

Reborn Through Fire By Kazuya Higan

Chapter 1491-1500

Chapter 1491

It had been a moment before Gilbert finally released her, gasping for air, his eyes as black as midnight.

Kisa regained her composure and gave him a quizzical look. "What's up with you?" she asked.

Instead of answering, he pulled her in for a tight hug, seeming oddly vulnerable. He buried his head in her neck and murmured, "I just want to be with you, like really be together."

Kisa's heart ached with emotion. She wrapped her arms around him and spoke with conviction, "We will be."

'Just as soon as David's drama is over with. No more drama, no more issues.'

The next day, as they were leaving the Webb residence, Peter was a no-show. Mr. Webb Sr. and Thomas saw them off at the airport. Mr. Webb Sr. tried to convince Gilbert to stay longer, saying, "You guys came all this way. Why not stay a little longer?"

"Yeah, there is a ton of amazing sceneries and views in Oceanville I haven't shown Mrs. Kooper yet," Thomas said.

Gilbert gave Thomas a pointed look, then told Mr. Webb Sr., 'Nah, some work stuff just came up out of nowhere. I've got to get back ASAP.'

"Alright then. Come back and visit us soon," Mr. Webb Sr. said.

Kisa gazed intently at Thomas before joining Gilbert in walking toward the boarding gate.

As they passed through security, Gilbert turned to her and asked, "Do you really think Thomas is your brother?"

She nodded. "He's got the same birthmark and bracelet as my mom. It has to be him." Gilbert's brow furrowed with suspicion, but he kept his doubts to himself.

They hopped off the morning flight and arrived back at the Kooper residence in the afternoon.

The first ones to pop out were the trio of children, with Madalyn and George shuffling out right after. Madalyn was looking a bit better and her eyes seemed to soften when she saw Kisa.

She glanced at Kisa's bump and commanded, "Quit stalling outside. Let's go inside and grub."

With that, she strolled into the house with George's help.

Ada and Andrew flanked Gilbert while Blake locked onto Kisa's hand.

He beamed at her and spilled, "Ma'am, Andrew, Ada, and I have been gassing up Great-grandma about you, and she hasn't laid into you since."

Kisa patted his head, appreciating the love. "You're a good little guy," she praised.

Blake's smile broadened, and he gave her hand a squeeze. "Ma'am, if I had a mom, it would have to be you," he declared.

Kisa was taken aback by his statement, but she understood he was just a kid, so she let it slide.

With three extra little kids in the mix, the dinner vibe was even more festive and warm. Even George could not help but chuckle and remark that the Kooper family had not had a get-together like this in ages.

Madalyn glanced at the calendar on the wall and announced, "Christmas is coming up in a couple weeks, and this year, we are staying put and celebrating at home."

Kisa's heart swelled with warmth. Last year, she had spent Christmas Eve with Gilbert and the three children, but at that time, so much had still been uncertain and unresolved. That was why it was not as memorable as it could have been.

This year was different, though.

David and Carolyn's nuptials were only days away, and that was when the truth about David's intentions would come out. Everything would finally come to a close, and they could finally enjoy a good year together as a family.

Gilbert kept Madalyn in the dark about the crisis at GK, so he contacted Davian and slipped away to deal with it right after dinner.

Kisa could not sit still at home. She goofed around with the children for a bit, then went off to Adrien's club while it was still bright outside.

Chapter 1492

As Christmas drew closer, Adrien's club was buzzing more than ever. Kisa strutted straight to the VIP section. She had called Adrien before coming, so he was waiting for her in the lobby.

Besides Adrien, Carolyn and her daughter were also there, and they seemed to be practically glued to him. Everytime Kisa came around, they were all over him like white on rice. Carolyn was beaming with excitement, and Sharon was acting more snobbish than ever.

As soon as she spotted Kisa, she started sniping at her. "Oh, I heard GK is about to bite the dust. You here to beg my dad for a lifeline?"

Kisa just chuckled and shot her a glance. "Did you fall and hit your head? Your daddy's behind bars."

"You!" Sharon glared at her, then wrapped her arms around Adrien's, trying to be cute.

"Daddy, look at her. She's so rude."

Adrien patted her hand and reassured her with a chuckle. "Relax, honey. I will deal with her later. You and your mom go have some fun. I need to talk to Kisa about some important business."

"No way. What could you possibly have to discuss with her?"

Carolyn's eyes flickered, and she grabbed Sharon's arm. "Come on. Let's go. Don't interrupt your dad's business."

They found a quiet corner, and Carolyn whispered to Sharon, "I know you hate that bimbo, but we need to focus on the big picture. Do you know why GK is about to go belly up?"

Sharon shook her head, perplexed. "Why?"

"Because that tramp has been playing dirty. Whether your dad can take over GK depends on her. So just grit your teeth for now. Once your dad takes over, you can make her life a living hell."

“Oh...” Sharon suddenly got it, and her eyes lit up with a mischievous gleam. Kisa looked at Adrien and felt more and more convinced that he was a phony from start to finish. She did not spill the beans about his true identity, as she knew his real motives had not been revealed yet.

“So, did you have a good time in Oceanville?” Adrien asked, handing Kisa a drink. She made an excuse that she had just gotten back and was not feeling too well, so she opted for juice instead of wine.

She nodded and grinned. “Oceanville’s got some great sights. I also stopped by to see Mrs. Tanner Sr. She is still alive and kicking, but I think she’s feeling a bit lonely. After you wrap up your business here, you should go pay her a visit.”

Adrien’s smile froze for a second before he responded. ‘I’ll go see her after Carolyn and I tie the knot.”

When mentioning the wedding, Kisa acted surprised and said, “Wow, I never thought you and Aunt Carolyn were that serious. Looks like you are really head over heels for her.”

Adrien chuckled, but Kisa could not shake the feeling that his smile had a hint of mockery and disdain.

After a beat, he said with a smirk, “Your father’s going to be at Carolyn and my wedding, by the way.”

Kisa’s eyes widened in disbelief. “He is... he is not...”

“I took care of his little jail situation. He’ll be out in a few days. He is your biological father, after all. You don’t want him to spend the rest of his life behind bars, do you?”

Adrien said.

Kisa clenched her fists, forcing a smile. “How thoughtful of you to consider my feelings.”

“It’s not just about you. I want him there to witness my big day with Carolyn. If Adrien swirled his drink and smirked. “Plus, how could he miss his exwife’s wedding?”

Kisa stared at him for a few seconds before finally saying, “Looks like GK is in hot water. Gilbert went straight to the company as soon as he got back.”

“Yup,” Adrien sighed. “Looks like he’s about to lose everything. You happy now?”

Kisa laughed. “Happy? Oh, you bet I am. Been waiting for that day for a while now. It’s just...”

Chapter 1493

Kisa prodded, “Isn’t that a little too easy for him? You said you wanted to deliver a fatal blow. I want to know what it is.”

Adrien gave her a sharp glance. He was a master manipulator, and his calculating eyes hinted at a deeper game.

He chuckled. “I can’t spill the beans just yet. Where is the fun in that? But hey, you won’t have to wait much longer.”

Kisa felt let down.

She stood by the roadside for a while, then headed over to Mia’s place. With Christmas approaching, the streets were packed with shoppers. But when she arrived at Mia’s apartment, the silence and dim lighting felt almost suffocating.

Mia was alone, drinking in the living room. As soon as she saw Kisa, she broke into a sly smile.

“Long time no see,” Mia drawled as she pulled Kisa onto the couch. She offered her a drink with a smirk, “Come on, have a drink with me.”

Kisa declined. “No thanks. I have to drive later.”

“What’s there to worry about? Just call Gilbert to come pick you up. Or I could get someone to drop you off at home,” Mia said.

But Kisa still shook her head. “It’s cold out. Just some hot water for me.”

Mia made a face. “How boring.”

Kisa smiled, looked upstairs and asked, “Is he still out cold?”

Mia paused her drinking and laughed low. “Yup, still out like a light.”

“Mia,” Kisa suddenly looked at her, “Let’s spend Christmas Eve together this year. We missed out last time, and I regretted it. And Blake... let’s all spend Christmas Eve together.”

Mia’s grip on her glass tightened momentarily before she lowered her eyes and gave a self-deprecating laugh.

“No thanks. I’m used to being by myself.”

Kisa wanted to say more, but Mia sneered, “I thought you were here to ask about GK, but it looks like you don’t give a damn about Gilbert.”

“I trust that you and Jensen have everything under control with GK’s shares and assets. I feel at ease, and I’m grateful for your help this time around,” Kisa replied.

Mia shook her head and smirked. “Don’t go thinking everyone is a saint. What if I don’t give it back to Gilbert?”

Kisa sighed and lowered her eyes. “If that happens, then it just means I misread you.”

Mia’s smile faltered, and she said nothing more. Kisa felt like she had gained some insight but did not want to dwell on it for too long.

Winter in Calthon was a brutal affair, colder even than Oceanville, and the snow had started to fall before Kisa even made it halfway home. By the time she pulled up to the Kooper residence, a thick layer of white had already blanketed the ground.

Kisa stepped out of her car, but the biting wind hit her like a punch to the gut. She hugged her coat tight and rushed toward the house. Despite it being only a little after 7 pm, the Kooper residence was dead quiet.

When Kisa walked into the living room, she found three children huddled together, their eyes red and puffy. No adults in sight.

“What is wrong?” Kisa asked, her voice laced with concern.

“Great-grandma is sick,” Ada replied, her voice quivering.

Kisa’s heart sank. She was about to head upstairs when Andrew suddenly grabbed her arm. “Ma’am, why did you do it? Why did you hurt my dad?”

Kisa’s brow furrowed. “What are you talking about?”

“That mean aunt came over and told Great-grandma that you and some outsiders are causing my dad’s company to go under. Great-grandma got so mad she fell ill. Why did you hurt my dad, Ma’am?” Ada cried, her voice shaking with emotion.

The words hit Kisa like a sucker punch. It was the first time the children had ever looked at her with such hatred, and she felt her heart break

Chapter 1494

Adult affairs could be a real head-scratcher, and little ones just could not wrap their minds around it. Kisa did not utter a word. She just wanted to dash up and check on

Madalyn. But those rug rats would not budge. In their eyes, she was public enemy number one. She gritted her teeth against the bitterness in her heart, gazing at the children as her vision started to blur. Just then, Gilbert made his way downstairs, with Kelvin tailing him. His face was still pale, but his furrowed brow spoke volumes about his frustration and exhaustion. Kisa took a deep breath and hustled over. "How's your grandma doing?" Gilbert said not a word. Kelvin answered in a flat tone, "Not great, especially considering her age."

"I'll go check on her," Kisa said, ready to charge upstairs, but Gilbert grabbed her arm. He glared at her with cold eyes. "Don't go up there and stir things up again." Kisa's heart skipped a beat, but she kept her trap shut. Gilbert let her go and added with little emotion, "You won't be staying here tonight." "Fine." Kisa choked up, turned around, and hightailed it out. Blake tried to follow her out. "Ma'am, I'll come with you." Kisa shook her head, caressed his cheek, and mustered a weak smile. "Stay here with Andrew and Ada. I will be back in a few days."

"Ma'am..."

"Be a good boy. Listen to me." She looked at Andrew and Ada before making her exit. The two children could not help but tear up as they watched her go, but their anger kept them rooted in place. Ada grabbed Gilbert's hand and wailed. "Daddy, why did Ma'am want to hurt you?" Watching that silhouette vanish into the night, Gilbert finally tore his gaze away. He looked at Ada, his expression grave, and said, "Ma'am didn't do anything to hurt me, sweetheart."

"But that mean lady said-"

"She was lying to you," Gilbert said.

Andrew quickly wiped away his tears and questioned Gilbert, "Then why did you kick Ma'am out?"

"Because your great-grandma didn't want to see her."

Andrew clenched his lips and fell silent. After a moment, he spoke with sadness, "We messed up by blaming Ma'am. I want to say sorry."

"Next time. I'll take you to apologize to Ma'am." Gilbert walked outside and gazed at the starry sky.

Kelvin slapped Gilbert's shoulder and clucked his tongue. "She's the reason you're in this situation, yet you're still speaking kindly of her in front of the kids."

"She claimed she was just pretending to work with Adrien and Risen Enterprise. Once she accomplishes her mission, she will return everything to me."

"Heh, you believe that? She still thinks you are the fire-starter from years ago. She is trying to get even and leave you with zilch."

"Zilch?" Gilbert scoffed. "I only had GK to begin with. What is there to be afraid of?" Kelvin glanced at him and shook his head. "A guy who is trapped in love is totally hopeless."

As a drink flew straight at her face, Sharon stumbled to her feet, looking like a hot mess. She screamed at the woman in front of her, "You've got to be out of your damn mind! You got a death wish, huh?"

Carolyn quickly grabbed Sharon, wiped the booze from her face, and cursed out Kisa. Adrien watched the drama unfold for a moment before casually asking, "What's going on here?"

Kisa hurried over to Adrien, looking wronged and sad. "I've been buttering up Gilbert this whole time, trying to gain his trust, and now this idiot has messed everything up."

"You..." Sharon fumed, but Carolyn held her back.

Adrien chuckled and turned to Kisa. "What's going on?"

Reborn Through Fire By Kazuya Higan Chapter 1495

Chapter 1495

"She went to the Kooper residence today and spilled her guts to Madalyn, claiming that I joined forces with outsiders to drive GK into bankruptcy. Mrs. Kooper Sr. was so ticked off that she ended up collapsing from the stress."

Adrien's face darkened as he listened to Kisa's story, but he remained silent.

Kisa continued. "And because of that, Gilbert went ballistic and kicked me out of the Kooper residence. Now I can't even get close to GK's secret stash if I want to. So Godfather, if you end up not making a dime off the Kooper family, don't blame me. Blame that knucklehead."

Kisa pointed straight at Sharon, intentionally making sure Carolyn heard her words. Carolyn dragged Sharon to the couch, fuming. "Didn't I tell you to keep your cool? How can you be so clueless and mess everything up like this? You're driving me nuts!"

"I-I didn't know it would come to this. I—"

"Enough. Apologize to Kisa." Carolyn interrupted her, pushing Sharon toward Kisa, who stood there, arms crossed, and watched with indifference as the mother-daughter duo approached her.

"I'm sorry, Kisa. She doesn't know any better. Don't be mad at her. Just focus on getting back with Gilbert," Carolyn said, pinching Sharon to make her apologize, and Sharon begrudgingly muttered an apology to Kisa.

Kisa snickered. Being dumb is one thing. Being dumb and doing dumb things is another."

"You..." Sharon started to speak, but Carolyn quickly pulled her away, smiling apologetically at Kisa and Adrien.

"We'll leave you to it. Sorry for the interruption," she said.

As Carolyn and her daughter left, Adrien looked at Kisa. With a seemingly casual tone, he asked, "Mrs. Kooper Sr. must be quite old by now, right? Her illness isn't lifethreatening, is it?"

Kisa saw a hint of concern in his eyes.

'Despite everything, he still cares about Mrs. Kooper Sr. and the Kooper family. But why would he want to harm Gilbert if he has a sense of family toward them? What are his true intentions?'

Pushing aside her doubts, Kisa replied, "Kelvin checked on her and said the situation isn't looking good. I don't know the specifics since Gilbert won't allow me to visit her."

Adrien looked at his drink without saying a word.

Kisa's eyes turned sad as she said, "Godfather, Gilbert has kicked me out. Can I stay with you for a few days until I find a suitable place to live?"

"Of course," Adrien said kindly, pulling her to sit beside him. "You're like my own daughter. You can stay with me as long as you need."

"Thank you, Godfather," Kisa smiled, but her mind was racing.

'If I stay with Adrien under the same roof, will I be able to uncover his secrets?' she wondered. "Speaking of which, after what Sharon has done, I don't think I can go back to Gilbert. So how can we get revenge on him? Even if GK really goes bankrupt, it doesn't seem like a significant blow to him."

"Don't worry, I have my own plans." Adrien smiled, his narrowed eyes sparkling with a hint of cunning.

Kisa felt a shiver run down her spine. Adrien's private mansion was quiet, with only two servants inside. No one else was there.

Kisa was curious and asked, "Doesn't Carolyn and her daughter live with you?"

"I arranged for them to stay elsewhere. We're getting married soon, and I heard it is not auspicious for couples to live together before the wedding," Adrien replied.

Kisa nodded and did not say anything else.

Adrien's life was simple, aside from going to the club, he mostly stayed at home. Most of the time, he was just like any ordinary person, without any peculiarities.

That was, until the eve of his and Carolyn's wedding.

Chapter 1496

It was a quiet and chilly night at the mansion, but it did not feel like a celebration was on the horizon. The servants had already left by 8 pm, leaving Adrien alone in the massive living room. He was staring off into space with a strange grin on his face that sent shivers down Kisa's spine.

Kisa put on a fake smile and walked over to him. "Godfather, are you so pumped for tomorrow's wedding that you can't even sleep?"

He turned his head mechanically, and his peculiar gaze swept over her. After a moment, he smirked meaningfully. "Oh, yeah. I'm so stoked I can't even close my eyes."

"Haha, I never thought even my level-headed godfather would be losing his cool over his own wedding."

Adrien's lips curled up, and his eyes gleamed. "Just thinking about tomorrow gets me all worked up. I've waited for this day for so long, hehehe... hehehe..."

Adrien's chilling laughter echoed through the room.

Kisa could not help but shiver as she watched him.

"Kisa," Adrien suddenly called out.

Startled, Kisa asked, "W-What's up?"

"Make sure you come to my wedding tomorrow. I have a surprise for you."

She felt a sense of unease at the mention of a 'surprise'. She could not help but think of all the sinister schemes surprises often brought.

"And don't forget to bring Gilbert," Adrien added.

Kisa's heart skipped a beat.

'Why do I have to bring Gilbert? Is tomorrow going to be a good day, or a bad one for me and Gilbert?'

She could not tell, and she did not dare to speculate.

Kisa woke up early the next day, eager to attend the wedding with Adrien. But to her surprise, he had already left, leaving only two invitations on the living room table—one for her and one for Gilbert. She held the invitation for a while, wondering if she should invite Gilbert, but eventually decided against it.

'If this wedding is a trap, I don't want Gilbert to get caught up in it,' she thought.

The wedding was held at Calthon's biggest hotel, and when Kisa arrived, she was blown away by the lavish setting. This was the grandest wedding she had ever seen, and if it was not a trap, the bride would be the happiest woman in the world.

But Kisa could not shake off the feeling that something was off.

The event was packed with businessmen and reporters, and Kisa realized Adrien had connections that she never knew existed. It was like the who's who of Calthon had shown up. Every high-profile figure and VIP in town was in attendance.

Kisa searched high and low for Adrien, but he was nowhere to be found. Sharon was working the room, pretending to welcome guests but really looking down on everyone.

Kisa decided to hide away in a quiet corner and grab a bite to eat. That was when Carolyn appeared.

Carolyn was decked out in a stunning white gown, looking like she was in her fifties, but her makeup made her appear much younger. She was beaming with pride, gliding around the room like she was floating on air. And then she spotted Kisa.

"Oh, you made it! Where is Adrien?" she asked.

Kisa was taken aback.

'He isn't even at his own wedding? What is he up to? Is he trying to embarrass Carolyn?'

Carolyn had already been publicly humiliated before back in Calthon, and Kisa knew Adrien was too smart to go to such lengths just to embarrass her further. She could not help but wonder what kind of conspiracy was brewing in this wedding, and what the surprise Adrien had planned was.

Chapter 1497

Sharon strutted over, arms crossed, and demanded Kisa answer her mother's question.

"Hey, my mom is talking to you. Answer her already! You've been kicked out by Gilbert, so now you're trying to kiss up to my mom? Give me a break. Gilbert might have loved and protected you before, but now GK is about to go belly up. He's like a stray dog, and he won't have time for you anymore. My parents are the only ones worth impressing now, so you'd better answer my mom's question."

Carolyn sat nearby, admiring her freshly painted nails with an air of superiority.

Kisa sneered at Sharon and retorted, "You've been doing all the talking, so how am I supposed to answer? If you want an answer so badly, then shut your mouth."

"You trash!" Sharon cursed and raised her hand to slap Kisa's face. At Carolyn and Adrien's wedding, it seemed like the mother and daughter duo were fearless and had no regard for anything or anyone.

As Kisa instinctively dodged Sharon's slap, a large hand suddenly grabbed Sharon's wrist and flung her across the room. As Sharon crashed into the bar, glasses and cups shattered all around her, causing a deafening clamor.

Amidst the chaos, the media's camera flashes never stopped.

"Who the hell..." Sharon stood up and began to curse, but when she saw the man in front of her, the words stuck in her throat.

She quickly changed her tune, batting her eyelashes and said in a flirtatious tone, "Oh, it is just Gilbert. I didn't realize you were here."

Kisa watched in surprise as Gilbert arrived. 'Who invited him here? Adrien?' she wondered.

Gilbert did not even look at Kisa. He casually put his hands in his pockets and said, "I think I just heard someone say I'm a dog from a bankrupt family. H

Sharon quickly shook her head. "No, no one would ever say that about you, Gilbert. In my heart, you're always the coolest guy around."

Gilbert sneered and looked at her like she was a joke.

Carolyn was not happy with Gilbert's comment and snorted, "If he's a dog from a bankrupt family, he's a dog from a bankrupt family. No one can change that."

Gilbert shrugged. "You are right. I can't compare to you now, Mrs. Case. Look at this wedding; it's the grandest event ever held at Calthon. You look so pleased with yourself that I almost forgot how you used to suck up to me, Mrs. Case."

Gilbert repeatedly addressed her as Mrs. Case, making Carolyn's face turn green with anger.

Gilbert did not want to waste any more time with her, so he grabbed Kisa and walked away. They found themselves a quiet corridor where he pressed Kisa against the wall but did not say a word.

Kisa looked at him and whispered, "How is your injury? Is it better?" He did not answer her and just locked his eyes on her. She felt like her question was pointless.

'His complexion is much better than the other day, but the tiredness and impatience between his eyebrows are more apparent. Is it because of Madalyn's condition?'

She gritted her teeth and asked even more softly, "Is your grandma doing okay?"

"What makes you think you have the right to ask?" He shot back.

She lowered her eyes and stopped talking. Once upon a time, her feelings for this man were a mixture of love and hate, but now she felt only guilt.

"You told me before that you pretended to cooperate with Adrien to get to the bottom of his true intentions," Gilbert said.

Kisa nodded and looked up at him. "Do you believe me?"

Gilbert did not answer her question and only asked, "When will your plan end? When will we finally be able to put all the resentment and calculation aside and be a real couple?"

Kisa pursed her lips and was about to answer when suddenly, there was a huge commotion coming from the banquet hall.

Chapter 1498

People were screaming, hollering, and cussing up a storm.

Kisa furrowed her brow in confusion. "What's going on?"

Gilbert's eyes darkened. He let go of Kisa and stormed off toward the banquet hall.

She hurriedly trailed behind, trying to reach Adrien on her phone, but he was not picking up. When they arrived at the banquet hall, Kisa glanced up at the wall and her stomach churned.

There was a huge electronic screen hanging on the wall. It had been showing Carolyn's gorgeous artistic and wedding photos, but now it displayed her getting down and dirty with different guys. The video was shot using infrared cameras, and despite the darkness of the room, the scenes and characters were clear as day. The men were all scruffy, grotesque, and downright nasty.

Suddenly, Kisa remembered all the sketchy beggars that had been coming and going from Adrien's club recently.

'Could it be...'

The thought made her shudder in revulsion.

'What kind of vendetta does Adrien have against Carolyn? How could he sink so low as to degrade her like this?'

Flashes of light lit up the screen as people hollered, jeered, and spewed insults. They called Carolyn every name in the book, accusing her of being shameless and lowdown. Carolyn lost it, screaming that it was all a setup and that she was innocent. She even stood in front of the screen, trying to block the view, but it was no use. She looked like a crazy person, with her makeup smeared and people hurling food and drinks at her.

The situation was spiraling out of control when suddenly the scene changed. The focus shifted from Carolyn to Sharon, or more specifically, Sharon six years ago when she was sitting disheveled on top of a man with a flirtatious smile on her face.

Kisa squinted her eyes subconsciously and then suddenly recognized the man as the former warden.

'Could it be that Sharon used her body to seduce the warden and plotted the fire six years ago?'

Sharon's voice, filled with malice, came from the screen. "I've been taking care of you from last night until today. Aren't you going to prepare for me to watch the fire today? Don't worry, I only want Kisa's life. Oh, and of course, I want the baby in her belly too. That way, I will have a chance to become the lady of the Kooper family." Sharon's voice on the screen was no different from her current voice.

The scene caused an uproar of shock, condemnation, and disbelief. Then, the scene changed again, and Carolyn appeared on the screen.

She was instructing two prison guards, "You guys wait outside of Kisa's cell and subtly suggest that Gilbert started the fire. When she's close to death, cut the baby out of her. Remember, I want the baby alive."

The truth behind the fire six years ago was now crystal clear. Kisa looked toward Gilbert, who was staring intently at the screen. His hand was clenched so tightly that it had turned blue. Kisa reached out and grabbed his hand, feeling him shake. She bit her lip and squeezed his hand even harder, as if she never wanted to let go. She had wrongly accused him back then.

As the ugly truth continued to unfold, Carolyn and Sharon were berated and cursed by everyone in the room. Soon, they were soaked in drinks and food, looking like they had just taken a dip in the garbage dump. Someone had called the police, and Carolyn and her daughter were quickly taken into custody. Kisa stared at the screen,

lost in thought.

'Could this be the surprise Adrien had in store for me?'

Chapter 1499

'There's no way things could be so simple, or else why would he invite Gilbert here in the first place?' Kisa thought to herself.

While everyone's focus was on Carolyn and Sharon, the huge electronic screen lit up again, revealing a new set of characters. There was this fiftysomething-year-old lady and a bodyguard-looking guy. Judging by the video quality and their clothing, it was an old video.

Kisa furrowed her brow as she stared at the woman, feeling like she had seen her somewhere before. She then looked up at Gilbert and whispered, "Is that your grandma?"

But Gilbert did not utter a word. His eyes were glued to the screen, his body taut with tension. Meanwhile, everyone else was also staring at the screen with curiosity, gossiping away like a bunch of chatty Karens. The older guests quickly identified the woman as Madalyn from back in the day, and their chatter only grew louder.

The characters in the video were heard talking:

"Madam, isn't this harming David a bit too much?"

"Hell no! I'm just using this as an excuse to get him out of here before he gets into some sh*t with Damon later."

"I don't know. Maybe we should just come clean with David. I mean, framing him for trying to steal the Kooper family's assets in his name aren't cool. What if he finds out the truth? He still sees you as his mother, after all. II

"Look, that little punk is crafty. Who knows what he's plotting? Sure, he hasn't done anything to screw over Damon yet, but he's still working solo behind our backs and trying to schmooze up to the company's top dogs. I'm just exposing his potential ambition early, am I not? Besides, I'm just getting rid of him."

As the conversation on the screen echoed through the hall, the chatter in the room grew louder and louder.

"Holy sh*t, so David wasn't kicked out for doing some shady sh*t after all? Mrs. Kooper Sr. just couldn't handle him, huh?"

"Man, people are selfish as f*ck. Who would have thought that Mrs. Kooper Sr. would throw David under the bus for her own damn son?"

The truth about David getting the boot from Calthon was finally coming to light, and Madalyn's heartlessness was being called out by everyone.

But then the old video ended, and suddenly, the whole banquet hall erupted in laughter. The sound was coming from the speakers in every corner of the room, and it was so loud and shrill that it sent shivers down everyone's spines. All of a sudden, the room went quiet, and everyone's eyes darted around in shock as they tried to figure out where the sound was coming from. The laughter was maniacal, joyful, crazy, and even a bit sad.

For Kisa, the laughter was both strange and familiar. Adrien had cackled just like that the night before, except his voice sounded a bit different.

"Hehehe... it is almost over. Everything is almost over. Those who disrespected me, mistreated me, and took away the people I loved, they are all going to pay for it.

Hahaha... hahaha!"

The maniacal laughter echoed through the banquet hall, sending shivers down everyone's spines. Some of the weak female guests even huddled together in terror. Out of nowhere, Carolyn went batsh*t crazy and started hopping around.

"It's David! It's David! He isn't dead! He's still kicking! He's the one who is trying to get back at me. It's all his twisted plan. He ruined me. It's all his damn fault!" Carolyn screamed, pushing through the crowd and making her way to Kisa.

"Where the hell is Adrien? You... you call him. Someone is trying to hurt me. You call him and tell him to protect me! He loves me more than anyone else. You have to call him now!"

Kisa just looked at her with sadness in her eyes. 'She still hasn't figured out that Adrien is the mastermind behind all this? She still hasn't realized that Adrien is David?'

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Suddenly, Sharon charged at Kisa with a look of pure hatred and screamed, "You filthy b*tch! You and Adrien planned all of this, didn't you? You wanted to watch me and my mother suffer, you sick twisted wh*re!"

With a crazed expression on her face, Sharon picked up a broken wine glass and lunged at Kisa, intent on causing her harm. It looked as if she had lost all control of herself, consumed by her rage and bitterness.

Just as the jagged glass was about to impale Kisa, Carolyn appeared out of nowhere and grabbed Sharon, struggling to keep her at bay.

"What? Are you serious? You're saying that Adrien was behind all of this?"

Carolyn was absolutely flabbergasted, her voice trembling as she struggled to get the words out.

Sharon could not believe her eyes as she watched her mother's sheer innocence on display, leaving her to stare at her like she had lost her mind.

"Please wake up and be alert. If it wasn't his doing, why didn't he show up when things went horribly wrong? If he didn't plan this beforehand, then how could there be a video of you and those filthy men at the wedding? That magnificent wedding he promised you was nothing but a scheme. He wanted to smash us when we were at our happiest. Think about it, he's rich and charming, why would he settle for someone like you? He seduced you just to take revenge on you and my dad. First, he ruined my dad and the Case family, and now he is trying to ruin you and me. Don't you see it? He is David. He conspired with Kisa to take us down. It is all revenge!"

"Ah! Please don't say that! I don't believe it, I don't believe it!" Carolyn suddenly clutched her ears and let out a piercing scream. "Adrien would never do something like this to me. He loves me, he told me he does!"

Kisa watched Carolyn in stunned silence.

In that moment, Carolyn had completely unraveled. Her veil lay forgotten on the ground, her hair a tangled mess, and her makeup smeared in all directions. She looked like a haunting apparition, wailing and cackling hysterically.

Kisa could not help but wonder if Carolyn had already suspected Adrien's involvement in all of this but had been unwilling to accept the truth.

Carolyn and her daughter were once again apprehended by the police, both of them tied to the tragic fire from years ago. If they were locked up this time, there might not

be any hope of ever seeing the light of day again. As the police led them away, Carolyn and her daughter caught a glimpse of Christopher in the crowd. She laughed hysterically, the sound of her laughter sending shivers down Kisa's spine. Sharon screamed out to Christopher, "Dad, save me, please save me!" Christopher looked on emotionlessly, like he was staring at strangers. As they passed Kisa and Gilbert, Carolyn laughed menacingly and sneered, "You think this is over? Have you not seen the video? Adrien's biggest enemy is actually that old lady from the Kooper family. It is her turn next. Hahaha... no one can escape. No one can run!" Gilbert's face twisted in fear and the echoes of Carolyn's cruel laughter lingered in the banquet hall, the sound of her laughter intertwined with her harsh words. "No one can escape. No one can run..." Panic shot through Gilbert's heart as he realized the severity of the situation. He whispered under his breath, "This isn't good," before bolting toward the exit. Kisa followed closely behind, their ears ringing with the sound of Carolyn's maniacal laughter. "We are all going to hell, and you won't get off easy either! Hahaha... hahaha..." As Gilbert got into his car, Kisa hurried over to him and said, "Are you worried about your grandma? I'll go with you." Gilbert glanced at her and nodded