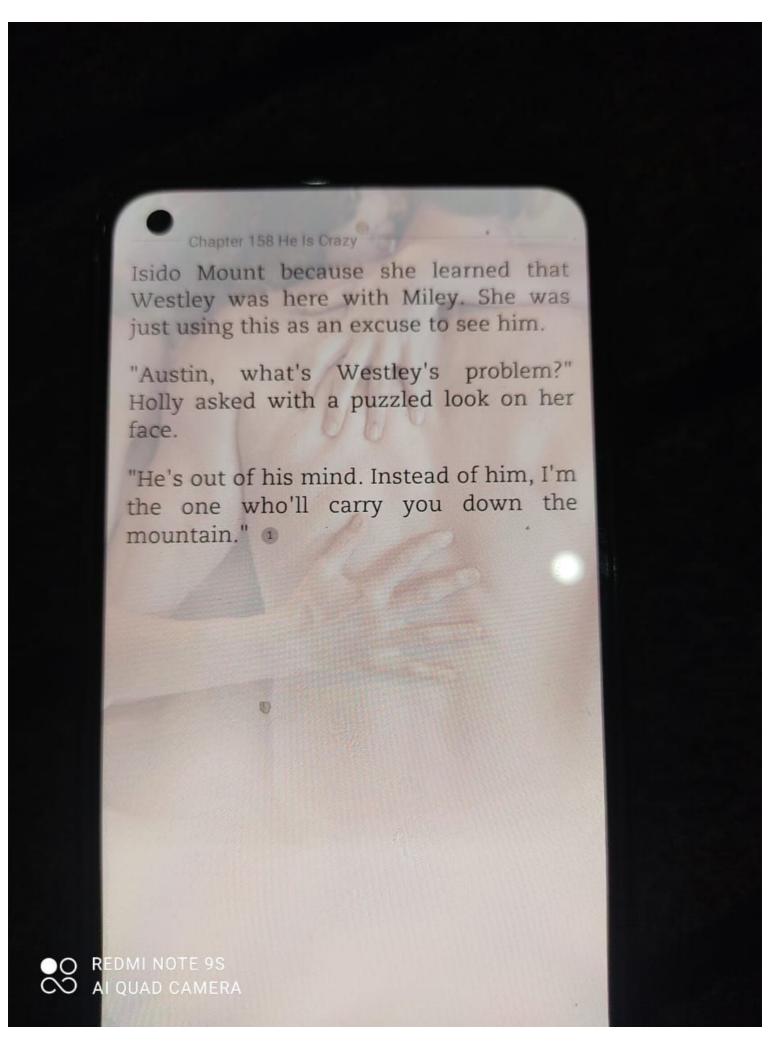
Austin trembled at Westley's threat. "Why would the Edwards family send her to the Foster family?" ②

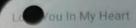
"A lot of people saw you arriving at Isido Mount with Holly. You've met our group on the hill by chance. As such, I had nothing to do with her accident. You better think about your situation, Austin. Meanwhile, I'll look for my wife." Westley finally felt relieved of his burden.

On the other hand, Austin was panicking. He could only stare daggers at Westley as the latter fade in the distance.

'Jerk!'

Westley left such a troublesome person to him. Moreover, Holly only came to





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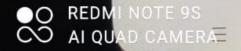
Gabrielle and Mia slowly climbed to the top of the mountain. They seemed to be only a dozen meters away now, but Gabrielle was feeling extremely tired.

There was too much on her mind, and thinking about it exhausted her mentally and physically. She couldn't even enjoy the lovely scenery around them.

"Gabrielle, you don't look well. Are you tired? I'm happy to climb slowly if you are. How about I pull you up?" Mia stretched out her hand to Gabrielle, offering Gabrielle to put her weight on her.

"I'm fine. Mia, no need to pull me. It'll just be harder for both of us to go up. Don't worry; we'll reach the top soon." Gabrielle looked towards the top of the mountain and felt better as she saw how close they were.

The top of the mountain was almost in front of them, now. They only needed to climb a few more steps, but their legs felt far too weak to be able to get them there.



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Gabrielle then remembered an old saying: 'the last steps depend on faith, not strength.'

"Gabrielle, are you still angry that Mr. Morris carried Holly on his back? I can't believe she was that malicious to fake an injury and risk putting her own self at harm, just so that Mr. Morris would go save her and carry her down the mountain on his back! Look at how she succeeded!" Mia knew what was bothering Gabrielle and guessed that she must be rightly angry about it. 2

After all, Westley was her husband. No one would feel happy if they saw their husband carrying another woman on his back.

"Mia, don't talk about it anymore. I don't care. Holly is Westley's good friend, so it was obvious that Westley would carry her down the mountain. Why should I care if he saved his friend from a hole?" Gabrielle insisted on her indifferent feelings and continued to concentrate on climbing the mountain, this time picking up her pace.

Mia couldn't help smiling when she saw Gabrielle's newfound determination and motivation as she climbed. She said she Chapter 159 | Hate You

didn't care about it at all, but it was obvious she was jealous.

"Don't climb so fast, or you'll get a cramp on your legs." Mia hurried to remind her, but Gabrielle was sparing no efforts to climb the mountain.

"It's okay. Come on—I've reached the top of the mountain! The scenery is so beautiful from up here!" Gabrielle shouted to Mia as she reached the top.

Mia hurried to the top of the mountain. When she caught up to Gabrielle, she saw her standing on top of a flat rock, stretching out her arms and shouting at the sky.

"Ahhhh..."

Mia copied her actions.

"Ahhhh ... I'm coming up! Let all the scheming bastards get out of here!" Mia added to the shout for dramatic effect. 2

Gabrielle was stunned at Mia—she really seemed to have a bad disposition of the 'bad guys', taking every opportunity to curse them. It was clear that the scheming woman she was referring to was Holly, and the bastard was Westley.



REDMI NOTE 9S AI QUAD CAMERA Gabrielle was suddenly in a good mood. Mia was a really good friend if she cared this deeply about Gabrielle's issues.

"Gabrielle, you should have a try! If you shout out and release what you are unhappy about, you'll find yourself feeling much lighter and happier." Mia encouraged Gabrielle to vent out her anger.

Along with the therapeutic scenery, the added bonus was being able to feel carefree and liberated by letting out all your negative vibes and emotions at the top of the mountain, where it seemed no one else could hear you or disturb you.

"Shout out the same curse?" Gabrielle had never done something like this before, so what Mia was propositioning made her curious to try it.

She was so full of anger and unhappiness, and she didn't feel right about that. Maybe trying out Mia's method might make her feel better—after all, what was the harm in it?

"That's right. You will feel much better if you let it out. Try it!" Mia urged her.

"Cavden. vou bastard! I curse vou now.



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so you will always suffer!" Mia shouted again into the valleys of the mountain below.

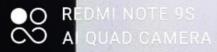
Gabrielle felt a little embarrassed upon hearing Mia's vicious words. Cayden was still a thorn in Mia's heart, and she must feel really strongly about him to curse him like that.

"Come on, do it! Think of someone you dislike, and pretend as though you're shouting at them here! You'll feel better, trust me, because you're letting it out. Is there anyone you hate? Your enemies or rivals, or anyone you love even. Anyone is okay," Mia suggested.

Gabrielle thought about it carefully. She never liked to be on bad terms with anyone else, as she didn't like trouble and drama. However, there were many people who hated her over the years.

There was Mindy, who had caused a lot of trouble in Gabrielle's life, but she wasn't really an enemy, so 'scolding her' wouldn't be appropriate.

"Gabrielle, can't you think of even one person? Don't you have an enemy? Isn't there someone you hate, or even dislike?" Mia couldn't help but ask in her



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curious way, as she saw how serious and uncertain Gabrielle looked.

She refused to believe that Gabrielle didn't have any enemies—there were so many people who made trouble for her and disliked her. Did Gabrielle really hate none of them?

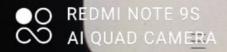
'That's impossible!'

Mindy, Nellie, Holly, Emily to name a few, among many more. Gabrielle, though, didn't like to hold grudges against people because they were irrelevant in her life. She didn't need to waste her efforts and care about them.

She wasn't going to waste her strenuous efforts in climbing the mountain and scold people who weren't important to her.

"Of course there are people I hate. But maybe there are too many people, and none of them are worthy enough for me to waste this much energy on. And I don't know what to even say right now," said Gabrielle hesitantly.

Maybe at another time, she would have considered scolding those people, but now she was not interested in it at all.



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She just wanted to feel the wind on the mountain, and be in the moment.

"Well, if you can't figure it out, let me help you. You hate Westley, don't you? Curse him. He carried Holly on his back in front you, his wife! The man deserves to be scolded and cursed!" Mia suggested.

Gabrielle looked at Mia in confusion. What did this woman mean by asking her to curse Westley? She wouldn't curse him because she didn't hate him like that. What was more, he was literally on the mountain, too; he'd definitely hear her shouting. Mia was really good at coming up with bad ideas.

"No! I don't want to waste my time on him," Gabrielle said immediately.

Waste her time? No! She cared about him!

"Gabrielle, you care about him, don't you?" Mia pinched her arm and whispered.

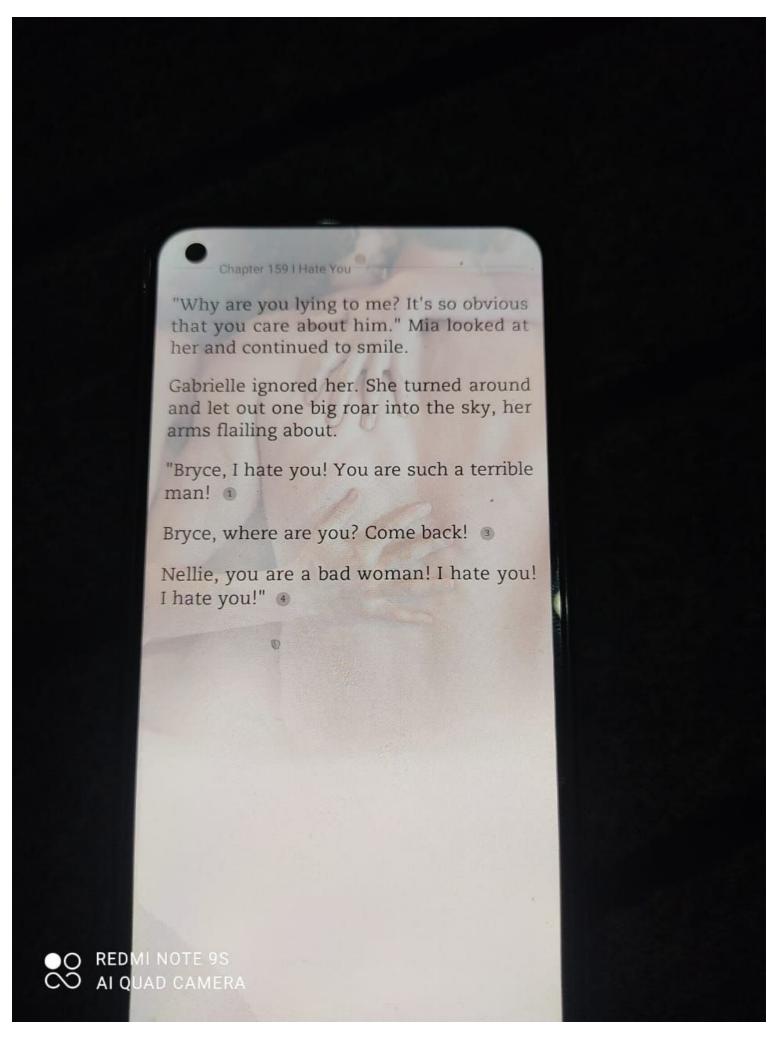
Care about him? No way!

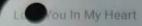
"Don't talk nonsense. I don't." Gabrielle pushed Mia's hand away and looked at her mischievous smile.



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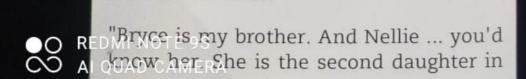
Mia was so shocked at Gabrielle's endless barrage of screams that her mouth remained open. She had been so shy and apprehensive about it, but now it seemed she had opened all the floodgates.

Gabrielle continuously cursed Bryce and Nellie.

What they had done to make Gabrielle hate them so much?

So it was true that Gabrielle indeed hated some people this much. Mia had thought it would've been Westley, but she was wrong. In fact, it was not one, but two people—two people who Mia was quite familiar with.

It was not until Gabrielle finished her yelling that Mia finally asked her. "Are you okay, Gabrielle? Who were the people you just cursed? The names sounded familiar."



the Collins family." Gabrielle gradually calmed down.

Mia suddenly realized who Nellie was. The second Collins daughter, who boasted and showed off very much in society parties.

She had been engaged to Westley once, and if she hadn't spread the news, only a few people would have known about it.

"Gabrielle, is she the woman who was engaged to Westley before?"

"Actually I don't know. It didn't get around enough. I just know that she is with my brother now." Gabrielle quickly shifted the attention away from Westley.

The engagement between Nellie and Westley had never been made officially public. Perhaps a few of the Collins family members gossiped about it, so word had got around among some circles.

"Does your brother treat you badly? Why do you hate him so much?" Mia couldn't understand. She also had a brother, but they had a good relationship.



REDWas CTTE Sthat her brother could get

belonged to the same family, after all. No matter how serious their fights got, his love for his sister was irreplaceable, and vice versa.

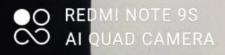
"Mia, you should know that not every brother loves their sister as much as yours does. The relationship between me and my brother is not ... not as good as you think it is." Gabrielle didn't want to go into the specifics and tried to leave her statement at that.

Being the adopted daughter of the Jones family, it was better to leave Mia in the dark about it.

At the end of the day, the incidents that took place in the Jones family were nothing to be proud of. She had married Westley because of Bryce.

"My brother looks cold and arrogant, but in fact, he is very kind. If your brother doesn't treat you well, I can give you half of my brother's love, since we're really good friends ourselves," Mia comforted Gabrielle.

Gabrielle was deeply touched by Mia's words. No one except for Sloane and Mia was this generous, to give her everything.



She was really glad to have a friend like Mia, a genuine friend whom she could trust would treat her from the bottom of her heart.

"Micheal is really a good man." Gabrielle was also aware of this fact.

"Yes. That's why I tried my best to set you both up. I guess I only got you as a sister, and not a sister-in-law. But I'm curious to know ... why did you marry Westley?"

Mia asked Gabrielle with a curiosity in her eyes.

Why did she marry Westley?

She had not intended to marry Westley at all; she was actually forced into the marriage in order to pay off the debt for Bryce. But she had no idea how to explain all that to Mia in that moment.

She found it nearly impossible to find the words to explain this issue properly. Moreover, Mia was too smart and shrewd to appropriately explain the story to her.

"But the other day Nellie was showing off, saying that her fiancé was Westley. She said she would be the future-wife of the

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Morris Group's CEO. You know how proud that woman is. I really can't bear her, that's why I don't like to attend those pretentious parties. In reality, they're comparison parties, where everyone just boasts about themselves over each other. How disgusting!" Mia didn't really bother to hear what Gabrielle was saying at this point, as she continued on with her ramble.

Between the two, Mia was definitely the chattier one, while Gabrielle was calmer and more subdued.

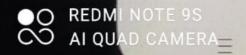
In most cases, Mia kept talking all the time.

"I don't know much about Nellie, I'm not too familiar with her. As for her relationship with Westley, I don't know about either," Gabrielle replied weakly.

She didn't like to meddle in other people's affairs, least of all those concerning Westley.

Concerning herself in this devil's affairs would definitely lead to trouble.

"But I guess that's only one side of the story. What she's saying about her engagement to Westley may not be the



full truth, it may just be nonsense. As soon as she knew you and Westley had gotten married, she probably felt embarrassed that everyone laughed at the fact that she was not the first choice, so she's been missing for a while. I've heard she hasn't attended any of those parties in ages. She must have gone away into hiding or something. Fortunately, your marriage is not public yet. If it was made public, Nellie would cook up something worse, for sure," Mia said.

She didn't admire people who were always showing off. The situation with Westley must have really humiliated Nellie, and Mia felt a hint of joy when she thought about this.

A person with bad intentions like hers deserved to be treated like that.

"I don't know about their affairs at all." Gabrielle tried her best to distance herself from the situation. She really didn't want to get involved in their business.

"You're right. We don't need to care about what that kind of woman does. It's none of our business." Mia felt happy about concluding the conversation.



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"How about we go down the mountain? It looks like it's going to rain soon." Gabrielle took a look at the clouds in the distance and saw some dark ones wafting towards them.

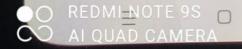
It was sunny at the beginning of the day, but the upcoming cloudy weather made it easier to climb the mountain. The scorching sun had made it very uncomfortable to hike under.

"Well, let's go down the mountain. It doesn't make sense if just both of us stay at the top." Mia read the time on her watch—it was approximately noon. It would be great to have some lunch upon reaching the bottom, but they needed to be quick, or else it would rain.

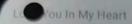
"Uh..." When Gabrielle was about to leave, her leg refused to move forward as it stayed rooted to the ground. She felt a sudden cramp and lost her balance, falling to the ground.

"Gabrielle, what happened?!" Mia asked worriedly seeing Gabrielle on the floor.

"I think I've got cramps in my leg. I can't seem to stand up. Let me sit down and have a bit of a rest." Gabrielle sat there,







Chapter 161 He Squatted Down To Carry Her

Gabrielle sat down and rested her leg for around five minutes, but the pain didn't subside. The rain began to fall on her head.

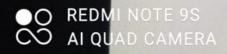
"It's raining, Mia. How about ...?"

"I'll get my brother to come up to us. He'll be on the hillside soon. Let him carry you down," Mia said, in a serious voice.

"I can carry her on my back. Don't worry about it, Mr. Robinson." Westley emerged on the mountain path, wearing his cold demeanor.

"Mr. Morris? I didn't expect to see you up again. You carried Holly down, didn't you?" Mia was shocked to see Westley there.

Gabrielle was surprised, too. Westley had just gone down the mountain with Holly on his back—how could he get back to the top so quickly?



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And why did he come to the top of the mountain again? No matter how strong he was, it was surely a torment to do the trip twice.

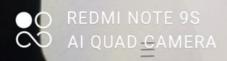
"No, Austin carried Holly down the mountain." Westley stood over Gabrielle like a shadow and looked down at her.

Was he directing his explanation at her?

Although Gabrielle felt relieved and happy about this piece of information, she quickly suppressed it as she realized she shouldn't care whether he carried Holly down the mountain or not. Why did he explain it to her? Maybe Westley didn't even want to carry Holly at all? Gabrielle couldn't help but feel lighter as she thought about this.

"Oh, I see. So, Austin helped Holly reach the bottom. But still, it's a surprise to see you here, Mr. Morris! Were you worried about Gabrielle coming to the top of the mountain, so you followed us?" Mia's questions weren't subtle at all, and it was obvious she was trying to bring the couple closer together with her straightforward questions.

What did she mean by asking if he was worried about her? Gabrielle was not a



Chapter 161 He Squatted Down To Carry Her child, who needed others taking care and fussing over her.

"Yes, I was a little worried about her. I hadn't seen her in some time, but now, see, her legs have cramped. Let me have a look and see if it's serious or if she'll be okay." Westley squatted down and rubbed Gabrielle's stiff leg.

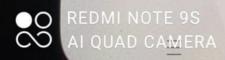
It would be difficult to relieve the pain in such a short time. He attempted to massage it so it would recover a little faster.

"It's just an unfortunate accident. I rarely have crampo like this. Let me rest for a little bit, I'll be okay. Why don't you see to Miss Edwards? What did you come back up here for?" Gabrielle said, miserably.

"Can't I come here to enjoy the view?" Westley was amused by her words.

'Women are such duplicitous characters! I know she's actually upset, but she pretends to put on this show of indifference.'

"Of course you can." Gabrielle was stumped by his answer and didn't know how to reply appropriately.





"You seldom exercise. It's easy to cramp and strain your muscles if you exert them all in one go like this. You should be careful and exercise more often in the future," Westley calmly advised her.

Gabrielle's mouth fell slightly open in shock. He had gone too far—she couldn't believe he was showing concern on her exercise routine and health patterns!

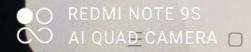
"I..."

"Come on." Westley didn't feel the need to talk too much, so he turned his back, offering it to her.

"I don't need you to carry me." When Gabrielle saw Westley's back, she was reminded of the way Holly had lain on it, and suddenly felt uncomfortable. She had said she didn't care and that she wasn't angry, but it was hard to put it into practice. 2

She found it difficult to be open-minded enough to not bother about her husband carrying other women on his back.

"Gabrielle, it is not an appropriate time to be angry. You want everyone to get wet in the rain at the top here? Or would vou rather Micheal carry you on his back.



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or do you want to wait for Austin to come up instead?" Westley growled, unhappily.

Didn't she know he barely ever offered to carry women on his back willingly? And yet she had the audacity to refuse his proposal?

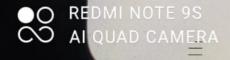
"I am not..." Gabrielle knew that he was angry and wanted to explain properly, but she realized how narrow-minded her position might come off as.

She didn't want him to carry her on his back just because he had carried Holly like that. It was really unreasonable to refuse him when had so kindly suggested carrying her on his back. He didn't need to do that.

"Gabrielle, stop being so capricious, please. It's really not the right time." Westley abruptly stood up and looked at her coldly.

Gabrielle felt too afraid to say anything more and averted his gaze.

"Mr. Morris, don't be angry, please. Gabrielle's just worried that you might be tired from carrying Holly." Mia tried to put the puzzle pieces together and



Chapter 161 He Squatted Down To Carry Her sed the real reason Gabrielle

guessed the real reason Gabrielle was feeling uncomfortable—because Holly had been on his back first. She could relate to Gabrielle's feelings of animosity; they both were likely to feel uncomfortable with their partners carrying other women on their backs.

Westley finally caught the hint, too. 'She is such a troublesome, overthinking woman.'

Without hesitation, Westley quietly took off his sportswear to reveal a black t-shirt underneath and looked at her expectantly. "Is this better?"

Gabrielle didn't expect him to do that. She thought he would just give up and hurry off down the mountain by himself. Now she had no choice but to get on his back.

"I didn't mean for you to take off your clothes," Gabrielle muttered shyly.

Seeing the guilty looks on her face, Westley decided against arguing with her. He squatted down and turned his back to her again.

"Come on."

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encouragingly with her elbow. "Hurry and get on Mr. Morris's back, he wants you to! We'd better beat the heavy showers or we won't able to make it down in time."

Without any apprehension now, Gabrielle threw herself on his back and put her arms around his shoulders.

"Gabrielle, just say what's on your mind. I don't like to guess what you're always thinking, it's annoying," said Westley calmly, walking down step by step with her hanging on his back.

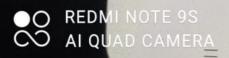
"Got it." Gabrielle felt a little embarrassed.

She thought about how narrow-mindedly she had behaved. She felt bad for Westley, who was willing to carry her on his back even though she had caused trouble and whined about it.

Gabrielle didn't say anything as she laid on his back. She just took in her surroundings silently.

Mia followed closely behind and felt envious of the pair.

Westley must like Gabrielle, or he



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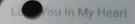
"Gabrielle, you feel better?" Mia asked with concern.

"Yes, much better, it was nothing serious." Gabrielle felt ashamed of herself, so had no choice but to explain even though she was still uncomfortable.

"Don't worry, cramps are not a big deal. We will soon reach the foot of the mountain thanks to Mr. Morris. Do you feel happier now?" Mia asked deliberately.

What happiness? Gabrielle didn't want to say too much, but she was certainly happy to be carried by Westley.

"What's happened to Gabrielle?" They met Micheal as they climbed down. When it had begun to rain and there was no sign of them at the bottom, he had decided to come up to look for them.



Chapter 162 Are You Inviting Me To Take A

Micheal was really worried about Gabrielle. She had been fine when they had climbed up, but now she had cramps in her legs coming down.

"I'm fine, Brother Micheal. I just had a small cramp in my leg and found it difficult to go down the mountain all by myself, so Westley offered to carry me on his back," Gabrielle explained softly.

Micheal nodded as he turned to Mia, walking alongside them. "Mia, are you all right? It's going to rain. I was worried about you too, because you were missing." 2

"I'm fine ... but if you don't mind, could you please carry me on your back, too?" Mia asked her brother with a sly smile. 6

Micheal obliged. He stood in front of Mia, with his back to her. Mia confidently jumped onto his empty back without another word.

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me all the way down, Brother?" Mia jumped on Micheal's back happily.

"Brother, carry me all along the mountain." Mia put her arms around Micheal's neck.

"Yeah, of course, I'm not going to leave you alone here," Micheal said.

Mia felt really happy that she was receiving the same treatment. She looked towards the couple in front of her—they looked happy, too.

The rain was getting heavier, and their hair was really wet. Lying on Westley's back, though, Gabrielle felt very safe. She was reminded of her childhood, which was probably the last time someone had carried her on their back like this.

Gabrielle was adopted by Shaun, her step -father, but they were not on good terms. Shaun barely spoke to her, let alone carried her on his back.

So if she thought about it, Westley was probably the first person in her life to give her a piggy-back ride. Westley, the nominal husband, who she hated.

"What's wrong?" Westley could feel the

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he made her uncomfortable with his quick pace.

"Nothing's wrong. I just realized that you are the first one in my life to carry me."
'But I'm not the first woman to be carried by you.'

Westley didn't respond. He continued to carry her down the mountain in silence.

"The rain is getting heavier. Do you want to cover your body with Mr. Morris's clothes?" Mia offered Gabrielle kindly.

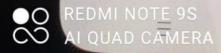
It would be really easy to catch a cold with the current weather they were experiencing.

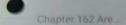
The sportswear Westley had taken off was tied around his waist. If Gabrielle liked to, she could use it as a cover, indeed—it was up to her.

But Gabrielle would rather die from the pouring rain than use the clothes that Holly had touched.

"No, thanks," Gabrielle refused almost immediately.

Mia smiled knowingly at Gabrielle's reply. As expected, Gabrielle refused the offer.





"The pavilion is right there, ahead of us. If it rains for a while, let's go under the shade until it subsides. Looks like it will soon enough, anyway," Micheal suggested.

He and Miley had just rested at the pavilion, too.

"I don't think it's necessary to do that. Let's just get to the bottom quickly. Where is my grandmother?" Westley didn't want to waste time with unnecessary pitstops and delays. Moreover, he wanted to tend to Gabrielle's cramp by massaging it with hot water as soon as they reached the foot of the mountain.

"Miley carried on down the mountain with Austin. I think she invited them back to her place," Micheal said as he stepped down.

Westley felt relieved that Miley had been taken care of and she was already at the bottom.

Eventually, they reached the bottom while the rain was only still drizzling. They retreated to Miley's house. Everyone was soaking wet.

"You're back! Look at you; you're all wet. Go to your room and take a shower, or you'll catch a cold later." Miley urged the four hikers to dry themselves immediately as they dripped from head to toe.

"Grandma, where is Holly?" Gabrielle asked with concern. She hadn't seen Holly and Austin in the house. Were-they in the room?

"I asked Austin to take Holly to the old Chinese doctor in the town, because he is too old to come all the way here. I think she needed to see him as soon as possible," Miley explained, and everyone was relieved that Holly was being taken care of.

"Well, let's have lunch after you all have washed up. Micheal and Mia, you can use the shower in the guest room towards the left on the second floor," Miley said to Micheal and Mia.

Miley appreciated Micheal very much. He was different from Westley, especially in their characters and personalities, but he was still as admirable and loveable.

After having chatted for a while in the

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mature as she had guessed, and had taken quite a liking to him. If he began a friendship with Westley, he could be a really good influence on him in the years to come.

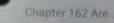
"Thank you, Grandma. We'll go in for a shower first. I feel so uncomfortable and wet." Mia wanted to wash off the sticky moisture on her body as soon as possible. She was really impatient to change into a dry pair of clothes.

"Yes. And you both can stay here today. Are you in a hurry to go back?" Miley asked Mia.

"Thank you so much, Grandma. And no, we're not in any hurry. This place is great. I actually want to stay here for longer—if you don't mind, of course." Mia was being her true self. If she liked it somewhere, she would stay as long as she liked. But if she didn't, she wouldn't bother to stay for longer than a second, even.

Miley burst into laughter at Mia's words. "I'm so glad that you like it here. Go change first, before you catch a cold. We'll talk about it later."

"Okay, Grandma." Mia treated her as part



of her own family.

"You can go first. I need to make a phone call." If Micheal wasn't returning back today, he would have to arrange his company affairs over the phone.

"Okay, sure. I'll go upstairs." Mia retreated to the room happily.

Westley carefully carried Gabrielle up the stairs and to the bathtub, before filling it with hot water. "Are you able to bathe alone? Call me if you need my help."

Gabrielle looked at his kind face. Even if she needed his help, she didn't want to bother him. "I'm fine. Thanks for your help, but you can leave. I'll handle it myself."

Although Westley was worried about her, he left it up to her to decide what she was comfortable with. He didn't want to distress her with his presence.

"Okay, I'm going out of the bathroom. Call me if you need my help. I'll get some medicine for you while you bathe," said Westley.

Gabrielle saw his wet clothes as she looked at his body.