

Cooler Girl in Town Chapter 517

Chapter 517 Do I Have a Reason to Reject It?

"I'm not interested," Elise muttered and was about to hang up the call.

"Don't reject me so fast, Miss Anderson. Perhaps I can give you a surprise tomorrow night, just like how I did during yesterday's banquet," Kenneth profoundly answered.

Elise had to admit that he had caught hold of her weak spot.

Or rather, Kenneth's aim from the very beginning had been tomorrow's gathering. The USB flash drive that he gave her at the Anderson Residence was only to initiate a better return, so that she would believe that he had the ability to easily resolve her dire situation.

She could feel an invisible net enveloping her, whereby the other end of the net was within Kenneth's hand. He was slowly pulling the net in an attempt to capture her.

Nonetheless, she had never been one to be afraid of challenges. Even if her efforts would be in vain, she would risk everything to seek for what she wanted.

After a brief silence, Elise caved in. "It's a deal. Send me the address and time." She then ended the call without waiting for Kenneth to reply.

Ironically, the moment she hung up the call, Tom's message popped up.

'Miss Sinclair, why did you end the call so soon?'

'Don't worry, I won't get it wrong this time.'

'The Saunders Family sent us an invitation to Celina's birthday banquet tomorrow. Should I go?'

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'Miss Sinclair, do you find me annoying?'

Yes, you are indeed quite annoying, Elise thought. The Saunders Family is clearly up to something. It seems like Celina dislikes me a lot. However, a mere Celina is unworthy for me to waste time on her.

She tapped open her WhatsApp in an attempt to ask Tom to give her some time to think it through before making a decision, but she saw an unread message in her correspondence with Austin.

When she tapped it open, the message was about the Saunders Family's birthday banquet.

He texted, 'Accompany us to the Saunders Family's birthday banquet tomorrow night.'

It was a notice, without any intention to ask for her opinion, but he naturally included Faye under the term 'us'.

As Elise stared at the brief message, she snickered and wasn't bothered to reply.

At this moment, she happened to see Kenneth's message, so she replied, 'I have an appointment tomorrow. Get someone else as your female date.'

Kenneth texted, 'What appointment? Who has the guts to snatch my date?'

Her gaze was cold when she saw that. He sure thinks highly of himself.

'What time? Where? Maybe the time doesn't clash. Doing only a single thing a day is a waste of time.'

'2:00PM tomorrow at the International Center. It will end by 6:00PM. How about your side, Miss Anderson? Considering how sincere I am now, would you give me a chance?'

As she didn't reply to him, an unrelenting Kenneth sent another three messages, which instantly flooded the tiny chat box.

Hence, when Kenneth's message that stated 'Are you sure that we should continue to chat like this?' popped up, Elise immediately agreed that they shouldn't. There wasn't any special reason; it was just that she disliked him spamming the chat box with messages.

Almost instantaneously, he gave her a WhatsApp call and she answered it on loudspeaker. “I don’t buy what you said—if it’s just a gathering, you don’t necessarily need me to be your female date.”

“You may not believe it, but it doesn’t mean that it’s a lie. Miss Anderson, I don’t mind using Smith Co.’s network to search for your lost doctor friend; treat this as an extra gift. How does that sound?” Kenneth asked in a serious tone.

Elise sank into a deep thought. He mentioned my doctor friend, which could only refer to Claude. The fact that Smith Co. was able to locate Clemence shows that the company shouldn’t be underestimated. Since this deal won’t bring any losses to me, why don’t I agree to his request?

“How could I possibly reject your generous offer?” she responded, to which he chuckled.

“I’m curious about one thing—aren’t you afraid that you won’t be able to recover your capital after investing so much resources on me?” Elise asked in a menacing tone. The way she phrased it was rather clever. She deliberately revealed that she might go back on her words; she might even enjoy Kenneth’s one-sided commitment without the intention of repaying his help.

“There’s a saying in Cittadel that goes ‘every dollar that I spent comes back to me multiplied’. I’m confident that I’ll earn my spent resources again, but it’s impossible to find another exceptional date like you, Miss Anderson. I don’t like leaving things half-done and even hate giving up without trying. Therefore, I’ll do my very best to change your mind. All I hope is that you won’t be bothered by me and push me away from your heart,” Kenneth confessed in a rare sincere manner.

“You sure are a smooth talker.” Then, she killed the call.

The Saunders Family visited Elise that night. As she greeted the guests at the door, she looked down at the middle-aged man in a tuxedo from the top of the stairs. “How should I address you?”

“I’m Gabriel Saunders, the butler of the Saunders Family.” The man bowed at her politely.

“Mr. Saunders, how can I help you?” She wore an innocent expression.

He handed her a delicate-looking gift box that he had been holding earlier. "Miss Celina understands that the Anderson Family is busy with something else, so she's afraid that you guys won't be able to find the time to prepare a gown. Hence, she has specially prepared these for you and Miss Faye; she has even instructed us to personally hand this to you."

She raised her eyebrow. Celina was kicked out of the mall because of me two days ago and she has forgotten about the incident and is now showing kindness to me? I smell a rat.

However, Elise hid her true feelings well and behaved as though she was delighted to hear that. She deliberately and hastily snatched the gift box to impatiently open it.

"Oh, God, this looks gorgeous!" Elise seemed to have been enticed by the gown.

Gabriel sneered upon seeing that. Celina made a big deal out of it. She's merely an innocently stupid girl who hasn't gone out to see the outside world. How formidable could she be?

He lowered his eyes and stated in a seemingly sincere manner, "It's great that you are willing to accept the gift. Being able to see you showing up in the gown that Miss Celina gave will be the best gift for her."

Elise wore a smile. "For real? That's nice to hear. I was worried that she may dislike the gift that I picked for her. How about I give this clothing a wash so that it will be cleaner tomorrow? What do you think?"

"Cough." He placed his fist by his lips and impatiently muttered, "There's no need for that, Miss Anderson. Didn't the Anderson Family ever tell you that a banquet gown is only meant to be worn once? There's no need to wash it."

"Oh, I see. I'm just not accustomed to this." She smiled to conceal the awkwardness.

"No worries. Just remember to show up in the gown. You'll be fine by then." Gabriel paused for a moment. As he was unable to stifle the urge to comfort her, he added, "You are still young, so nobody will blame you even if you embarrass yourself." She had a face that was pleasing to the eyes, so even he couldn't help but take a liking to her.

"I understand. Thank you, Mr. Saunders!"

"It's nothing." Gabriel nodded and said nothing else.

Elise watched as his car disappeared into the alley while the innocent expression on her face also disappeared.

She indifferently carried the box and returned inside, unable to resist the urge to applaud herself for the perfect act of feigning stupidity earlier. At this rate, I can consider joining the entertainment circle.

Coolest Girl in Town Chapter 518

Chapter 518 Transfer the Risk

As soon as Elise returned to her room, she opened the box that Celina gave her.

What Gabriel had said was true—other than a gown, there was a pair of high heels and some jewelry. It was apparent that Celina's intention was to give her a hand when she was in need.

Elise carefully checked each and every corner of all the items and even examined the box, yet she couldn't find any problem with them.

In the end, when she tried the gown, it looked surprisingly good on her as it accentuated her perfect figure.

Could it be that Celina has changed? After being thrown into an unfavorable situation at the mall, Celina has learnt that she won't be able to gain anything from going against me, so she has changed her strategy and now wants to seek peace instead?

Elise peered at her reflection in the mirror. She seemed elegant with a tinge of sexiness, looking gentle yet capable. The clothing perfectly accentuated her beauty as a woman.

She had to admit that this was an impeccable piece of gown that would make the person who wore the attire the center of attention, no matter where she was.

However, is Celina really so generous?

Elise soon denied that possibility when she thought of the fact that nobody would be happy when someone else snatched her limelight when she was the main focus of the event. Therefore, without a doubt, there had to be a lurking danger that she had no knowledge of at the moment.

After a few seconds of contemplation in a daze, something came to her in a flash of inspiration. She snapped her finger and decided, "I know what to do. Since I can't resolve the trouble, I'll only have to transfer the risk!"

The next day, at the Anderson Residence, Faye dragged her drained body home. As soon as she stepped into the house, she plopped on the couch and massaged her neck.

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During the ceremony that took place the day before yesterday, the slides had exposed a lot of ugly news, which resulted in Jackson detaining her and refusing to release her. He had managed to keep her in detention for 48 hours before she was freed.

Lying on the couch while staring at the ceiling, she recalled how close Jackson and Elise were with each other. That realization made her expression cold.

Faye now remembered that she had once seen the police in Elise's yard before this, which proved that Elise worked together with them.

At that realization, she abruptly sat up as her expression became stern and wary. If that's the case, the slides must be of Elise's doing. It must be her! That b*tch is finally starting to fight back to steal the family fortune from me. I won't allow Elise's plan to succeed. The fact that the Anderson Family is still standing strong here is all because of my effort. How could she snatch everything from me now that she has returned? That's outrageous!

"Miss Faye? Miss Faye?"

"What do you want?!"

The maid, who had called Faye from one side, received a scolding that weakened her feet. She bowed her head and handed the gift box to Faye with trembling hands and mumbled, "The butler from the Saunders Family sent this over yesterday. He said that Miss Celina has personally picked this for you so that you could wear it at tonight's banquet."

“Banquet? What banquet?” Faye was puzzled.

“It’s Miss Celina’s birthday banquet,” the maid respectfully answered.

“Okay, I understand. Place it down and you may leave,” Faye calmly responded.

As a matter of fact, Celina’s birthday had slipped her mind. With the Anderson Family’s broad network, she would have burned countless brain cells if she were to remember each and everyone’s birthday.

When the maid had left, she opened the gift box and her eyes brightened at the sight.

At first look, one could tell from the top-notch quality that it had been made by professionals. She touched the fabric as she was unable to resist the temptation. Sure enough, the smooth and soft texture of the garment suggested that it was definitely of the finest quality.

I never knew that Celina’s quite a generous person although she’s stupid. I bet that everyone won’t be able to take their eyes off me when I show up in such a flawless gown. At least the time and effort I spent on giving Celina advice all this time is not in vain; she finally did something useful.

As Elise had acquired the luxurious store in Athesea, Faye had no choice but to wear an outdated gown and embarrass herself at the ceremony the day before yesterday. This time, Faye could finally redeem herself! Just you wait, Elise. This time, I’ll let everyone see for themselves who among us is the real lady of the family!

...

That night, the event held at the triple A-class International Center was a minor gathering that consisted of enthusiasts of a niche interest. The prerequisite condition to attend the event was that the participants had to be elites of their respective industries. Hence, those who were lacking in status among the upper-class society or were not one of the world-class elites didn’t meet the qualifications to be invited.

Outside the hall, a red carpet had stretched from the entrance to the curb with scrambling reporters standing at both sides.

The moment Kenneth alighted from the car, the cameras instantly lost control with its flashes and blinded him from all directions.

The host grinned and spoke in a perfect tone, "We can see that the person who is heading in our direction is the president of Smith Co., Mr. Kenneth Bailey! Mr. Bailey has attended the event alone all these years. Will he give us a surprise this year?"

Upon hearing that, the young ladies of the wealthy families couldn't help but slow down their pace at the front to intentionally delay their entrances.

They thought that since he had been showing up without a date all these years, there shouldn't be any surprises this year. All of them hoped that they could be lucky enough to walk shoulder-to-shoulder with Kenneth into the hall. They would die without regrets if that were to happen.

Nonetheless, Kenneth didn't catch up to them like how they had expected. After fastening the last button on his shirt, he turned on his heel and chivalrously extended his hand to invite the other person out of the car.

All the ladies were astonished. Don't tell me that Kenneth really came with a female date this time?

"No, that can't happen! Maybe he brought his mother with him!" One of them tried to lie to herself in exasperation.

However, as soon as she said that, a fair, slender hand appeared from the car before Kenneth. The hand naturally rested on his palm, and under his lead, the owner of that hand placed a foot on the ground. Her long, fair legs also had a complexion that was as smooth as silk.

It was a young lady, which obviously indicated that she wasn't Kenneth's mother.

Everyone at the scene gasped and stared at them. Finally, a gorgeous young lady, who seemed as though she had just walked out of a fairytale, slowly appeared in front of everyone's eyes.

She wore an off-shoulder gown with her hair naturally cascading down her shoulders. When she slowly surveyed the crowd, she reminded them of a poetic picture.

Her face was especially exquisite. She had a sharp nose bridge as well as boundless eyes that seemed to contain the universe, and even her lips resembled a piece of artwork, whereby every arc and curvature were flawless. When she surveyed the surroundings, her gaze revealed great confidence and composure, as though she was born a princess who was destined to receive her subjects' admiration.

Her looks were so stunning to the point that it made everyone who beheld her beauty learn about the beauty of nature; their very definition of the term 'beauty' itself had been redefined. At the same time, she appalled them with the realization of how awful their lives would be if they could no longer partake in such a stunning scene again in the future.

At that moment, even the photographers forgot to press the shutter. They raised their heads from behind the camera and stared unblinkingly in the direction of the lady.

The longer they stared at her, the more they were able to understand why the ancient Lords were able to do something as irrational as waging wars for the sake of the beauties.

Meanwhile, Elise, in fact, wasn't accustomed to the excessive attention from the crowd and it even depressed her.

However, Kenneth complacently commented by her side, "I'm starting to regret the decision of inviting you to be my female date."

"There's no use crying over spilt milk now." She suddenly grabbed his arm. "Since I'm here now, you have to keep your promise."

Cooler Girl in Town Chapter 519

Chapter 519 A Different Purpose

Kenneth slightly pursed his lips. Then, he reached out to position her hand in place before taking it into his as they headed inside.

Both of them walking together was quite a sight to behold—one looked mature and stable while the other was ethereal-looking.

The host was considered to be quite experienced and used to handling different situations, so he quickly came to his senses. However, he couldn't quite contain the surprise and excitement that was clearly evident in his voice. "This is totally unexpected! Mr. Bailey has actually arrived with a date for this event. Mr. Bailey, please sign here."

At this moment, Kenneth naturally strolled forward and signed his name on the wall before heading inside with Elise.

The duo's sudden appearance had caused quite a commotion inside.

"Who's the person next to Kenneth? Is there someone so beautiful amongst the members here?"

"Kenneth's date would definitely not be just an ordinary person. Who cares about her identity?! If you get the chance, just go forward and talk to them! That's more important."

However, most of the comments from the crowd seemed to be quite bitter.

"Oh. That person there. Haven't you guys heard of her? She's the second daughter of the Anderson Family from Athesea. She didn't grow up in that household and was instead raised on a farm with cattle. It's just that her looks are acceptable, but there's no hiding the stench of cow dung and sheep poop on her."

"Is that for real?! So, she's just an uneducated girl. Tsk. Tsk. I don't even know what the lower-class people eat as their main meal. I shudder at the thought of it. God bless us. I hope she doesn't come close to within ten meters of me later on."

"Don't panic. Have you forgotten the rules of our gathering? After attendance has been taken, firstly, she would have to play a series of chess matches. Once the marks are tallied, the ones who come out of the match as the bottom three will have to leave. She's just an uneducated girl, so do you guys think that she would be familiar with the ways of chess?"

“That’s right. Hahaha! That means it’s quite likely that she’ll have to leave the place in an embarrassing manner.”

Then, a bunch of mean people gathered around and waited to see Elise being kicked out of the room.

In fact, their words coincidentally were heard by Kenneth.

There was a fierce glint in his dark eyes as he glanced directly in the direction of those people. His domineering aura resulted in the previously happily talking crowd falling silent almost instantly.

Elise did not have a strong family background and neither did she have any actual skills, so they were not afraid of offending her with their words. However, they didn’t dare to offend Kenneth.

At that point, Kenneth turned in the other direction with a cold, indifferent expression as he continued to steer Elise inside.

Despite that, Elise had in fact heard those nasty words and turned to him curiously, “Who are those people attending the gathering?”

“They’re the elites from all over the world and come from all sorts of industries including physics and jewelry design. I’ll introduce you to them later on. It’s good to know more people because you could find the contact useful in the future. However, the reason for me bringing you here today isn’t actually to expand your contacts but to get to know Steven Randall.”

“Steven Randall? Who is he?”

“He’s the president of Randall International and he’s also the first man in the country to own and have an odd-colored jade for display. You’ve discovered two pieces of blood jade in succession, but you’ve only sold one of them. I reckon you have a plan for the other one, so he should be able to help you with it.”

At that moment, Elise was significantly shocked as she paused in her tracks.

So, the only reason he’s here for this gathering today is just to help me solve my problem?! Elise was quite torn and she didn’t quite know how to face Kenneth.

After quite some time, she finally managed to come up with a few awkward words through gritted teeth. "Thanks... I really don't know what else I can say, so I can only say thanks. I hope that I'll have the chance to help you in the future."

She disliked the feeling of being indebted to someone because it was quite unpleasant.

Meanwhile, Kenneth was tickled by her action. "I can't believe my eyes! Miss Anderson is shy?! Well, I am of the opinion that to be able to smoothly get along in life, one would need to train to be brash and less shy. That's why I think that perhaps we'll only be able to get along well once we are at the point where you no longer feel burdened and have to keep coming up with ways to repay my favor equally for all that I've done for you."

"I hope so."

Meanwhile, Elise shrugged and subsequently changed the topic. "Shouldn't the gathering be merry and jovial? Why is there a chess match? Furthermore, the losers are eliminated too."

"This gathering was initially organized by an old man named Mr. Warren Reynolds. He's the chess pioneer in Cittadel and was the one who set this rule during the first gathering. It then became a tradition up till today," he explained.

As the two of them continued their conversation, Clement, who had arrived fashionably late, walked toward them and glanced at Kenneth. Then, he respectfully greeted Elise, "Miss Sinclair, I'm sorry for being late."

"It's fine with me as long as you turn up." Elise lifted her head and directed a half-smile at Kenneth. "Your secretary is Melody Smith while you have a staff member called Johnny Smith. Coincidentally, I have just hired an assistant with the name of Clement Smith. Mr. Bailey, do you find him familiar?"

At this moment, he smiled with a calm expression. She's purposely probing. What a brat. I'm busy helping her solve her problem and yet she's trying to uncover my identity. She's such a naughty girl.

"I've spoken with Old Mr. Reynolds and told him that you're with me, so you don't need to go through those series of chess matches." He then abruptly changed the topic.

"Then, you might need to give him a ring and inform him that I'm interested in chess, so I would like to join the match. I'll try to see how far I can get," Elise responded with a deep look in her eyes.

"Do you play chess?" Kenneth lifted his brows questioningly.

"Well, how hard can it be? It's just an intellectual game of black and white pieces on a board." She had gently raised both hands as she casually commented.

"Yeah. What else do you know?" he asked.

"Isn't this enough?" Elise gravely squinted her eyes and asked, "Are you going to go and talk to Old Mr. Reynolds? If you aren't, I'll go and enroll myself instead."

Meanwhile, Kenneth had a resigned expression as he looked at her. He had only considered it for a moment before finally relenting, "Okay. If you're actually interested in it, there's no harm in giving it a go. I'll be here with you anyway, so no one will dare to kick you out. Just stay right here and don't wander off."

"Okay." She beamed widely at him. As soon as he saw that, he shuddered slightly.

He thought that he had already kept his emotions in check quite well, but he was totally a gone case when facing Elise.

Furthermore, he knew that it would be unwise for him to continue staring at her, so he forced himself to shift his gaze to the other direction as he left in a hurry.

Meanwhile, Elise looked at his sprightly figure and she suddenly revealed a smug smile of having successfully pulled a prank.

Although Kenneth was a lovely man, she had a different purpose for attending tonight's gathering—she was intent on humiliating him. She wanted to humiliate him as badly as she could so that he would finally have had enough of her. At that point, surely he wouldn't be fixated upon marrying someone who brought about such utter humiliation to him.

She wrapped her arms around herself. Then, she swiftly and rhythmically tapped with her long, slender fingers on the side of her arms as she contemplated how to lose so badly in the chess match later to the point where everyone would be shocked to the core.

Elise didn't even realize the charm that she exuded since she had remained lost in her thoughts. Many men dropped by to flirt with her one after the other and they left her their business cards before walking off. In no time, she was left holding a pile of name cards.

Suddenly, one of the cards fell to the ground and she instinctively reached out to pick it up. At that point, she suddenly came to her senses and figured out the situation she had encountered earlier. This is too scary! Why is it that all of these elites are still single? Is that why Kenneth is so fixated on me? It must be because he wants to end his bachelor's life! That's quite possible!

Just as Elise was lost in her thoughts, three to four women in heavy makeup came toward her with evil looks.

The person leading them was a young woman in a white, tulle dress and she was the one who also greeted Elise first, "Miss Anderson, we meet again. Do you remember me?"

Cooler Girl in Town Chapter 520

Chapter 520 Miss Bad Breath

Elise tried to recall in her mind but she didn't remember meeting this person before.

"I'm sorry, but there were just way too many people who attended the ancestral recognition ceremony. I don't have a good memory either, so I can't quite recall things. May I know your name?"

Since she had addressed Elise as Miss Anderson, they must have met each other at the Anderson Residence.

The girl heard her words and revealed a deep smile. Then, she flicked her long hair, which had fallen to the front of her chest, to the back while revealing the precious jewelry she wore on her hands and her neck.

“My name is Sophie Bowen. I’m Alexander’s cousin and we’ve met a few times before at the Griffith Residence.” She placed a hand on her chest with a smug expression and seemed to be intentionally trying to show off the jade ring on her hand.

Then, Elise nodded with a thoughtful look. Cousin? She must be some random distant relative then. Looks like she’s here to find fault with me.

“Your ring looks beautiful.” She smiled subtly before complimenting the girl.

As soon as she finished her sentence, she heard Sophie mentioning in an ambiguous tone, “It’s important for one to know their position. Some people have already known that they have an ill-fated life, yet they refused to stay in the countryside. Well, they still insisted on coming out and causing trouble for others. The Griffith Family had such a legendary background, but she managed to cause the downfall of both the family and its members. Look at her now; she has subsequently sunk her claws into Kenneth Bailey and seduced him with her wily moves. In actual fact, she’s just a joke in the eyes of others.”

The smile on Elise’s face gradually disappeared before it was replaced by a cold glint that flashed across her eyes. “Miss Sophie, you were merely an insignificant being previously, but today, I reckon you’ll leave a long-lasting impression on me forever because of the overpowering stench originating from your foul words, Miss Bad Breath.”

Meanwhile, Sophie was angered to the point where her face flushed red. “Shut up! Who are you calling foul?! I don’t even have bad breath!”

At the same time, her companions spoke up for her too.

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“It’s hard for these country bumpkins to learn manners. Look at how she easily comes up with such hurtful words.”

“That’s right. This is too much! The chess match is about to start. If you don’t wish to be utterly humiliated, you should quickly get lost!”

Then, Sophie saw her girl squad banding together to help her deal with Elise, which resulted in the dark look in her eyes gradually dissipating. I hope that she gets eliminated from the chess match! It doesn't mean a thing even if Kenneth Bailey has chosen her!

Anyone who wanted to join the gathering had to participate in the chess match and it was a rule that had been passed on since the start of this gathering. Even if she was Kenneth's woman, there was no special exemption for her either. If she lost, she would regardlessly be kicked out of the gathering.

I'll wait and see how she would still have the nerve to continue showing off in our circle after today's embarrassing situation!

Sophie thought of this and she couldn't help smirking. However, she feigned an act of standing up for Elise. "Stop your speculation. She didn't ask to be brought up in the countryside for such a long time. Whoever that is assigned to play against her in the match later better not take it too seriously. After all, she's my cousin's fiancée, so we have to consider his image too."

Her companions then laughed out loud. "Sophie, you're putting us in a tight spot with this request. Even if we give her some leeway, she has to know the basic step of how to deflect us. Besides, the match will be broadcasted live on the Internet so to the people watching, it may seem like we're intentionally insulting her by letting her win."

At that point, Elise lifted her brow and sneered. Insult to me?! Them?! Hah! They must be daydreaming! Even if they worked together and came at me all at once, they would be no match for me at all!

She was indeed here to make a fool of herself but sometimes, once one had made up his or her mind to do something but ended up being defined otherwise by others, it would be likely that the person would no longer be willing to do it. This could be described by the example of one intending to do the dishes but being pestered to do so by her partner; obviously, she would be adamant not to do the dishes for that day.

To Elise, she was fine with being taken for a fool. However, now that they intended to make a fool out of her, the foolish person in front of them was about to lose her temper.

As such, she changed her mind.

She lifted her hand to flick her fringe, which had fallen in front of her, to the back as she smiled with a meaningful look in her eyes. "Since you guys are great at chess, then you must give me a chance to play with you later."

As soon as she finished her sentence, Kenneth returned for her as well. He saw from afar that she had been stopped by a group of people, so he purposely fastened his footsteps.

He moved forward by a step and stood protectively in front of Elise. As he did so, he faced the group of ladies and kept Elise apart from them while his pair of evil-looking dark eyes coldly scrutinized Sophie and her gang.

Each of them suddenly felt a shiver running down their spine and they hastily shifted their gaze while silently gulping as they stood by the side.

It was Sophie who calmed down first and she took advantage of her identity as Alexander's cousin to initiate the conversation with Kenneth. "Hi, Mr. Bailey. I'm Sophie. My cousin, Alexander Griffith, used to be a member of this organization, so I'm not sure whether you guys might have known—"

Before Sophie could even finish her sentence, Kenneth suddenly turned his face in the other direction and spoke in a soft and gentle voice to Elise, "Are they finding fault with you?"

Sophie's hand had remained suspended in mid-air awkwardly as she looked at his tentative behavior around Elise. Now that she was angered, she retracted her hand and clenched both hands into a fist as her fingernails were practically embedded deep in her flesh.

In the past, she had been infatuated with Alexander for many years, but he was too outstanding for her to summon the courage to confess her love to him. Afterward, he had introduced Elise to the entire family, so Sophie could only lament her unfortunate self.

However, she maintained her intense displeasure toward Elise and couldn't quite comprehend how an uncultured girl from the countryside could be a match for her.

After she had heard of how Alexander had broken off with the Griffiths for Elise, Sophie was tempted to rush to the Griffith Residence and confess her feelings, but she never mustered up the courage to do so in the end.

She had exercised a lot of effort to enter this organization in an attempt to be closer to Alexander. Meanwhile, she had encountered Kenneth here and he triggered the flames of passion within her instead.

However, even Kenneth was now being snatched by Elise. Sophie thought, Why does Elise always go after someone else's favorite?!

At this moment, the hatred within Sophie consumed her and caused her eyes to bulge with horror. She tightly clenched her teeth and the sound of her teeth grinding each other was audible.

"No, we're not monkeys that haven't gone through evolution! The refined wouldn't be finding fault with anyone on such an occasion. We were just talking about chess."

Elise said this with a matter-of-fact look directed toward Sophie and her companions. Elise didn't even realize that Kenneth was merely less than a fist bump away from her as he spoke.

"That's good to know." He nodded slightly and trusted her words without any hesitation. Then, he changed the topic. "I have a friend waiting over there, so let's head over."

She nodded and walked off with him.

As soon as the two of them walked off, Sophie and her girl squad immediately burst into a commotion.

"What?! Is Mr. Bailey actually serious about that uncultured girl?! Is being good-looking sufficient to cover every other flaw?! He should be afraid of catching some venereal disease."

"Well, honestly, she is quite pretty."

"If I could gain such beautiful looks after a jaunt in the countryside, I would definitely be the first to head there! By then, Kenneth will belong to me—"

"Forget about it! There's no way of becoming beautiful after staying in the countryside, but you'll definitely come back riddled with all sorts of bacterial infections and diseases. Your whole body will be full of skin lesions!" Sophie was angered by their words and she suddenly lashed out at them.

Her girl squad was suddenly stunned into silence.

This was the first time that they had ever seen Sophie lose her top like this. Their usual impression of her was that she was a gentle and soft-spoken girl.

Nonetheless, they were good friends after all, so they exchanged looks with each other and quickly seemed to catch on to the fact that Sophie was jealous!