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## Coollest Girl in Town Chapter 501 - 502

Chapter 501 I Wouldn't Have Hurt if You'd Died

Soon after they left, the venue returned to order. In this race against time to get rich, the audience preferred to ignore the incident in favor of devoting themselves to the cause.

When she noticed Kenneth's hand inadvertently holding his wound, Elise said before she could think too much about it, "Thank you."

In response, he only looked at her affectionately without saying anything.

What she didn't know was that he was absolutely entranced with the way she used his power to take Ziggy down a peg.

Surely it wouldn't take long before she completely got used to it and relied on this identity of his.

The pain of Kenneth's wound was nothing in comparison to the feeling of being relied upon by her.

It wasn't until Elise realized something was strange and looked up at him that he quickly averted his gaze. Clearing his throat, he changed the topic and asked, "How did you know I came to exterminate the Eagle Gang?"

Stunned, she pulled back.

No... She'd only been blathering nonsense. It couldn't be true.

"You really exterminated the entire gang?" Elise murmured tentatively.

Hearing that, Kenneth frowned.

From her question, it seemed she hadn't known about this matter, and yet...

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Seeing through his thoughts, she offered up an explanation. "I only said all of that to scare Ziggy and to let him know that there were others better than him and not to be so brazen. I didn't know Eagle Gang was truly gone... Is this why you got so badly injured yesterday?"

Kenneth hummed in response. Having already let things slip, he had no choice but to confirm her suspicions.

After a moment of thought, she continued, "Did you do it single-handedly?"

"How else?"

"So, that was the reason you came to Dukethorn? Did Smith Co. and the Eagle Gang have irreconcilable differences of some sort?"

Instead of immediately replying, he simply stared at her expressionlessly.

Feeling somewhat at a loss, Elise twisted her hands. In truth, she herself didn't know why she was suddenly so interested in his business, either, but with no way to take back what she just said, she could only wait silently for his response.

Of course, there was nothing strange about it. Wasn't it worth her time to get to the bottom of anything she found suspicious?

Yes, it was only because he happened to be Kenneth Bailey and not because he was Kenneth Bailey that she paid special attention.

"No," Kenneth finally said after a long time, looking suddenly like a docile and loyal hound as he spoke slowly and softly. "You were attacked by the people from that gang. I was afraid someone would come after you if I didn't take care of them all. Clearing them out once and for all gives me less to worry about."

Thud thud thud...

And just like that, Elise felt her heart begin to race.

As she stared at his earnest expression, she suddenly found that she had lost all ability to speak or express herself. There wasn't anything she could say or any way she could react.

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Only after a long time did Elise take a deep breath to calm down. Her tone icy, she muttered, "Don't humor yourself by doing these things. I already have people I would give up my life for. If you'd died at the Eagle Gang's haunt yesterday, I wouldn't have felt hurt in the least bit."

With that, she spun on her heel and walked away.

Before she could get too far, Kenneth followed after her and caught her wrist.

All at once, Elise's heart jolted like she had been electrocuted, and she shrugged him off in terror. "Don't touch me!"

Even though he didn't know what was happening to her, he lifted his hands in surrender. "I have no ill intentions. I only wanted to say that your bet with Ziggy doesn't have to continue. It can end here."

"What are you implying?" Her breathing was still somewhat unsteady.

"With the Eagle Gang gone, the Carnegie Family has no crutch to lean on. They can't cause any fuss and they wouldn't dare touch you."

That was when she caught his meaning.

Only after breathing out deeply and readjusting her state of mind could she say as calmly as possible. "You underestimate me. Do you think I can't win?"

"I'm worried—"

"Don't say such things anymore." Elise didn't wait for him to reply before continuing, "I don't care who you worry about, but I don't need you to worry about me. Moreover, I never do anything that I have no confidence in, so just you wait and see. Once I get some top-quality goods, I'll have a piece of jewelry made to thank you."

"I don't need that."

"You're taking it whether you want it or not!" she snapped forcefully. "It's the only thing I can give you, nothing else apart from that!"

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Elise would never tolerate or accept having feelings for someone other than Alexander Griffith.

And so, after leaving Kenneth with this sentence, she left the lounge and went to find Tom.

By now, Tom had chosen two pieces of stone. After getting them registered, the duo left to have lunch.

Right as they exited the venue, Tina could be heard hurriedly chasing after them. "Hold on a minute, Miss Sinclair..." She came up to Elise right as the latter stopped in her tracks and turned back. "I said I would thank you today. Will you have lunch with me?"

As Tina finished her quiet question, she looked away, only for her gaze to fall on Tom. In an instant, her smile became somewhat unnatural, and her hand that was clutching the strap of her purse subconsciously tightened as her eyes darted away.

"Sure." Elise was quick to decide as she murmured, "We can find a quiet restaurant with relatively few people in it."

Once they reached the restaurant, Tina went up to the host station to get a table number with Tom and Elise trailing behind her.

"Hey." Elise nudged his arm to remind him, "You're old acquaintances. Be proactive. Don't miss this excellent opportunity."

Flustered and uneasy, Tom protested, "I'm worried she's not interested in me, and yet my heart aches to see her with Ziggy..."

"Well, you'd best let her know, then. What's the point in only me knowing about it? At your age, it's completely up to you whether you want a wife. Don't come crying to me later that I'm not concerned with your personal issues as your boss," Elise counseled meaningfully, sounding twice her age.

At this point, Tom didn't know whether to laugh or feel awkward. After all, Elise herself knew that she was younger than him, yet she was teaching him about romance.

Clearly, she was interested in everything except doing business through stone gambling.

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Of course, she was most interested in sleeping.

In the less than a week since they met, Elise had spent half that time sleeping.

Very soon, the trio got a table and sat down.

Not long after that, as if she had remembered something, Elise picked up her cell phone and headed toward the exit. "I have to make a call. You guys can get started first; there's no need to wait for me."

The moment she left, the atmosphere at the table became strange.

Somewhat uneasily, Tom and Tina stared at each other, neither having the courage to speak up first.

Finally drumming up his courage, Tom broke the silence. "Uh—let's order first so that the food will get here by the time Miss Sinclair comes back."

"Alright," Tina agreed politely before pushing the menu over to him. "You pick, I'll supplement."

Without further ceremony, Tom chose two kinds of meat and a vegetable to be shared among them before arranging for some drinks and pushing the menu back to Tina.

After glancing through the menu, she picked out some dessert and appetizers before flagging down an attendant. As she was passing the order form to the attendant, she suddenly remembered something and snatched the order form back, scribbling 'no scallions or cilantro' in a corner.

Only when she finished writing and looked up to meet Tom's gaze did she realize she had revealed something by accident. Nevertheless, she still stubbornly handed the order form back to the attendant.

The moment the attendant left, Tom sighed. "It's been so many years, but you haven't forgotten that I don't like scallions and cilantro."

"It has nothing to do with you," Tina answered indifferently. "It's simply that I don't like them."

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"You used to eat them in the past."

"As you said, that was in the past. No one has stayed the same since. Can't I change?"

## Cooldest Girl in Town Chapter 502

### Chapter 502 A Family Sooner or Later

"It was my fault all those years ago. I shouldn't have acted according to my temper and abandoned you. Will you give me a second chance, Tina?" Tom's expression was despondent.

"Don't address me so intimately, Mr. Shaw. You could have anyone you wanted given your status now, so for Miss Sinclair's sake, please don't make a fool out of me," Tina replied neutrally.

"I've never thought about anyone else." Tom's gaze was affectionate but resolute. "I was never with any woman after you. All these years, my only focus apart from business has been you. You're the only person I've missed and longed for."

For a moment, Tina frowned, but the expression disappeared in an instant as she replied indifferently, "In that case, let me make myself clear to you today, Mr. Shaw. You needn't waste your time. I'm a person without a future. Everything I own belongs to the Carnegie Family now. No matter how long you wait, we could never be together again."

"What if I dealt with the Carnegie Family?" he asked stubbornly.

"Don't be stupid. They're so powerful and you can't possibly defeat them..."

"As long as you're willing and wish for it, I will have a way of resolving the matter." Hidden beneath the table, Tom clenched his fists as cold sweat started to break out on his palms. It was as if he had turned back into that seventeen or eighteen-year-old from all those years ago, nervously waiting for his sweetheart's reply.

Tina stared at him and her frozen heart started melting all of a sudden. Color filled her world once again as she murmured, "Alright. If they will genuinely let me go, I will—"

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"Sorry, I was too engrossed in my conversation. Have you guys ordered?" As Elise suddenly sat down, the dialogue between the duo came to a halt.

Naturally, Elise could tell from their faces that something was off, but she could only shrug innocently, thinking that she hadn't returned at the right moment.

In truth, she had gone out to answer Joseph's call. He informed her that they managed to get in contact with Xavier and asked her if she had run into any trouble in Dukethorn. As she was asking Joseph to look into someone on her behalf and have the information sent over to her, Elise hadn't paid attention to how long she was gone.

"We ordered some food," Tina said politely now, pushing the order form over to Elise. "You should get some things that suit your taste."

Carelessly, Elise waved her hand. "It's okay. I'm not picky. This will do." And then, she turned to Tom. "I nearly forgot—once the gem auction event is over, you'll have to go with me to pick up a jewelry designer. Her designs are novel and unique. If Shaw's Jewelry Co. wants to make a breakthrough, we'll have to strike our own path and rely on unique designs as our stepping stone to success. In the future, we shall focus only on quality, not quantity."

Narrowing her eyes in amusement, Tina quipped, "I'm afraid my presence is interrupting your business talk."

After all, business planning could be considered confidential. It wasn't proper for her as an outsider to be listening to them.

"It's fine," Elise replied with a mild smile, taking a sip of her drink. Out of the corner of her eye, she quietly took measure of Tina, thinking that there was no need to be on her guard for they would all become a family sooner or later.

After lunch, the closing ceremony ended early. The long afternoon was the highlight for the stone owners, for one of the rules of the gem auction event was that all stones would be broken open in public at the venue before being taken away.

This was to maintain the prosperity of Dukethorn as the stone gambling capital and to analyze how many pieces of rough jadeite stone came from Dukethorn every year. As much as it was publicity, it was even more so a subtle way of showing off.

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On this final day of the auction, there were even more people than on the previous two days. Most of them were here to witness the results of Elise and Ziggy's competition; some had even brought their family to spectate the gossip for themselves.

"There must be only nine pieces of raw material left now."

"More or less—five of the woman's and four of Mr. Carnegie's."

"He has less than the woman?"

"What do you know? He already managed to find four pieces of high-quality jadeite yesterday. Even if he only managed to find one piece today, he would already have far surpassed her. Surely she can't be the other God's Chosen Girl, with every selection producing top-quality jadeite."

"True! Not to mention that everything she chose was rough stone from the outer hall, and we all know what those stones are like..."

"Needless to say, Ziggy will come out victorious!"

"Don't forget their wager. Don't you wish to see what a woman so gorgeous would look like underneath Ziggy? Ha!"

Amid all the noise of the tongue-wagging, Tom and Elise finally managed to squeeze their way through the crowd and into the inner hall.

Upon the platform where the rock was to be broken open, all of the rough stones waiting to be machine-cut and polished had been arranged in a row. Elise could very easily distinguish the five pieces she had selected.

This was mainly due to hers being so small that they looked somewhat ugly in comparison to the stones Ziggy had chosen.

"Even hearts stop, but gossip clearly doesn't," Elise teased the crowd.

Tom rubbed his hands together excitedly. In all his years of stone gambling, such a scene was unprecedented.

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Almost supernaturally, Elise noticed Kenneth and Melody entering the venue through the crowd. As they were escorted by the security guards, a path opened easily for them, and they were able to make their way in slowly and sedately.

When Elise sensed that Kenneth was about to lift his head, she cleverly averted her eyes.

Finally, like a beauty-pageant winner, the staff member in charge of explaining the process entered the scene amid cheers from the audience.

As the rough stones were assigned to two different masters one by one, the volunteer in charge of maintenance and inquiries invited, "Miss Sinclair and Mr. Carnegie, please step forward."

Like a soldier up for review, Ziggy lifted his head and puffed out his chest before striding up to the equipment nearby one of his rough stones.

Someone must have reattached his dislocated arms.

Meanwhile, Elise stood at the other end of the platform and stopped the master who was about to cut into her stones. "No, don't use machinery. Polish them manually with tools. They won't be perfect anymore if you cut them in half."

As soon as she said that, the people next to her began to snicker.

"That means she thinks she'd be able to find jadeite. Ha!"

"What a stubborn mule! It'd be a miracle if she managed to find a glint of green from the goods in the outer hall, let alone something whole and perfect."

Even the master was somewhat reluctant. After all, he had been in this line of work for years. It wouldn't be a problem if he cut three times into the stones numbering above six thousand, let alone the stones numbering above ten thousand. The chances of these stones producing jadeite were infinitesimal. Why would he waste time polishing them by hand?

Nevertheless, however reluctant he was, this was his job. Although he sighed deeply, he still carried the stone over to the hand grinder and began to manually polish it.

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With familiar ease, Ziggy pointed at the master in charge of his stones and instructed, "Do the same as yesterday."

Simultaneously, both masters began polishing.

Despite the size of the stones Ziggy selected, it only took about a minute after the machine cut into them for them to produce jade.

"Tsk! There's no surprise there—high-quality goods again!"

"Yet again? Does the Carnegie Family have an all-seeing eye? Who could compete with these odds of finding jadeite?"

At this moment, Ziggy's master couldn't help becoming careful for fear of damaging the jadeite inside. Gently, he blew the powder off the stone so that the green would become even more transparent.

The cut had successfully drawn the audience's attention, and they were now waiting with bated breath to see what the second cut would reveal.

Meanwhile, since she had insisted on every piece being hand-polished, the progress being made on Elise's rough stones was immeasurably small.

Ziggy shot her a contemptuous glance and the corners of his mouth curled up into a smug smile.

He had said it before and he would say it again—he would win!

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