

Chapter 701 I Just Want Someone To Love

Holly looked into Alexis' cold eyes again.

"Don't I even have the right to love someone, Alexis?" she asked bitterly. Holly was feeling feverish and uncomfortable. After Alexis lectured her, she felt worse.

"Yes, you do. It's not a crime to fall in love and yearn for someone, but you made a mistake, Holly." Alexis reminded her calmly.

She could fall in love with Westley, of course. He wouldn't give a damn as long as it didn't affect him personally.

"Oh, really? But why do you keep telling me that I have no right to fall in love with Westley? He was the only person I've ever loved like this and no one can take his place. What do you want me to do?" Holly helplessly tried to get her feelings across, her face drowning in sadness.

She couldn't understand why Alexis had to be unnecessarily mean about her unrequited love. It was more brutal than any kind of pain.

"I didn't say that you're not allowed to fall in love with Westley. You're forgetting that you're just one of the many women who dream of him. But do you know the difference? Those women left Westley alone. You did the opposite and dared to destroy his happiness." Alexis made it clear this time.

He hoped that Holly would realize her own mistake and stop chasing things that she would never have. Her efforts would only be in vain.

After all, they had known each other for a long time. He didn't want to throw away their friendship just because of this.

Nobody wanted this to happen.

"Is Gabrielle that great? Westley chose her, but she won you over, too!" Although Holly didn't want to admit how charming Gabrielle was, it was a truth no one could deny.

Not only had she made Westley admit their marriage and fall head over heels for her, but she had also won the trust of his friends and other people completely. They lavished her with praises. What tricks did she use to get their attention?

She still remembered how all the people praised Gabrielle when they had lunch together.

"We don't have to flatter people to earn our bread. If she's not a good woman, we wouldn't shower her with praises. You don't know her well, that's why you can't tell what kind of person she is. In other words, don't assume things when you know nothing about someone. Well, let's jump out of this cable car." When it came to a stop, Alexis opened the door and got off first.

Westley and Gabrielle were waiting for them up ahead. Westley held her hand in the pocket of his coat. Because of the distinct romantic mood around them, they drew everyone's attention. They acted as if they were surrounded by pink bubbles of love.

Of course, Holly was the only person who didn't want to witness their public display of affection. She feebly exited the cable car and cast a glance at the sweet couple in front of her. She felt weaker and uncomfortable right after.

"Holly, are you okay? You look so pale," Gabrielle asked worriedly.

Gabrielle genuinely cared about her. After all, they were acquaintances who knew each other to some degree. If Holly was really sick, she needed to be taken care of. She didn't know if Holly would appreciate it, though. After all, Holly despised her and considered her as an enemy because they loved the same man. Why would a rival care anyway? Perhaps Gabrielle thought that she had the upper hand. But in Holly's eyes, Gabrielle didn't care about her at all regardless of her intentions.

"I'm perfectly fine." Holly tried to keep a straight face and acted like she was okay. She didn't want to lose her pride in front of her rival.

Holly was proud to be one of the most well-known women in the city. She could never allow Gabrielle to beat her, so she had to keep her head held high in front of her rival.

'Even if I lose in the game of love, I can't allow myself to lose my pride!'

"That's good to hear. I'm relieved. I was so worried you'd catch a cold staying out in the mountains for so long. If it were me, I'd already be sick. It seems you're a lot healthier and stronger than I am," Gabrielle said with a smile.

Holly thought Gabrielle was a hypocrite. She only pretended to be nice to her. What's worse, it seemed that Gabrielle and Westley knew what she was up to.

Did Gabrielle say that on purpose to tick her off? The truth was that she was trying to get Westley's attention. Holly had gone up the cold mountain wanting to make Westley feel sorry for her when she got sick.

But Gabrielle found out so easily. How could she always see right through her? Her plan failed and embarrassed herself miserably.

"The sightseeing bus got caught up in an accident so it won't arrive anytime soon. Should we wait or go for a walk?" Joseph explained the situation to everyone after he hung up on the phone.

"Let's go back on foot. It's not that far anyway. We can walk slowly and enjoy the scenery on our way." Alexis sounded expectant for a nice saunter.

"I agree with Alexis. The scenery looks so magical. It would be a waste if we couldn't see it up close. It's not every day we get to soak up in nature in wintertime. What do you think, Westley?" Gabrielle asked, looking at Westley with a sparkle in her eyes.

"Alright, let's walk back!" Westley agreed. Not only would he get to enjoy the scenery, but he could also get to savor holding hands with Gabrielle the rest of the way.

"We can walk back, but what about Holly? Can you make it?" Gabrielle turned around to take a quick glance at Holly. She looked worse and worse.

Her condition must have taken a turn now, but she didn't speak a single word about it. No one knew whether she could actually bear it or not.

"I'm fine. It's not a big deal. I can walk." Holly made every effort to remain calm and appear as normal as possible.

She must maintain her grace no matter what. She couldn't afford to crumble in front of them, especially Gabrielle.

"Since you insist, then, let's go." Gabrielle had already lost interest. If Holly herself said that it was no big deal, why should Gabrielle care?

"Let me lead the way. We'll be able to save a lot of time following the trail." As their guide, Joseph led them down along some shortcuts that could save their distance by half. Short as they were, the trails were certainly steeper and rocky.

"Well, I'm sure there are more surprises in store for us down the trail. I'm really looking forward to it." Gabrielle grinned.

The hike made her feel like a kid again. It was exciting for the rest of the trip.

"Okay, let's head back now. Be careful since there are lots of uneven steps. As long as it doesn't rain, we don't have anything to worry about." Joseph cautiously reminded them.

In fact, everyone here had already experienced hiking on these trails, except for Gabrielle. It was her first time visiting the resort.

As everyone was already familiar with the place, his instructions were mainly for Gabrielle.

"Don't worry. I'll guide you," Westley said, holding Gabrielle's hand tightly.

"Yeah, yeah. We know you'll take extra care of her." Alexis chuckled in a teasing tone.

Chapter 702 She Was Difficult To Mess With

Westley and Gabrielle's public display of love was spreading across Novo Mountain.

It was the first time to know that a couple could be so brazen about displaying their love.

They flaunted their affection wherever they went.

"Allow me to explain, Gabrielle. This path's landscape is more picturesque than the scenery on the main road. You need to give it some serious consideration. This path is ideal for trekking and taking in the views. Indeed, there is a lengthy road behind it that spans the entire mountain range. Numerous hikers will gather here to have a walk along this road. If you have the opportunity to complete the journey, you will be amazed and delighted." The fact that Alexis had a strong interest in travel made him want to share more about whatever the subject matter would be.

He had a good impression of Gabrielle, and as a result, he was willing to share this good thing with her. Naturally, there was some flattery as well.

"For real?" Gabrielle had an intense interest in it. She had never traveled on foot previously. She would want to give it a try if possible.

It must be an incredible trek, particularly via the Novo Mountain. Each step may provide a small surprise.

She had a good perception of the Novo Mountain prior to the cable car ride, and now she had a great image of it hearing Alexis's remarks..

There was a genuine yearning for her to go through the Novo Mountain. Something had always been concealed deep inside the heart and triggered at a particular time.

"Obviously, this is true. If you're not convinced, you can ask Westley. He will not deceive you," Alexis said seriously.

Gabrielle was really intrigued and instantly shifted her gaze to Westley. "Westley, is Alexis saying the truth?"

"That is true. If you're truly interested in walking, I'll accompany you there when the weather improves." Westley caressed her head and consented to her desire in a spoilt manner.

"That is fantastic. You have promised me. Alexis would attest on my behalf that you stated that you will find time to take me for a stroll on the Novo Mountain in the future. You are required to maintain your pledge," Gabrielle said happily.

"All right, I can attest that Westley has agreed to take Gabrielle to the Novo Mountain when the weather improves." Alexis was promptly summoned as a witness.

"So now Alexis is on the record for us. You are not permitted to betray your pledge." Gabrielle stroked his hand and acted as though she was threatening.

"I will keep my pledge. Are you exhausted?" asked Westley.

"Yes, to a degree. Are you going to carry me down, Mr. Morris?" Gabrielle asked Westley in a spoiled manner.

Holly, who stood behind them, felt quite uneasy. Indeed, it was common for men to carry their wives down the mountain.

However, the spouse was Westley, whom she adored. Clearly, she was upset.

Her heart was ablaze with envy. She hoped she could hurry up and separate the two of them forcefully.

"Westley, my head is paining." Holly took a purposeful step behind Westley. She could do it now if she chose to lean on him.

Holly employed such a low-key manner of coquettish bitching. As a result, she earned Gabrielle's disgust.

"After all, Miss Edwards, you have a fever, and it is natural for you to have a headache. Allow me to assist you. After all, there are only two of us who are female." Gabrielle exhibited considerable generosity and decency. She instinctively let go of Westley's hand and walked to Holly's side. Gabrielle then held Holly's arm directly, regardless of her unhappiness.

She was compelled to be Gabrielle's friend and to be held by her.

Truth be told, she was not willing to use Gabrielle's help.

She desired to exploit Westley. She was adamant that she would not need help from Gabrielle, the repulsive woman.

"Miss Jones, well, I..."

"Miss Edwards, I am aware that you dislike me and do not wish for me to assist you. However, consider this. I will avoid physical contact with you in order to avoid generating suspicion. It's tough for you to return to the resort on your own while you're suffering from a severe headache. Are you aware of the slopes and stone pits in this area? You will perish if you fall and slide down." Gabrielle gently reminded her with a cool smile.

However, Holly was fully aware that the phony woman was threatening her. If she dared to approach Westley, Gabrielle might push her all the way down the mountain.

Holly was very certain of that.

Gabrielle was, at best, a lady who appeared innocent. Indeed, she was bubbling with schemes. How could she marry Westley if she didn't have some tricks under her sleeve? How could she have made him protect her and take such good care of her?

Holly was also aware of it.

"Miss Jones, I appreciate your assistance in helping me down." It was difficult for her to walk alone, so she obeyed Gabrielle and requested assistance.

"That is excellent, Miss Edwards. This is for your own good. After all, you are Westley's friend and Nellie's cousin. As a result, I'll assist you." Gabrielle smiled gently.

The softer the smile, the more frightening it would be. It was the first time Holly realized Gabrielle was not to be trifled with and was also a bit frightening.

Holly was adamantly opposed to speaking now. She only desired to return to the Novo Resort as quickly as possible, as her head was becoming increasingly heavy and her eyes began to blur. This was a symptom that her cold was deteriorating. Holly was quite aware of the situation.

"Slow down, Miss Edwards. Don't fall down, or you will suffer serious injury. You are suffering from a fever. It will be worse if you sustain an injury." Gabrielle gently reminded her.

It sounded like another threat to Holly. Now, regardless of how sad or powerful she tried to be, no one would stand with her.

Everyone, including Alexis, sided with Westley. And Westley sided with Gabrielle. That suggested that they were all on Gabrielle's side.

If she really wanted to pick a fight with Gabrielle, she would lose flawlessly!

Additionally, she was still running a temperature. Indeed, she created her own errors.

"We are almost there, Miss Edwards. Please hold on a little longer. When you arrive at the resort, request an excellent treatment from Remy. You'll be OK after a day or even half a day of lying down. Did you come here alone this time?" The way Gabrielle asked Holly would make you think that they were cool friends.

Gabrielle was all too aware of Holly's emotions at the moment. Holly despised talking to her, so she spoke to her on purpose.

Gabrielle desired Holly's acceptance the more she disliked it. Only in this manner would Holly become aware of how tough she was to manipulate.

Chapter 703 Irritated

Gabrielle's threat worked. At least, Holly didn't dare to play any tricks for the time being. Besides, she did catch a cold, so she wouldn't have any energy left to act like a brat.

Seeing that she had backed off, Gabrielle smiled calmly.

"I came up alone." Holly held her anger and replied firmly.

She only came here because she knew Westley had come. There wasn't any other reason for her to come to Novo Resort alone.

"I know. You came for Westley," Gabrielle whispered in a low voice.

Holly felt a chill on her spine and trembled. She did come for Westley. Why else would she be here in the first place?

"What are you implying, Gabrielle?" Holly asked, trying to regain composure.

Even if what Gabrielle said was true, she wouldn't just admit it.

Since she knew that Gabrielle wasn't as naive as she looked, she had to be cautious.

If Gabrielle saw right through her, she'd lose it. Holly had always wanted to be in control of everything. However, since meeting Gabrielle, she had felt as if things had slipped from her grasp. Holly had assumed that because Gabrielle was only an adopted daughter of the Jones family, she was free to pick on her as she pleased.

But it seemed that she had underestimated Gabrielle.

She wasn't easy to deal with at all. Gabrielle turned out to be a very scheming woman. Holly had to play her cards carefully.

Gabrielle had the potential to ruin her life and she didn't want that to happen. In addition, Gabrielle had Westley on her side.

She knew that messing with Gabrielle could lead to irreversible consequences.

"I wasn't implying anything. I wanted to remind you to watch your step since the mountain road is rocky. You wouldn't want to slip and fall. Be careful." Gabrielle calmly reminded her, as if she was genuinely caring about Holly.

But in Holly's eyes, this was an obvious threat. Gabrielle was being sarcastic.

"Thank you for your concern, Miss Jones, but I'll be fine. I've been here several times with Westley and the others before. I know my way around here," Holly retorted.

Even though Gabrielle had Westley now, she had known Westley for years and they were very close.

Holly thought she could get on Gabrielle's nerves by making her jealous.

Unfortunately, she was wrong. Gabrielle knew better.

Gabrielle only survived living in the Jones family because of her incredible fortitude. Someone like Holly couldn't get under her skin so easily.

"Miss Edwards, have you forgotten?" Gabrielle said in a gentle voice.

"Huh?" Holly was surprised that Gabrielle didn't seem to be triggered by her words at all. She was actually calm and collected.

"When you said others, you meant when Helena was still alive, right? Westley came here with her and you just happened to tag along, didn't you, Miss Edwards?" Gabrielle smiled innocently, but Holly could feel her hostility.

"You... What are you trying to say?" Holly was on edge. It was true that the reason Westley would often come here was for a vacation with Helena.

During that time, the Novo Resort was not open to the public yet. Joseph loved treating his friends to his private resort.

Helena loved soaking at the hot springs, especially during rainy days.

Westley would occasionally come here with her, and Helena would invite Holly to join them because they were

pretty close with each other.

If Helena didn't invite her, she wouldn't have been able to join them.

In fact, she was not even friends with Westley.

After all, Westley was a cold and distant man. He didn't like to talk with other women except for Helena.

He wouldn't want to have anything to do with other women. Usually, he would keep his distance as if being too close with other women would kill him.

Holly said that on purpose to make Gabrielle uncomfortable, but she didn't know that Gabrielle wouldn't buy it at all.

Holly thought she was impressive. Other women would've been running scared by now.

"Nothing, Miss Edwards. I was just saying you should be mindful of what you say. I wonder how Miss Collins would feel if she heard you say those words." It was time for Gabrielle to provoke Holly back.

After all, Holly was born and raised in a rich household, she couldn't be more spiteful than Gabrielle.

How dare Holly try to irritate her with those words.

"Gabrielle, what do you even know? Don't bring Helena up!" Holly couldn't help but shout, trying to get Westley's attention.

"Is something wrong?" As soon as he heard Holly yell, Westley, who was behind them, rushed in front. He tried to keep a distance from the two girls since he wanted them to get along.

He had just seen Gabrielle holding Holly's hand and the two of them spoke in hushed tones. He was relieved since he believed the two of them were getting along nicely.

"It's nothing, Westley. I didn't notice the rocks over here so Miss Edward got very upset when she almost tripped. It was my fault, don't worry," Gabrielle explained, pinning the blame on herself.

But it wasn't the truth. Gabrielle was just pretending to be innocent.

In Holly's eyes, she was truly a cunning bitch.

"Are you okay?" Westley asked Gabrielle with concern and held her face, scanning it carefully.

"I'm fine, Westley. Miss Edwards almost fell because of me. It's all my fault," Gabrielle continued.

"Westley, that's not what happened." Holly couldn't stand it anymore. She didn't want to see how happy and in love the two of them were.

Chapter 704 She Passed Out

Holly had always thought of Gabrielle as a scheming woman, who was good at disguising herself. If she wanted to, she could think of underhanded plans to get her way. She could even confuse a person that he or she would find it hard to distinguish black from white. This would have to change.

Today, she would expose this woman's true colors so Westley would know what she was really like.

"Are you saying that it's not true? So what's the truth then?" asked Westley as he gathered Gabrielle in his arms.

His eyes were deep and cold, with a hint of ruthless warning falling on Holly.

Holly got startled that she even had no courage to look into his eyes.

"Westley, I was... I'm just not feeling so good. My vision is a bit blurry and I didn't see the stone under my feet. Of course, it's not the fault of Miss Jones," Holly explained.

In spite of her plan to expose Gabrielle, she couldn't tell Westley what actually happened.

Holly had learned two things that day. Firstly, it was important to take things one step at a time. Secondly and more importantly, she had to think things more carefully before taking any actions. So she was in no hurry. Knowing what kind of person Gabrielle was, she had to be more prudent in handling these matters.

"Is that true?" said Westley, his expression had now softened.

Holly could tell that Westley had become calm. She knew it was because Gabrielle was already in his arms.

That was how important Gabrielle was to him.

Holly knew that it was unwise to speak ill of her in front of Westley. She didn't want to risk his wrath.

"Westley...it's just... Well, I don't feel good right now..."

Westley called Alexis and told him, "Come here and help Holly. I'll take care of Gabrielle. She must have been exhausted so I'll carry her down."

If Alexis had a choice, he wouldn't lift a finger to help Holly. But it was Westley who asked him, so he had to obey his bidding without question.

Holly, on the other hand, wouldn't want to be assisted by Alexis. She didn't even want him to touch her.

She and Alexis had known each other for a long time but she didn't have romantic feelings for him.

"Holly, let me help you," said Alexis nonchalantly.

"Thank you, Alexis." Holly's attitude was not any better but she had to keep her cool.

It was obvious she was not happy about Alexis helping her.

But Alexis didn't want to say anything about it. He didn't care how Holly saw him.

"You don't have to be nice to me. We are friends. It's not a big deal. It's not like I'm carrying you like the way Westley did Gabrielle," Alexis finally said. He then turned his eyes to Westley and Gabrielle who were in front of them.

Westley was carrying his wife on his back. He was very careful in his every step. He didn't want her to fall or get hurt by the thorny bushes along their way.

Seeing the couple was a warming scene. But it would also drive certain people crazy.

"They look like they're doing well together, don't they, Holly?" Alexis asked Holly stonily.

"How do you want me to answer your question?" Holly said, knowing that Alexis was on Gabrielle's side. She had no one on her side. She would only embarrass herself should she say the wrong thing.

"You really don't have to say anything. And I tell you, it's best that you don't say anything at all," Alexis told her, maintaining the coldness in his voice.

"So, there's something that you don't want me to say. I wonder what it is," sneered Holly. She was also in a bad mood.

"You do not ever again mention Helena in front of Westley and Gabrielle," Alexis warned her sternly. "I know that

you miss her terribly but just keep the feeling to yourself. You don't need to talk about her around other people." He had already warned Holly about this. He didn't want to do it again. The problem with Holly was she didn't heed his warning after he first told her. She had just mentioned Helena again—and in front of Gabrielle. This made Alexis a bit angry.

"Alexis, you were good friends with Helena. Now that she's gone, why can't I even mention her name? Is that how you should regard your dear friend? You, of course, know how she died, don't you?" Holly hissed angrily. She was feeling weak and tired. Her voice sounded feeble.

"Of course, I know. Everybody else does," Alexis said intelligibly.

"So you know that Helena died because she took a bullet for Westley," Holly said seethingly.

"You don't have to say it over and over. We all remember that," Alexis said, equally angry at Holly. "All this time, Westley has been living in guilt. He has done so much for the Collins family, trying to make it up to them. Can't you see that? And now that he's finally out of it, here you are trying to pull him back to the guilt zone. Are you happy seeing him in that deplorable place?" His face was livid. If he could only leave her that instant, he would.

Holly didn't expect that Alexis would be so furiously angry. The look on his face frightened her out of her wits.

"I didn't mean that. I just..."

"You are jealous. You can't accept Westley marrying Gabrielle because it was Nellie that you want for him. Or will you be appeased if the woman that Westley married was you?" Alexis asked relentlessly.

Holly wanted to say something—maybe affirm, counter, or dismiss what she just heard. Yet, she couldn't say anything.

In her mind, Holly acceded to what Alexis had said. It was true that she wanted to be with Westley. It was true that she wished she was the one Westley had married.

There was nothing else that she would want to have had she been able to marry the man she loved.

"You have nothing to say?" Alexis said as he raised his eyebrows at Holly. Judging from her silence, he knew that his assumptions had been correct all along.

Holly was already in a bad mood. Now, her emotions were going wild after hearing Alexis. She was feeling overwhelmed that she passed out.

"Holly! Will you stop acting?" Alexis was stunned to see Holly fainting. For a while, he thought that she was just pretending and this was just another one of her tricks.

Certain that she had passed out, Alexis called Remy. "Look at what happened to her," he said in a tone that seemed to be putting the blame on him.

Alexis thought that Remy would be the perfect scapegoat. Holly was sick and she was his patient.

"Alexis," curtly said Remy. "Carry Holly down to the resort. I'll check her over." After examining Holly, he said, "There's nothing to worry about. She just fainted."

Alexis didn't like it when he was told to carry Holly. So, he had been hard on her, saying harsh words to her. His seething resentment toward her made her reach the tipping point where she fainted. Feeling guilty, Alexis carried her on his back.