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## Bring Your A Game, Mr Chapter 85

### Chapter 85 He Will Not Let You Down

Ashlyn clenched her fists quietly while the retail assistant came over. "Do you need anything else, Miss Lawson?"

Ashlyn was just about to vent her anger, and the retail assistant coming up to her gave her a reason to do so. "Anything else? You don't have anything I want. This is the last time I'm coming here." And then she stormed off.

Elise looked at her shopping bags. When she came here, she only wanted to get one as Alexander's birthday gift, but she bought an extra one now just to spite Elise. I'll give one to Jamie. The thought of that made her feel better, since at least it wouldn't be a waste of her money buying a second one.

Just when she was about to go back to school, Jonah called her. "Ellie, are you busy?"

Elise smiled. "No. Can I help you, Grandpa Griffith?"

"Why, yes," Jonah answered. "I've sent someone to pick you up after school, so go with them then."

Elise agreed to it without hesitating.

When she came out from school, Jonah's men were already waiting for her at the school gates. When they saw her, they quickly went up to her and took her bag. "Come with us, please, Miss Elise."

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She got into the car and asked, "Where are we going?"

The driver answered, "Mr. Griffith wants us to take you to Tony. It's Mr. Alexander's birthday party tonight, so he wants you to style up."

Elise quickly refused. "It's fine. I think I look okay the way I am, so Mr. Tony doesn't have to do anything, really."

The driver smiled. "It's alright. Mr. Griffith has prepared everything. Just go with the flow."

Elise couldn't refuse further, but she was also worried her makeup might get busted. In the end, they came to Tony's shop and she simply told him she would do her own makeup, while they could pick her dress.

Tony gave her a closer look and suggested sincerely, "Miss Sinclair, you have a great figure, so this dress will accentuate all your curves. And your looks are exquisite, but you might want to change your makeup."

Elise didn't want her makeup changed. "It's fine. I'll make do with my current one," she refused.

Tony sighed. He thought it was a shame but he didn't want to force her, so he chose a bolder dress to go with her makeup.

After they were done styling up, Elise took a look in the mirror. When she saw her new look, she felt unreal.

"What do you think, Miss Sinclair?"

Elise nodded. "It's great." My makeup doesn't go with the dress though. In the end, she chose to get another dress. "But why don't you get me a dress that is less ostentatious? It'll be better." I need something that matches my look after all.

Tony was put in a dilemma. "Miss Sinclair, it'll be better if I change your makeup. Can you let me try?"

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Elise refused politely, "No. Just change the dress."

In the end, Elise switched into a simple dress, though it was an elegant one.

It was seven in the evening, and everyone in Griffith Residence was in high spirits. The rich ladies who were dressed in fine evening wear were chatting with one another, while back upstairs, the servants were straightening out Jonah's clothes. Jonah looked in the mirror and asked, "Is everything done?"

The butler answered politely, "Worry not, sir. Everything is in place. Now all we need is Miss Elise and Mr. Alexander to appear."

Jonah nodded in approval. "And don't let anyone find out, especially Alex."

"Yes, sir."

Jonah smiled at his reflection. "I sure do hope they can get closer this time. Better yet, they should get engaged. I really want to attend their wedding."

"Don't worry, sir. Mr. Alexander will not let you down."

Jonah held his walking stick. "Let's go. Time for us to make our entrance."

The moment Elise showed up, lots of rich ladies came to chat with her. After all, the whole of the upper society knew Elise was close to the Griffiths. They wanted to see if they could befriend Elise, since that would mean they were indirectly friends with the Griffiths.

Elise handled them well as she had excellent social skills. She knew what to speak and what not to, and everyone was merry.

When she finally could catch a break, she plopped down on a sofa and ate some snacks. At that moment, someone said, "The Griffiths' young masters are here."

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Everyone looked at the entrance and saw Alexander coming in first, flanked by Danny and Jack, while Matthew followed behind. The moment they came in, they caught everyone's eyes.

Someone commented, "They're all great people, especially Alexander. I heard he just nailed the deal in Aris and made some serious money gambling in Jade City."

"Jack's not bad either. Yes, he's a celebrity, but the whole nation loves him."

"Danny doesn't have much to his name, but he's still young. Sure, his brothers are more successful than he is, but I'm sure he'll make a name for himself in the future."

"Well, as for that illegitimate son..." Everyone shut up with unison at the mention of Matthew.

And then someone added, "Hey, there should be a fifth guy, right? A designer called Brendan? I heard he won an international prize for his designs. Not bad."

"Jonah's really lucky to have these kids."

Jonah couldn't stop beaming after hearing the praise. "All thanks to you for giving them a chance."

"Anytime, Mr. Jonah."

At this moment, Ashlyn came in with her brother, Jonathan. She was wearing a beautiful red dress that made her stand out among the crowd, part of it thanks to her height.

When Jonathan came in and saw the ladies there, he was delighted. "You go around on your own, Ashlyn. I'll have to see some friends."

She knew Jonathan was just going to flirt, but she didn't stop him. "Don't forget to take me home later."

"Sure," Jonathan answered.

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Jonathan went into the crowd, while Ashlyn tidied her hair and searched for Alexander. When she saw him, she walked toward him slowly. "Alex!"

Danny and Jack looked at her. They didn't really like her after what happened last time, but they wouldn't tell her off nonetheless. "Hi, Ashlyn," they greeted.

Ashlyn smiled. "Hi, Danny. Hi, Jack." She turned to Alexander, but he was ignoring her. However, she wasn't mad. Instead, she took her gift out and handed it to him. "Here's the gift I prepared, Alex. I hope you like it."

Any man would kill to have Ashlyn give them a gift, but Alexander only replied coldly, "Thank you." Apparently, he wasn't going to take the gift.

## Bring Your A Game, Mr Chapter 86

### Chapter 86 Thanks to You

The atmosphere was awkward, so Danny quickly broke the ice. "What did you get for Alexander, Ashlyn?"

Ashlyn felt embarrassed, but she stayed calm. "I hand picked this, Alexander. Please take it." She thought he'd say something, but he still didn't.

Jack and Danny glanced at each other. The old Jack would have stood up for Ashlyn, but tonight, he turned his head away and pretended that he saw nothing. Danny looked around to see if anyone could be of help. When he saw Elise, he quickly went up to her. "Boss, are you here to give Alexander your present?"

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Elise was surprised Danny came to her. She was planning on giving Alexander the gift after the banquet, but since Danny already brought it up, she simply said, "Yes." Then, she took the present out. "Here, Alexander. Happy birthday."

Alexander looked at her, then at her present. For some reason, he wanted to know what her gift was, but he had to stay calm and collected. "Danny, take the gift."

Danny quickly took Elise's gift. He paused for a moment, then he took Ashlyn's as well.

Ashlyn heaved a sigh of relief after her gift was taken. Unbeknownst to her, Alexander never wanted to take her gift.

Jack asked curiously, "What did you get him, Elise? Can we open it?" That does not seem cheap at all. Wow, she really does care about Alex.

However, before Elise could answer, Ashlyn said, "I got Alex a watch from Longines. Latest model, and it's a limited edition too. Only three pieces are available worldwide."

Danny praised, "Wow, that's a nice gift. You must have spent a lot of money on it."

Jack snorted. "I'm asking Elise, not you."

Ashlyn's smile froze. The old Jack wouldn't talk to her that way, but after what happened, she could feel his contempt toward her. However, she didn't flip out. "I just think this fits Alexander. That's all, really."

"You're really nice to him, Ashlyn," Danny praised genuinely. But right after that, Alexander took Elise's present and looked at her. "What did you get me?"

Elise was surprised he asked her, but she answered, "A necktie. I don't know if you'll like it though."

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Alexander opened it and took a look. Well, this fits my aesthetics. She knows me well. "Not bad." It was a curt remark, but coming from Alexander, it meant a lot. He wouldn't even look at most people's gifts, but now he actually opened Elise's to take a look.

Ashlyn now knew Alexander never cared about her gift in the first place, and her face fell.

It was then a servant hurried over. "Mr. Alexander, the ball is starting soon, and Mr. Jonah wants you there."

"I see." Alexander handed the gift box to Jack. "Hold it for me." He went to the hall after that.

It was a merry sight in the hall, for it was packed with people. The host was standing in the middle of the stage, hyping the event up. "Thank you for coming to the ball today. We hope you'll have a great night. The ball shall begin soon, but today, we're going to ditch the boring old ways for something fun and exciting."

Everyone was excited to hear that, and they looked at the host, curious about what the new thing was.

"Everyone will be required to wear a mask and draw numbers. Whoever gets the same number will be dance partners for the ball, so your dance partners are completely randomized."

Everyone burst into cheers.

The servants then distributed the masks to the guests. Elise went to take one as well, and she got a fox mask, while her number was fifty-six. Well, who's the unlucky guy? Dancing wasn't her forte after all. In fact, it was one of her worst talents. She stood silently among the crowd, a glass of champagne in hand. Everyone got their partners eventually, but her partner still didn't show up, much to her frustration. Did nobody get my number?

Just when she was asking herself that, a tall man in a bear mask came up to her, and he was holding a slip that had the number fifty-six on it.

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"May I have a dance, milady?" the man said. Hey, I know that voice anywhere. "Alexander? Is that you?"

She sounded surprised, but also delighted. Alexander was surprised that he got Elise as well, so he chuckled. "Fate wants us together, it seems. Or as some might say, plot device."

Elise wondered why he said that, but she didn't have the time to question him. Alexander had extended his hand, and she held it after a moment of hesitation, letting him lead her to the dance floor.

"I don't know how to dance, though, so be prepared."

Alexander assured her, "It's fine. Just follow my tempo."

The music started playing, and Alexander made the first move. "Follow me. Step to the left. Take three steps back, then step to your right."

Elise followed his instructions and tempo, but less than a minute later, she said, "I'm sorry. I stepped on your foot."

Alexander gave her an encouraging look. "It's fine. Take it slow."

It was embarrassing for Elise, but still she followed his instructions, though guests who danced close to her swore they heard her apologizing a lot.

Every time she said sorry, Alexander just reassured her patiently. "It's fine. You can do it."

His encouragement was starting to work, and she slowly got into the tempo. Eventually, she caught up to him and made no mistakes in her dance.

"Not bad." He gave her genuine praise.

Elise felt embarrassed, but she kept dancing. They were immersed in their tempo, and everyone else didn't matter. Eventually, the guests retreated from the dance floor, leaving them alone on it, dancing to the tune.

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When the song finally ended, thunderous applause rang around the hall.

Elise bowed sheepishly, then Alexander took her away from the dance floor.

Once they got out, Alexander praised, "Not bad."

Elise quickly answered, "All thanks to you."

Alexander looked at her and continued, "But that's also because you're a good learner."

She tucked her hair behind her ear shyly. "That's the first time I ever danced to a song from start to finish. Wasn't as hard as I thought it would be."

Alexander agreed. "We can learn if you have the time to."

Just when they were chatting, Matthew came over to them. He had always been trying to dance with Elise. "Elise, you danced nicely."

Elise was surprised Matthew knew it was her despite the mask. Ever since what happened last time, she had been distancing herself from him, but now he suddenly came up to her, not to mention in front of a crowd. "I was just going with the flow. Not too shabby, but not too great either."

Matthew didn't give her any chance to escape because he had already extended his hand. "My fair lady, may I have a dance with you?"

There was love in his eyes, as if he had a lot of things to say to her.

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## Bring Your A Game, Mr Chapter 87

### Chapter 87 Unknown Secret

Elise was in a dilemma. She didn't want to dance with Matthew, but she couldn't find any reasons to refuse. Luckily for her, Alexander stood before her. "According to the rules, everyone's dance partner is decided by the draw." In other words, there was no changing of partners once it was set.

Finally finding an excuse, Elise said, "Sorry, Matthew. We got the same number, so I can't dance with you." Perfect. Nobody can refute me.

Matthew smiled and slowly pulled his hand back. "It's fine. Let's leave it until next time then."

Elise nodded. It was then the hall went dark, and everyone gasped. About a minute later, everyone heard the sound of wheels creaking, and someone was singing Happy Birthday.

"Happy birthday to you... Happy birthday to you..."

The crowd parted and made way for Danny and Jack. They were pushing a big cake on a cart, heading toward Alexander. Everyone around them also started singing as well.

Once they were done singing Happy Birthday, someone shouted, "Make a wish, birthday boy!"

Everyone looked at Alexander. He put his hands together, closed his eyes, and made a wish. "Together, everyone. Three, two, one... Blow."

Everyone blew out the candles, and the guests clapped.

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At the same time, the lights came back on again. Alexander picked up the knife and cut out a slice before handing it to Elise. "Have a taste."

She took it from him and thanked him before popping a small chunk into her mouth. The cream melted in her mouth at once.

"How is it?" Alexander asked.

Elise nodded. "Not bad."

Alexander cut a slice of cake and popped a small chunk into his mouth as well. Immediately, his taste buds were assailed by the sweet scent of the cake, and a handsome smile appeared on his face.

Jonah was delighted to see the both of them standing together.

"Sir, I think Mr. Jonah likes Miss Elise."

Jonah answered cryptically, "Perhaps, but honestly, they do make a good couple. I just hope he'll realize that soon. You did a great job, but something is still missing."

"Sir, you're saying we should—"

Jonah stopped him. "Let's stop while we're ahead. This is a big project, and I want to take it slow. I just hope they'll start going out eventually."

"Don't worry, sir. They'll get it eventually," the butler said. A smile broke out on Jonah's lips, and he went back upstairs. Apparently, he was in a good mood.

The banquet went on until eleven at night. Once the guests made their departure, the villa fell into its usual silence.

Elise's stomach was acting up after she had too much to eat. Even after she had washed it down with water, she still felt bloated, so she went out to have a walk. The night was beautiful, with the moon covering everything in a silvery sheen, and the stars twinkled down

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upon the earth. Elise sat on the yard's swing alone, enjoying the scenery. But then a while later, she heard the sound of the piano in the distance.

"Who's playing at this hour?" She was surprised, but she listened to it silently. The music was delightful and sad at the same time, as if these two opposites were getting merged together. Curious, she went in the direction of the sound.

It wasn't until she got to the top floor did she realize where the sound was coming from. The piano room. She went over and noticed that the door was ajar. Once she stepped in, what she saw was a man sitting before the piano with his back turned to her. His fingers flew across the piano keys, playing the same tune Elise heard earlier. "Not bad," she praised genuinely.

The moment she talked, Alexander stopped and turned around. "It's late. Why are you still here?"

Elise snickered and went closer to him. "Because I heard the music. It's great."

"It's just something I played on a whim. Not anything great," he answered.

Elise didn't think so. "You must have trained for years. That's gotta be around grade eight."

He arched his eyebrow. "You play too?"

Elise rubbed her nose, slightly nervous. "Not a lot though."

But that intrigued Alexander. "Wanna play a song together?"

Elise didn't refuse his invitation. "Sure," she answered.

Alexander was surprised she agreed so readily, but he freed up half of the bench for her, and she went to sit by his side. Elise put her hands on the keys, and they started playing a tune together. They worked harmoniously and grasped every beat to perfection. Alexander was surprised that Elise was so talented at piano as well. Elise thought the same about him too. Oh, I found a kindred soul.

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They hastened their tempo a moment later, then they slowed down. The tune was never out of sync for even a single beat. Once they were done playing, Alexander smiled. "Looks like I've underestimated you, Elise. You're a good pianist." He was genuine about that praise.

Elise praised him as well. "You're better than I am. You moved really fluidly. You play this song a lot, don't you?"

It was the truth, but Alexander didn't feel awkward about it. "Not bad. You saw through me."

Elise pulled her hands back from the keys and got up. "Thanks. It's late, so I'll retire for the night."

However, Alexander stopped her. "You know, I like playing the piano with you. Can we have another session together if it's fine with you?"

Elise smiled. "Sure."

Then, she left the room while Alexander saw her off. Once she turned the corner, he looked back at the piano keys and closed his eyes as he recalled how they played the piano together earlier. It was the first time anyone could match his speed and sync up with him so perfectly.

A moment later, he opened his eyes, and for some reason, he got curious about Elise. How many more secrets does she have?

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## Bring Your A Game, Mr Chapter 88

### Chapter 88 Why Won't He Just Quit?

As the first ray of sunshine shone through Elise's room, her annoying alarm rang on time yet again, and she got up reluctantly to take a morning shower. Then, she went out and bumped right into Alexander. "Morning," Alexander greeted her.

"Morning," she greeted back.

They walked ahead side by side. "Had a good sleep?" he asked.

She smiled sweetly at him. "Not bad."

They went downstairs, and Elise looked around, but Danny was nowhere to be found. "Danny should be taking me to school today. Where is he?"

Alexander answered, "He was wasted last night. Probably still sleeping, so I'll give you a ride later."

Elise wasn't going to object to that. "Sure." She went to the dining room for her breakfast. It was a simple one, which was her favorite. Once she was done, she went into Alexander's car.

While she was on her way to school, Elise did her extra homework, while Alexander looked at her, who was focused, in the rear-view mirror gently. When they stopped at her school, she quickly kept her stuff away. "I'll be going now. You should go to work too. Bye."

She got out of the car and strode toward the gate, but then, a guy stopped her. "Elise!"

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Elise stopped instinctively and turned around, and she was greeted by a delighted Zachary.

"Finally." He beamed at her and showed her the breakfast he bought. "For you."

Elise was slightly annoyed that he was here, so she didn't take the breakfast. "Why are you here?"

Zachary chose to ignore that question and only smiled at her, but then he looked sad. "I thought I asked you to wait for me after the test. Why did you leave without me? I..."

He bit his tongue and instead said, "It's fine. I'll come to you anyway. Oh, I've heard about the results. You got full marks again, huh? Congrats," he congratulated her. Elise noticed the passion in his eyes, and it made her feel uncomfortable.

She pursed her lips. "Do you need anything, Zachary?"

Zachary shook his head and pointed at the breakfast he bought. "Nothing. Just here to give you breakfast. Got some great egg sandwiches for you. Here, take it."

Elise refused, "Thanks, but I already had breakfast."

Zachary looked crestfallen, but he still said, "I'll bring you something else next time."

Elise looked straight at him. "Zachary, we aren't as close as you think. You don't have to do this."

That made him blush, and he stammered, "I-It's fine. I want to do this."

Elise kept on refusing. "Please don't, Zachary. We're only highschoolers, and relationships aren't really what we should be focusing on right now. I don't want any rumors to start, so please stop seeing me."

Her straightforward response caught him off-guard. "D-Did I trouble you? It's fine. I won't do it if you don't like it."

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Since she wanted to end it right there and then, she asked, "Zachary, why are you doing this? What do you want from me? I'm not exactly pretty. You can even call me ugly and I won't say a thing. Why are you so interested in me?"

Zachary tried to look at her calmly, but his heart wouldn't stop pounding. "You got this the wrong way. I'm not interested in you. I-I like you. I like you, Elise."

Elise blinked at him. What on earth is happening? Why do guys keep saying they like me? Am I in a novel or something?

"Yes, you aren't the prettiest girl around, but you're very capable. I mean, you got full marks in the Math Olympiad nationals. That alone is already great enough. Also, you're kind and always helpful. That's why I like you. I don't care about your looks. I care about what's inside. Yes, I know it's not great for highschoolers to get in a relationship, but I can wait. I'll start when we get into college. Just give me a chance—"

Before he could finish, someone coughed behind them. Elise snapped out of it and saw Alexander standing behind her.

He smiled apologetically, "Sorry for interrupting you guys, but you dropped your pen in my car, Elise."

Really? He just has to show up at this moment?

Zachary, on the other hand, looked at Alexander suspiciously. The guy looked and felt better than Zachary in every way, and that realization crushed his confidence. Even so, he asked, "And this is?"

Elise held Alexander's arm without thinking. "He's my boyfriend. I'm sorry, Zachary, but I'll have to refuse you."

Zachary couldn't believe what he was hearing. The news came as a bombshell for him, and he stared at the both of them in disbelief. "Is that true?" His voice changed. "Are you her boyfriend?"

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Alexander was about to say no, but he felt Elise gripping the hem of his shirt from behind, so he smiled. "We live under the same roof every day." He wrapped his arm around her waist. "Is that answer enough?"

Elise was shocked that Alexander would tell Zachary about that, and she gawked at Alexander.

Alexander ignored her, continuing, "You have great taste seeing that you fell for my girlfriend, but my girlfriend's taste seems to be better than yours. After all, she did fall in love with a prince like me instead of a peasant like you."

Zachary almost tripped over himself, and he looked offended by that comment. Wow, what's the deal with this guy? Did he knock his head when he was a kid or something? He looked at Elise with sadness and determination. "I won't give up no matter what."

Just give up. Elise wanted to tell him that, but Zachary left without giving her the chance.

That was inconvenient for her, of course. Why won't he just quit? I just told him I'm taken.

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