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Chapter 196, Coolest Girl in Town

It was already in the afternoon by the time Elise woke up. Her stomach growled as she took a look at the clock. After noticing that it was already 3:00PM, Elise pushed her blanket aside and got off the bed. Then, she started stretching before heading out of her room. "Stella, is there anything that I can eat? I'm starving!" Stella quickly replied, "What would you like to eat, Miss Sinclair? I'll ask the kitchen to prepare it now."

After contemplating for a moment, Elise answered, "Just get me a bowl of noodles! I want to fill up my stomach." "Alright, Miss Sinclair. Please hang on for a moment." Elise mumbled an answer and turned around to see Laura and Leonard chatting at the garden backyard and quickly walked over to them. "Grandpa, Grandma..." Laura turned around to see Elise, who looked as if she had just woken up. "Why are you up so late?" At this moment, Elise stuck her tongue out in embarrassment. "I stayed up late to play games last night and only slept in the morning.

That's why I woke up late today." Instead of saying anything, Laura motioned for Elise to sit next to her. She couldn't help but be worried when she recalled what Brendan told them earlier in the morning. "Ellie, I need to ask you something." Meanwhile, Elise had a nonchalant look on her face. "What is it, Grandma?" Laura leaned toward her before asking in a low voice, "Ellie, have you been into designing again?" An odd look flashed past Elise's face. However, she gave an honest answer since she had only altered her engagement gown and wasn't involved in designing anything from scratch.

"Grandma, I only altered my wedding gown. I didn't design anything." A shocked Laura elaborated, "Brendan came over in the morning and tried to pry about you, but your grandpa and I know that you're no longer involved with designing wedding gowns. So, we kept quiet and didn't reveal anything." Elise was curious as to why Brendan would attempt to ask her grandparents about her. *Did he discover something? How is that even possible?* "Grandma, why did he suddenly ask you guys about this?" It was something that Laura felt odd about as well.

Then, she asked, "Didn't you say that you altered the gown? Could it be that he noticed something on the gown? Ellie, I'll always support you even if you want to continue designing wedding gowns. You don't have to hide your interests. I really hope that you can pursue the things that you like." Elise reached out to hold Laura's arm. "I know that! It's just that I made a promise to someone not to be involved with the designing of wedding gowns as Lily

unless we return to the fashion industry together. So, I'm not planning to do so right now. All I want is to complete my studies and enroll in college to continue with my tertiary education. Who knows I might even venture into something new?"

"What can I even tell you at this point? You already obtained a double degree abroad and you can easily take over the family business without even returning to your studies. Your grandpa and I believe that you'll be able to handle the family business well." "I'm still young, though!" Elise whined. "I'm only 18 and I still want to enjoy life as a student." "Alright. You should continue pursuing your studies if that's what you want! As long as you're doing what you like, I'll support you unconditionally." "Thank you, Grandma!" She exclaimed before she inched closer to Laura's side.

Despite that, all she thought about was Brendan's words. *It's impossible for Brendan to associate me with Lily when all I did was rely on my thoughts to alter the gown. This should be a coincidence.* At least that was what Elise thought, so she didn't dwell too deep into it. In the blink of an eye, it was time for the school to reopen and for Leonard as Laura to head home. As a result, the large house became quiet and empty again.

Alexander was already waiting downstairs in the morning as Elise hurried downstairs while complaining, "Stella, why didn't you wake me up on the first day of school? I'm going to be late now." Stella gave Alexander an innocent look and remained silent before he elaborated, "I was the one who asked Stella not to wake you up so that you can have more sleep." Then, Elise shot him a coquettish look. "Hey! I can't be late on my first day of school." Meanwhile, he reached out to hold her hand. "Come on, we won't be late. Get in the car. I'll send you to school."

Upon seeing how adamant he was, Elise chose to believe him and entered the car while Alexander slid into the driver's seat to start the car engine. He drove smoothly the entire journey, which allowed her to eat breakfast while studying for the new semester's subjects. Since this was the last semester of high school with only three months before the finals, it was the most stressful period of any student's schooling life.

At approximately five minutes before class, Alexander's car stopped in front of the school's entrance and Elise sighed in relief. "I'm going to class now. Have fun at work. Bye!" Yet, the car door didn't bulge at all. "Alexander, why did you turn on the child safety lock?" He deeply gazed at her. "Aren't we engaged now?" As she stared at the diamond ring on her hand, Elise mumbled an answer before Alexander's voice rang out again, "Since we are engaged, shouldn't we do that before we part ways... Hmm?" She blinked as she solemnly asked, "What do we do?"

Alexander, can you be more upfront? I'm really going to be late now!" A helpless Alexander sighed. *Looks like she really has no experience when it comes to this kind of stuff.* Still, he could always take his time to slowly train her. "Come here." While Elise obediently leaned toward him, he quickly planted a kiss on her forehead. "This is all I want. Do you get it now?" Upon knowing what he meant, her face quickly reddened.

"You... I... What are you still doing? Unlock the door!" Alexander finally allowed her to get out of the car. While he watched her leaving, he announced, "Come out the moment when class is done. I'll be waiting here for you." Elise's back was still facing him, so she didn't say anything in response.

Rather, she waved her hand in acknowledgment and fastened her pace. When she arrived at class, she noticed that the atmosphere was quiet and everyone was focused on their schoolwork in their seats. Then, she followed suit. When she noticed that Mikayla's table, which was next to hers, was empty, she couldn't help but wonder why Mikayla wasn't at school.

While Elise was deep in thought, Danny came over with a glass of fruit juice and placed it on her table. "Boss, here's some juice." It was at this moment when she asked, "Have you seen Mikayla? Why didn't she come today?" He replied, "Boss, didn't you know? Mikayla has dropped out of school and came to settle the withdrawal procedure before school reopened. I heard that her family is migrating and they're planning to leave in a day or two."

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"What? She's migrating..." Elise trailed off before she quickly took her phone to contact Mikayla. However, a cold robotic woman's voice greeted her instead. "Sorry, the number that you've dialed is unreachable..." A sad Elise kept her phone away while Danny tried his best to console her. "Don't worry, Boss. She will surely contact you when she's there." If Mikayla hadn't lost her memories, Elise was sure that she'd definitely be able to contact her. However, now that Mikayla had lost her memories, would it be the end of their friendship? It was after this that Elise started to zone out and she was unable to focus during class whatsoever.

The homeroom teacher entered with a beautiful girl during the third period. "Quiet, everybody. This is Jacinda Kate, the newest addition to our class. I hope everyone will take good care of her." Everyone started clapping immediately to welcome Jacinda while she

grinned in response. "Hey, guys. My name is Jacinda and I'll be your new classmate from today onward. I hope that we can all get along with each other." With such an angelic voice and innocent look, she had instantly captured most of the guys' attention.

"Hey, Jacinda, why don't you sit next to me?" Although a male classmate had extended an invitation for her to sit with him, she had turned him down. Then, she turned toward Elise and approached her. "Hey, can I sit next to you?" Elise frowned as the seat next to her belonged to Mikayla. Nevertheless, it was only a matter of time before it would be occupied since Mikaya had already dropped out. Although she was reluctant to allow Jacinda to sit next to her, she didn't have any valid reason to reject Jacinda either. "Sure." A smiling Jacinda replied, "Thank you."

Then, she sat down and placed her bag in the table drawer while her gaze was fixated on Elise's face. *Is this the ugly Elise that my cousin sister has mentioned? How unappealing. I wonder what kind of charisma she has to be able to defeat my elegant cousin to become Alexander's fiancée. What a joke.* Jacinda coldly chuckled before she composed herself and whispered to Elise, "Hello, may I know your name? Also, can you tell me what class we have next?" "Elise Sinclair. The timetable is on the whiteboard and you can copy a set for yourself if you need it."

When she noticed Elise was being cold toward her, Jacinda's dislike against Elise only grew stronger. *How dare that ugly monster try to act cool around me? Just you watch. ...* "Hey, Jacinda. Here's some chocolate that I bought..." "I purchased these lollipops for you..." "Do you like any of these snacks?" Many of the guys in class tried to woo Jacinda, who really enjoyed the attention that they were showering on her. And with a gentle voice, she thanked them. "Thank you, everyone!" "You're welcome. Let us know if you need anything in the future." Although Jacinda had chatted with them merrily and didn't reject their gifts, her expression changed once they left.

It was moments later when she started complaining, "Are these people dumb? Who tries to woo girls with snacks and lollipops? Do they think that I'm a kid?" Then, she threw the snacks into the trash bin without any hesitation. Upon seeing that, Elise frowned a little but kept quiet. Unfortunately, Jacinda thought Elise was judging her and glared instead. "What are you staring at? Have you not received any gifts from guys before? Well, I guess no guy would buy gifts for ugly girls like you. I bet they don't even want to spare any glance on you." A speechless Elise retorted without any hesitation, "It seemed like you've mastered the art of being two-faced."

"Who are you to talk to me like this? Do you know that I can destroy your reputation if I want to?" Jacinda threatened. It was obvious that she looked down on Elise. Elise could sense

Jacinda's hostility at this moment. However, she couldn't recall that they had ever crossed paths before. Although it was their first time meeting each other, Jacinda's hostility was obvious from the hatred in her eyes. *Looks like she's not here with good intentions.* "You can give it a shot. We shall see who ends up with a destroyed reputation instead." Upon saying those words, she stopped talking to Jacinda and went back to complete her schoolwork.

After class, Danny went over to give Elise the fruit juice that he bought. "Boss, have some juice!" Without looking up, she replied, "Thank you!" As he was used to her behavior, he didn't say anything and returned to his seat. On the other hand, Jacinda knew who Danny was. In fact, she knew all about the Griffiths' young masters. Nonetheless, she had only seen them in pictures; she never met them in person and didn't have any interactions with them either.

Still, she knew the interests of the four masters. For example, Danny Griffith, who was in front of her, was an ignorant and arrogant person with an interest in car racing and gaming. *But, why is he being so pleasant to the ugly monster?* As she was unable to understand the connection even after pondering on it, she gave up and took the initiative to start a conversation with him to gain his favor. "Hey, Danny. I'm the new girl, Jacinda. I recently started a new mobile game, so would you like to play together with me when you're free?"

At this moment, Danny was in the midst of doing his schoolwork when he heard a shrill voice, which caused him to frown. "There's less than a hundred days until our finals and you're still thinking of playing games? Leave me alone; stop bothering me when I'm studying." Jacinda's expression immediately changed the moment she was rejected and she didn't know what to do next. *Why is the rumored Danny Griffith way different from the one in person?* "I-I'm sorry. I didn't know that you were studying." Normally, people would definitely soften upon seeing her apologetic expression.

However, as Danny had been hanging out too much with Elise and was used to her behavior, Jacinda's fake affectionate manner was off putting for him. "Alright. Just stop talking to me," he demanded, to which Jacinda's face darkened. Still, she didn't have the guts to retort and could only return to her seat. Simon Reid, who couldn't really get along with Danny, explained, "Jacinda, don't mind Danny. He always acts like that." The handsome and wealthy Simon was a dreamy person, but he obviously couldn't be compared to someone like Danny. Jacinda finally managed to find a sense of comfort from Simon.

"Thank you. Still, it was my fault for behaving out of my place. I didn't know that Danny was a hardworking student who loves studying." To be honest, he was just as shocked. "Danny has only started taking his studies seriously last semester. We all thought that it was for

show, but he actually managed to obtain third place in our class during the finals last semester. It's possible that he might be able to enroll into a prestigious school!"

She never knew that Danny was actually an intelligent student. *So, that's why Danny reacted that way when I invited him to play games with me. Looks like I have to strategize again.* "I see! Thank you. I'll buy you a meal someday later to return your kindness." Simon would never reject a beautiful girl's invitation, so he suggested, "Why must it be someday later when we can have a meal together today?"

I know a nice place nearby. Why don't we head over there after school?" Right at this moment, Jacinda, who wanted to know more about her new class, figured that it was a great opportunity to do so and agreed to Simon's suggestion.