

## Love's Perfect Match Chapter 21 - 30

### Chapter 21

Hiking... A tiring and hot activity in which they all had no interest.

"Dad, I have a few operations scheduled, so it might not be convenient."

Raising to his feet, Arthur was about to leave when he was grabbed by his father. "So? Does your hospital not have other doctors besides you?"

Arthur let out a nervous laugh while tapping his nose. That naturally made Blake and Max, who were about to make up their own excuses, keep quiet as well.

"So, it's settled. We'll leave in a short while."

No one could reject Theodore's orders, so they all changed into appropriate clothes and went to the most famous hiking spot in the city. When they arrived, Elspeth immediately spotted Ophelia, who was all smiles and wearing a gentle-looking dress.

Margot beamed when she saw her favorite 'daughter-in-law'. "Ophelia, I didn't expect you to come. I thought you wouldn't make it."

"Mrs. Winthrop, how can I say no to your invitation?" While tugging on Margot's hand, Ophelia replied obediently.

The straightforward Max took a look at Ophelia's clothes and pursed his lips. "When do people ever wear such a long dress for hiking? How do you expect to hike up the hill in this getup?"

Elspeth, on the other hand, grinned slightly. Max, you're starting to be interesting.

Ophelia turned pale as she bit her lower lip. "I'm sorry. I don't hike that often, so I didn't know..."

Sensing her incoming crocodile tears, Elspeth felt a headache arriving. This woman might be up to something. I wouldn't have come if I had known she was coming.

"That's enough. Why do you care about what she wears?" Margot rolled her eyes and tugged on Ophelia's hand. "Ophelia, let's go. We'll take the lead."

She smiled through her tears. "Sure."

Later, the two walked in front while Elspeth and the five trailed behind them, leaving Theodore at the back of the line.

Along the way, Callum stayed silent, which prompted Elspeth to joke with a raised eyebrow. “Callum, you’re as quiet as a mouse, which is exactly what your name means, peace.”

He looked at the scenery in the distance and ignored her taunts. Not paying attention to her track, she accidentally stepped and slipped on a rock, which then sprained her ankle.

“Ouch!” She clutched her ankle with her brows furrowed.

Callum noticed her situation and looked down at her with inquiry. “What happened?”

“I sprained my ankle.”

“Can you still walk?”

Seeing that Elspeth was breaking out in cold sweat, Callum decided to carry her into his arms when he saw her pained state.

Last time, she was half-conscious when she was in his embrace due to her menstrual cramp. This time, she was fully awake, so she could feel his strong heartbeat and smell the fragrance of fresh mint wafting from him. “Set me down. I can walk on my own.”

“Your ankle is so swollen, yet you’re still so stubborn.” With a cold expression on his face, he disregarded her resistance and continued walking. “There’s a hospital at the peak. I’ll let Arthur help you with the swelling when we get there.”

Hearing that, Elspeth obediently stayed in his arms.

Edmund, who was standing nearby, noticed what had happened and smiled wickedly. “Oh, Callum. I didn’t expect you to have a soft side. Has your cold heart finally been thawed?”

So, a woman whom Callum cares about actually exists!

“Stop the nonsense,” Callum reprimanded him sharply.

Max rolled his eyes. “Phoney.”

In the meantime, Arthur was busy dealing with hospital matters while Blake was talking to his manager on the phone, so both of them did not have the time to care about what was happening there.

Yet, that was not the case for Ophelia as she had to witness the love of her life carrying Elspeth in his arms. Elspeth, you b\*tch!

As she thought of that, her mood significantly fell, which alerted Margot. Seeing that Ophelia was upset, Margot asked, “What’s the matter, Ophelia? You don’t seem happy.”

“Callum... Does he like Elspeth?”

Margot turned her head sharply and saw Elspeth being carried in Callum’s arms, which made her frown as well. “Don’t worry, Ophelia. I’ll give you an explanation.”

Once they arrived at the peak, Elspeth was sent to the hospital to receive treatment. Then, Margot took advantage of the group’s absence and entered the ward.

“Elspeth, I have something to say to you.”

Ever since they made amends last time, Elspeth almost never talked to Margot. Therefore, when she saw Margot entering the room, she began to wonder whether an issue had grown between them again. Smiling, she replied, “Sure.”

“You and Callum seem to be quite close recently.” Margot tried to make it as subtle as she could, but Elspeth caught on immediately. “No, we’re not. Callum and I barely talked to each other.”

With a straight face, Margot warned, “I’ve told you before that he belongs to Ophelia. I don’t care what thoughts you have about him, nor do I care about your relationship with him, but let me make it clear that I will never agree to the idea of you being with Callum. You can stop with the daydream.”

It turns out she came here with a warning. Casually smiling, Elspeth promised her. “Mrs. Winthrop, you can rest assured that I have no feelings about Callum.”

“That would be the best.” Now that Margot had spoken her mind and gotten Elspeth’s promise, she felt assured and revealed a satisfied smile. “To tell you the truth, my other four sons are equally excellent, so you can choose any of them. Elspeth, you’re a smart child. You know what to do, right?”

However, this incident did not affect Elspeth’s mood as she sat on her bed and began messaging Harper on her laptop.

‘You there?’

‘What’s the matter, Elspeth?’

‘Send me a few of those great medicinal liquor. They’re in the warehouse’s bottom drawer.’

‘Have you hurt yourself again? Elspeth, your luck sucks.’

She was at a loss for words. Thanks for making me feel better, dude.

Just as she finished chatting with him, Edmund came in. “Miss Lynwood, are you feeling better?”

He casually sat down beside the bed as if they were very close friends. However, Elspeth was unfazed, “Mr. Edmund, may I ask why you’re here?”

“I’m here out of concern for you, Elspeth.” While saying that, he wore an indecipherable smile.

She was clear that both of them had not gone past the acquaintance stage, so he must have conjured up a plan by coming here. “Just spill. I’m not interested in playing charades with you.”

Hooking his lips, Edmund replied, “Then, what if I say that I’m interested in you?”

When Elspeth heard that, her lips twitched uncontrollably. “And you think I’d just innocently believe that?”

He then leaned toward her while the smile on his face became wider. “Why don’t you believe me? It makes me sad.”

Feeling grossed out by his approach, she backed away to avoid any physical contact with him. “Please behave yourself.”

Not minding her words, he asked, “What are you afraid of?”

At that moment, Callum came in through the door and saw the two in an intimate position. His eyes darkened a little. “Am I disturbing your moment?”

The scene before him was quite an eyesore for him, but Edmund was overjoyed when he noticed the slight changes on Callum’s countenance. “Nope. Just like you, I came here to visit Elsie.”

Edmund deliberately used a nickname to imply that they had a close relationship. He even spoke the word ‘Elsie’ in such an ambiguous, playful way.

## Chapter 22

Does Edmund have feelings for Elspeth? There was inexplicable displeasure in Callum’s eyes as he hummed and turned around to leave the room.

Seeing that he had successfully made Callum unhappy, Edmund was now in a good mood. He even reminded Elspeth to take care of her health before he left and intended to caress her head, but she dodged his hand.

Everyone at the scene was now lost in their own thoughts, which made the atmosphere overly awkward. Coupled with Elspeth getting injured, Theodore waved his hand and everyone descended the hill to head home.

Meanwhile, Elspeth was admitted to the hospital where Arthur worked.

Theodore knocked on the door to her ward, which rarely happened, and looked at her face while reminiscing about past memories he shared with his comrade. His expression softened as he inquired, “Elsie, are you feeling better? Those boys are so careless that they can’t even look after a girl. You don’t deserve this.”

A warm feeling filled Elspeth’s heart. “Mr. Winthrop, it’s my fault. I wasn’t watching where I was walking. They had nothing to do with this.”

“Elsie, you can rest assured that no matter who marries you, I’ll give him twenty percent of Winthrop Group’s shares and twenty villas in Blaydal so that you’d have the best life you deserve!”

After hearing Theodore’s promise, Elspeth felt her heart tighten as gratitude filled up inside her.

At the door, Arthur was about to knock with his hand raised in midair, but he was attracted by the conversation happening inside. He was stunned in his spot when he heard their conversation. We can actually get that many benefits by just marrying Elspeth? We only have five percent of the shares each, but once we marry her, we can actually get twenty percent?

Later, Theodore left a few more words of concern before picking up a call and leaving in a hurry.

Arthur found it difficult to suppress the excitement in his heart and he took a deep breath to calm his nerves before heading inside. When he saw Elspeth, his gaze immediately softened before he approached her to massage her ankle. “Does it still hurt?”

Despite knowing that he was diagnosing her condition, Elspeth felt an inexplicable awkwardness and backed away as if she was rejecting his attempt to get closer to her. She squeezed out a smile and answered, “I feel better. It doesn’t hurt as much anymore.”

Smiling gently, he reminded her, “That’s good to hear. If there’s anything you need, feel free to call me anytime.”

Still, Elspeth was not accustomed to such friendly concern and was stunned. She could not figure out why Arthur, who did not give a damn about her, would suddenly change his attitude and become so enthusiastic toward her. With a shake of her head, she said, “It’s alright. I can manage on my own.”

Smiling adoringly at her, he rubbed her head. “I told you. You can’t keep everything to yourself. A young lady like you should learn to rely on others.”

What? Elspeth froze in place as if she had been struck by lightning. Just a few days ago, he told me he wasn’t interested in me, so why is he showing me so much care now?

Even until he left, she was still cracking her head to solve this mystery.

During the days she was at the hospital, Callum never came to visit her.

Since the company was recently in its steady development stage, there were not many things that needed to be dealt with. After contemplating, Elspeth thought that he might be avoiding her, so she specifically asked to carpool with him on the day she returned to work after recovery.

“Mr. Winthrop, since you’re such a nice person, you wouldn’t mind me carpooling with you, right?” Then, she spontaneously got into the passenger seat and buckled herself.

Rolling his eyes, Callum questioned coldly, “Why don’t you take Edmund’s car instead?”

Elspeth smiled softly. “I like your car better. Come on. Get in or we’ll be late.”

At that, he shook his head and brought her to work, knowing that he could not win against her.

On the way, Elspeth focused on the scenery outside the window while the light breeze blew on her hair, creating a vague and beautiful sight. In the end, Callum broke the silence. “What’s going on with you and Edmund?”

Hearing that question, she turned around and batted her eyelashes. “Nothing.”

Then, why were they...

“I see you only believe in one side of the story. That’s not something a person as smart as you should be doing.” The breeze was blowing on Elspeth so comfortably that she softly squinted her eyes.

On the other hand, Callum was stunned and his lips could not help but hook slightly.

Feeling intrigued after catching the smile on his lips, she began to tease him. “You look happy. Wait, are you into me? Is that why you care so much about what’s between me and Edmund?”

His expression immediately hardened. “What? No.”

That made her burst out laughing uncontrollably. “I cannot believe that Callum Winthrop is actually blushing. How interesting.”

To avoid any more of her tricky questions, Callum stepped on the accelerator and sped toward the company.

When they arrived, Elspeth saw an uninvited guest. At the design department, Ophelia was sitting in the director’s chair when she saw her coming over. She then greeted Elspeth with a smile and said, “You’re back. How are you feeling, Elspeth?”

Though she said that, she was secretly hoping that Elspeth would never get better.

“Thank you for your concern. I’m doing well.” Elspeth did not intend to talk much with Ophelia because she was annoyed by her fake pleasantries all the time.

Suddenly thinking of something, Ophelia announced with a smile, “That’s good to hear. By the way, Callum told me that one of his departments is lacking a director, so I volunteered myself. Is that okay with you?”

Chuckling softly, Elspeth replied, “What’s there to not be okay about? You’re going to be Mrs. Winthrop in the future while this is just a department director’s position. Honestly, this is nothing.”

The color drained from Ophelia’s face as she retorted, “Elspeth, how can you be so mean? I was just worried that you’d be annoyed since I’m joining the company as a supervisor while you’re merely an... employee.”

So what, if you’re an excellent student? Callum cares about me and gives me a position that’s higher than yours.

“Jeez. Do you hide in my room or something? What makes you think I’d be annoyed?” Elspeth snorted. “Miss Fleming, I suggest you focus your efforts on company matters. With the time you spend on talking to me, you could have written two proposals.”

With no choice, Ophelia felt gloomy as she knew that she could not win against Elspeth in a tongue fight. With that, the two parted on bad terms while Elspeth returned to her desk and began to focus on work.

By afternoon, she went to Callum’s office to discuss the next step of their plan, but she saw Ophelia inside the office, hugging his arm and acting like a spoiled child. “Callum, it’s noon. Let’s have lunch together.”



Meanwhile, Elspeth was standing outside the doorway and was about to leave when Callum called out to her. “Elspeth, come in.”

With pursed lips, she looked at them with a fiery gaze. “No, thanks. I wouldn’t want to be the third-wheel.”

Callum removed his arm out of Ophelia’s grip and sat back to his chair. “Come over here. We’ll discuss the plan.”

Meanwhile, Ophelia was at a loss for what to do after the obvious rejection. She did not expect the man who had never rejected her would actually ignore her for Elspeth.

Though she was actually raging in frustration, she still managed to squeeze out a few tears upon looking at him. “But Callum, I was the one who asked you out first.”

## Chapter 23

Callum answered in his cold voice, “Well, I’m giving priority to company matters. Is there a problem with that?”

Having been rejected again, Ophelia bit her lip and stayed quiet.

After she left, Elspeth watched her crying figure and could not help laughing. “Are you sure you’re going to hurt your childhood sweetheart like that? She seems to be crying quite miserably.”

Callum gave her a sideways glance and ordered, “Look at the plan.”

Chuckling, she said, “Looks like Edmund was right. You are an inconsiderate workaholic.”

Instead of answering her, he lowered his head and looked at the plan. The sun’s rays shone down on his face, and through the vague reflection, Elspeth could see that his pupils were as deep as the blackhole.

When the two finished revising their plan, it was already 3.00PM and Elspeth's tummy just happened to rumble at an inappropriate time. With a raised brow, Callum offered, "Let's go. We'll have something nice."

They tidied up and coincidentally bumped into Ophelia on their way out of the building before Elspeth smiled at her.

At this point, Ophelia's already puffy eyes reddened even more as she ran inside while wiping her tears. The small incident did not affect their mood as Callum brought Elspeth to a noodle shack he frequented and ordered two bowls of ramen.

While biting the end of her fork, Elspeth giggled. "I didn't expect the oldest young master of the Winthrop Family would enjoy this sort of delicacy."

Although Callum was slurping noodles, his actions remained elegant as ever. He ate a mouthful of noodles and asked, "What do you think I eat on a daily basis? Steaks? Caviar? Lobsters?"

"I just didn't expect that you'd enjoy such hearty meals." Elspeth's smile became even more unrestrained, but she suddenly looked at him with bright eyes while stating, "But... I like them too. Although I'd eat them almost every day, I still think that no food can compare to the noodles my dad made."

Unfortunately, all of that has passed and I can't return to those days.

Meanwhile, Callum stayed silent and lowered his head to eat his noodles, but his mood was slightly affected. This was the first time he heard her mention her family; though it was just a brief sentence, he was still deeply moved.

The two went back to the company and a colleague patted Elspeth on the shoulder when she was just about to get off work. "Elspeth, log on to your Twitter. Something happened!"

Feeling her heart sink, she logged onto her Twitter account and scanned through the contents with some large, attention-grabbing words.

‘Elspeth Lynwood acts intimately with a foreign man while being engaged to the Winthrop Family.’

‘Though Elspeth Lynwood looks obedient, she’s actually a playgirl who plays with the Winthrop men’s feelings.’

‘Having been surrounded by so many men, who will get Elspeth Lynwood in the end?’

...

There was also a blurry picture on Twitter circling around. From it, Elspeth could make out that it was taken on the day of the auction when Theo was touching her head; they were smiling happily and seemed very close.

Although they were both wearing sunglasses, it was not difficult to make out that the woman in the picture was herself.

Squinting her eyes, Elspeth felt a cold sensation pass through her. She seemed to know who was behind all of this, so she immediately called Harper to get rid of those news articles. In the meantime, she was called home by Theodore.

When she came out of the company, she just happened to bump into Callum, who was going home as well. However, he merely glanced at her before walking away. It seemed like he had also found out about the hottest news articles.

At last, Elspeth returned to the Winthrop Residence under everyone’s presence and was immediately met with Margot’s lecture. “Elspeth! I thought you were a good kid. I cannot believe that you’re such a sl\*t!”

Frowning, Elspeth did not retort but tried to explain instead, “It’s all just a misunderstanding.”

However, Margot was not having it. “I can understand it if you don’t like any of my sons, but how can you agree to spend time with my sons while secretly dating another man? Elspeth, do you think you’re being fair to Theodore?”

Elspeth knew that if she could not explain this situation clearly, perhaps even Theodore would be disappointed in her.

“Elspeth, all the evidence is crystal clear, so I suggest you admit your doings!” Max had long since despised Elspeth’s aloof attitude and sneered, “You’d better get out of here as soon as possible. Maybe, by then, I’ll be the bigger person and forgive you.”

Shaking her head, Elspeth explained again, “It’s not what you guys think. That man is my senior.”

A senior? Who are you kidding?

While staring at her with his cold gaze, Max reprimanded, “Even if he’s your senior, someone who’s able to interact so intimately with you must be someone close to you, right? Elspeth, things have already gotten to this point, yet you’re still trying to reason your way out of this.”

Meanwhile, Theodore was frowning with mixed emotions surging within him. He stared at Elspeth and asked calmly, “Elsie, are they telling the truth? Are you and that man—”

She replied in a deep tone, “Mr. Winthrop, that person is really only a senior to me. I can call him right now if you don’t believe me.”

At that moment, Margot smirked. “What can you prove by calling him? Wouldn’t you be able to trick everyone by getting your story straightened out with him?”

Feeling a headache coming, Elspeth felt that it was indeed difficult for her to explain things in such a situation.

Suddenly, Blake, who was scrolling through Twitter, shouted in surprise, “Hey, everyone. Someone just posted an official statement on Twitter.”

The person was a mix of Edenian and Charsian and he looked just like the person in the pictures. Subsequently, the post wrote, ‘I am a man with a fiancé and we’re going to get married this June. Elspeth Lynwood is like a younger sister to me, and caring for her is the task our teacher gave me, so there is no need to blow this out of proportion. I hope that all of you netizens can be kind with your words and spare the young woman.’

Since Mark had received a lot of grand prizes abroad, he had substantial popularity, so no one dared to easily refute him. Therefore, the tides suddenly changed and some even began to guess which evil person would have the time to take the photo and frame Elspeth with baseless accusation.

Margot, who was furious earlier, began to calm down and looked at Elspeth’s face while lost in thought. “Elspeth, I...”

With a satisfied smile on his face, Theodore assured her, “I knew my judgment was correct. Elsie, you’ve been wronged.”

While nodding her head, Elspeth smiled. “Mr. Winthrop, thank you for believing in me.”

On the other hand, Max felt embarrassed as he tapped his nose while stubbornly saying, “I’m sorry, but I still don’t like you.”

“I don’t need you to like me, but don’t ever accuse me of something I didn’t do.” Elspeth threw him a sideways glance and replied.

He clenched his fists. “Don’t push your luck, lady!”

“Alright, already. Now that this is settled, let’s not pursue it anymore.” Theodore waved his hand to stop Max from spitting any more hurtful words.

After the crowd had dispersed, Callum was still standing not far away while staring at Elspeth. He had a strange feeling when he saw her usual calmness and composure while dealing with this matter instead of crying and making a fuss.

Sensing his gaze, she tilted her head and beamed. “Do you think I have something to do with that man?”

He remained silent, which in a way meant that he admitted to being bothered by it. However, it was not to the extent that he truly believed she was such a person.

While looking at his expression, Elspeth flashed him a smile, but it did not reach her eyes.

## Chapter 24

It was near afternoon when Elspeth finally woke up to a terrible headache. She groped around for her phone, and when she finally found it, she saw she had received more than a hundred messages and numerous calls from Harper.

She first sent him a message to assure that she was safe before she started to recall what had happened last night.

She remembered how she had met Callum and gone all out teasing him, and...

She had no idea what happened after that.

After massaging her temples, she quickly freshened up and went to the company.

Even though Ophelia was a bit of a b\*tch, she did a good job in planning the dinner party. Having someone of her status decorate the venue in such a novel and unique style won her the praise of everyone.

“Oh, stop it, you guys. This really is nothing much. Callum was the one who taught me everything. I am only copying his skills,” Ophelia explained with a flush on her cheeks.

Everyone naturally knew what was going on when they saw how bashful she was, so they teased her again.

“Miss Fleming, you and the president must be childhood sweethearts. We can tell that he likes you a lot!”

“Gosh, this is like a TV drama!”

Elspeth felt emotions she couldn't pinpoint, and she soon returned to her own seat. Still, she could hear the mindless chattering going on.

Someone had to pick now of all times to ask the wrong question. “But... isn't Elspeth the fiancée of the Winthrop Family? What if she chooses Mr. Winthrop when the time comes?”

Ophelia was in the middle of being praised when her face suddenly fell upon hearing the question.

However, she had to force an awkward smile to keep up with her image. “Don't worry. Elspeth told me she doesn't like Callum.”

Elspeth raised an eyebrow at that. She couldn't help the laugh that slipped when she heard Ophelia uttering nonsense with that serious face on.

“Please don't make things up, Miss Fleming. I am not close enough with you to talk about something like this.”

Surprised that Elspeth suddenly came over, Ophelia's face turned pale, but still she lowered her head and chewed on her lower lip. “Elspeth, you were the one who said that. It is alright if you regret your words. After all, Callum—”

“What is wrong?” Elspeth cut her off with a laugh. “Am I not allowed to like him?”

Ophelia immediately fell silent. She was so embarrassed she couldn't say another word. When she caught sight of Callum, who happened to be walking toward them, she smilingly laced her

arm around his. “Callum, I have decorated the banquet venue for tonight. Do you want to go take a look?”

His gaze was firm as he impassively looked at Elspeth, who was not far away. “You were late today, Elspeth. I will be deducting your three days’ worth of salary.”

Elspeth was so angry she could laugh, but all she did was grind her teeth and give the man a deadly stare.

However, Callum avoided her gaze as he swiftly went with Ophelia to the venue.

After half an hour, Callum’s secretary suddenly came to Elspeth and whispered in her ear, “Elspeth, Mr. Winthrop wants you to drop by his office.”

As much as Elspeth was reluctant to be in contact with the man, she could only stand up and trudge to Callum’s office despite sighing when she saw the troubled look on the secretary’s face.

She then opened the door, where she found Callum sitting in the lounge with a grim face.

“Why did you call for me?”

She didn’t approach him when she saw that he wasn’t in the best of moods. Instead, she stood in a distance that was neither too far nor near and studied him.

He pointed to the gift box on the table and stated, “You will come with me to the dinner party tonight.”

Even though his tone was stiff, it was obvious that he was asking her to be his partner.

“Me?” Elspeth repeated in surprise. “Your childhood friend isn’t going to be too happy about it.”

Ignoring what she said, Callum had a scowl on his face as he picked up the gift box and stuffed it into her hands. “This is your dress for tonight. Remember to wear it.”

“And what if I say no?”



Unlike him, her face was smug as she wrapped her arms across her chest and looked at him.

“I will deduct one month’s salary, then,” he announced in a low voice.

Rendered speechless, Elspeth glowered at him before she walked out with the box against her chest.

Ophelia happened to see Elspeth leave the president’s office hugging a huge gift box. Her jealousy that started to bubble up inside was so close to consuming her.

What a shameless fox! she fumed.

At night, Elspeth took the box and went to the bathroom to change into the dress.

Ophelia also went into the washroom to fix her makeup a while after Elspeth had gone in.

She had on a baby pink dress that was the cherry on top of her adorable and gentle appearance.

Glancing at Elspeth, she no longer had the façade she had on. The look in her eyes had been replaced by unadulterated hatred.

“I am warning you, Elspeth—don’t you dare get ideas about Callum. I won’t let you off the hook otherwise.”

Elspeth brushed her fingers through her fringe, her face still calm. “Even if I did, it has got nothing to do with you, no?”

Ophelia itched to tear Elspeth’s mouth open when she saw how stubborn the latter was being.

“Elspeth, I grew up with Callum. No one can get between us. I hope you back off before you come to regret it!”

Hearing that, Elspeth shook her head and clicked her tongue. “He still doesn’t like you even after all those years you spent together? Tsk! You poor thing.”

“What the h\*ll did you say?!” Ophelia swiftly let out an angry shriek.

“Do you think he likes you? Ophelia, has he ever shown you that he likes you? Even a little?”

Elspeth had asked the questions that Ophelia had avoided thinking about because she was reluctant to learn of Callum’s true feelings. She was afraid she would get the answers she didn’t want to accept.

However, she had never seen Callum pay attention to any woman so much. It suffocated her to see how he occasionally showed he cared for Elspeth.

“He is just confused about his own feelings, but no matter what, he will never fall for you!”

Elspeth nodded and commented lightly, “Fine. We will wait and see.”

Ophelia’s eyes were sharp when she smashed the lipstick she was holding on the floor and stormed off.

After she left, Elspeth went to change into the dress, only to find out that the dress had been cut into shreds when she opened the box. She could tell at a glance that someone had done it on purpose.

She threw the dress into the bin, and was about to head out to get a new dress when she realized that the washroom had been locked from the outside.

Her phone happened to have run out of battery as well.

“What is with this sh\*tty luck?” she muttered to herself with a frown.

At the same time, Callum had been waiting for Elspeth for a while now, and he was starting to worry when she still hadn’t appeared.

Did something happen to her?

He felt even more uncertain after he called her, only to reach her mailbox.

Just as he was about to go look for her, Ophelia suddenly came to him with a sweet smile on her face. “Callum, are you waiting for someone?”

He nodded with his eyes looking into the distance.

Ophelia couldn’t help feeling jealous again when she saw the distraught look on his face.

“I bumped into Elspeth earlier, Callum. She was on her way to the washroom. She told us to head in first in case we waste time waiting for her because she will take a while.”

## Chapter 27

Callum held Elspeth beneath him, and he stared at her with a gaze so hot that she could see the flames in them.

“Callum...”

His lips crashed against hers and silenced everything else she tried to say.

It was a little awkward—he kissed as if he didn’t know how to do it, but as his lips pressed against hers over and over again, he slowly deepened the kiss and even stuck his tongue inside her mouth.

Elspeth knew that Callum was acting this way because he was drugged, so she bit down on his lip to try and make him regain his senses.

Callum moved back a little and she seized this chance to flip on top of him instead. Noticing that he was still trying to make his move, she swiftly slapped him and knocked him unconscious.

“How exhausting.” Elspeth stood up and kicked him. “And he even tried to take advantage of me while out of his senses! He’s a wolf in sheep’s clothing!”

Calling an ambulance would make too much commotion, so Elspeth called up one of the Winthrops’ bodyguards and had him take Callum to the hospital.

When Callum opened his eyes, the first thing he saw was Elspeth, who was standing beside him with an indifferent expression.

He was startled. “Did you stay here all night taking care of me?”

“You’re not very vigilant at all, are you, Mr. Winthrop? Someone even managed to drug you.” Elspeth didn’t answer his question, and she started mocking him instead.

Callum had to admit that she was right, so he didn’t refute her statement and merely listened to whatever she had to say.

“Well, you’re awake, so I’m leaving now.”

Looking at him now only reminded her of the way he protected Ophelia, which gave Elspeth a rather unpleasant feeling.

“Edmund’s very interested in you,” Callum said all of a sudden.

Elspeth cocked her eyebrows. “And? What does it have to do with you?”

“Edmund always likes comparing himself to me, and he keeps trying to one-up me. I’m afraid that he’s trying to get close to you because of me and not because he truly likes you.”

Callum expressed his concern.

When Elspeth heard this, she smirked mischievously and asked, “Does that mean that you’re interested in me? Is that why Edmund is trying to fight you on this too?”

She had honed in on a crucial point and Callum was at a loss for words. He didn’t know what to say.

“You can take it however you want,” he said a little awkwardly.

He didn’t take the bait and Elspeth didn’t get to have her fun, so she didn’t bother teasing him anymore.

Callum rested for a little while longer before the two went back to the company together.

Meanwhile, Ophelia was extremely displeased that the plan had failed, and she couldn't stand the sight of Elspeth. They spent the whole night together! Where did they go? And Callum was drugged too! Did they...

The more Ophelia thought about it, the more anxious she became. She even glared at Elspeth menacingly.

When Elspeth noticed Ophelia's reaction, she couldn't help but smile. "Miss Fleming, are you curious as to what we did last night?"

Ophelia had a twisted look on her face as she muttered, "What did you two do last night?"

"Last night, we... What do you think? A man and a woman spending the night together. Something must've happened, right?"

The thought of Elspeth sleeping with Callum unleashed the green-eyed monster in Ophelia. Blinded by jealousy, she could no longer keep her composure. "Hurry up and tell me what the two of you did together! I'll make your life a living hell if you took advantage of Callum and slept with him!"

"Took advantage of him? How can you use that to describe something that happened between two consenting adults?"

Elspeth smiled widely at the sight of Ophelia's outburst. It was very amusing to her.

By now, Ophelia was no longer thinking straight. "That's nonsense! Callum was drugged! How could he have consented?!" she cried out.

Elspeth raised her eyebrows. Well, that's settled then. She's indeed the one behind it.

"I didn't say he was drugged. How did you know, Miss Fleming?" A look of ridicule flashed across Elspeth's eyes. "What's going on? Were you the one who drugged him, Miss Fleming?"

Ophelia instantly regretted letting it slip, but it was too late. She weaseled it out of me again!

After looking around to make sure that no one else overheard them, she threatened, “Either way, I’m warning you now—don’t even think about putting your hands on my Callum!”

“It seems to me that you overestimate yourself, Miss Fleming. I’ll just have to wait and see if you have the ability to make me suffer.”

Elspeth stretched lazily and didn’t waste any more of her attention on the woman who was becoming a little maniacal. She turned around and went back to her desk.

When it was time to get off work, Elspeth didn’t feel like going back with Callum so she got a cab.

That night at the dinner table, Blake mentioned that he was going to shoot a music video for his latest song the next day. Theodore thought it was a good opportunity for the young ones to spend time together, so he suggested having Elspeth go along with Blake.

“Dad, why do you want her to go? Won’t she just be a nuisance?”

After the kidnapping incident, Max was convinced that Elspeth was just a walking magnet for trouble.

However, his comment only fueled Elspeth’s desire to go against him. “Sure. I’ll go and take a look tomorrow.”

Max was furious but the only thing he could do was glare daggers at her.

The next morning, Elspeth got up early and followed Blake to the filming location.

The latest song they were filming a music video for was a sweet and gentle love song, the kind that was in trend right now. Once Elspeth heard the opening melody, she instantly could tell that the song was going to be a hit.

“It’s a pretty good song. I think it’d be even better if you took the key down for the last few bars and add a little more sense of longing as you sing it,” Elspeth suggested in her clear, crisp voice.

Blake was a little taken aback. It sounds as if she knows a thing or two about music.

Elspeth noticed his expression and smiled faintly without saying anything.

It went without saying that the music video for a love song would feature a couple, but even after waiting about for several hours, the actress was still a no-show. At last, the director called her manager up and it was then that they realized the actress had gotten into a car accident on the way. She couldn’t make it to the shoot.

The director was distraught. The production team had spent a lot of time and effort to select the right actress for the music video, and it was unlikely that they would be able to find a suitable replacement on such short notice. Where am I going to find another young lady who’s pretty and has the aura I envisioned for our college girl character?

Suddenly, Blake came over and said with a smile, “Director, I have a suitable candidate.”

He pointed at Elspeth, who was daydreaming in a corner as the breeze rustled through her hair. She was wearing a simple, white dress that made her look as if she were the young female lead who had just stepped out of a campus romance novel.

The director’s eyes lit up at once. “She fits the part even better!”

He went over and quickly discussed it with Elspeth. She figured she would feel bad if she denied it since it was for Blake’s sake, so she agreed.

She was led straight to the styling team first, and the filming began soon after. Thanks to Elspeth’s outstanding looks and acting prowess, they wrapped up filming in next to no time.

“I have an idea. Why don’t you record the song with me? You’re the leading lady in the music video, so it’d be even better if you took part in the song too.”

It was hard to refuse Blake when he was being so sincere. After giving it some thought, Elspeth nodded in agreement.

On the day the song, Sweet Tea, was released, it went viral across the Internet and topped the sales charts.

Most of the comments online were praising the female singer's clear and angelic voice, but at the same time, a lot of unpleasant comments popped up as well.

‘She sounds almost exactly like Nancy Star. She must’ve imitated Nancy!’

As soon as someone made that comment, it instantly spread throughout all social media channels.

## Chapter 28

The comments started getting out of hand and the song's popularity was affected as well. Blake realized how serious things had become, so he immediately went to the Winthrop Group to discuss with Elspeth what they should do to combat this issue.

Elspeth had been in discussion with Callum about the company's next collaboration. She cocked her eyebrows in amusement when she heard about the controversy online.

“So they’re saying that I imitated Nancy Star?” Elspeth couldn’t resist chuckling at that very idea.

Blake frowned at her reaction. “This is quite a serious matter, Elspeth.”

She doesn’t seem bothered by it at all.

A bold thought came to mind when Callum noticed Elspeth’s reaction.

However, he didn’t voice it. He merely studied Elspeth thoughtfully as he waited to see what she would do next.



Elspeth gave Blake a reassuring smile. “Don’t worry. I’ll take care of this. It won’t affect the release of your new song.”

“Alright.” For some reason, Blake found himself having complete faith in Elspeth once he saw just how unaffected she was.

Ophelia knocked on the door and came in. When she saw that the three of them had gathered there, she couldn’t stop herself from asking, “By the way, I heard that there’s a scandal involving the song that Elspeth recorded with Blake. I think people are saying that Elspeth imitated... What’s going on, Elspeth?”

Elspeth merely glanced at her without saying anything.

Nobody responded to Ophelia, but she forced herself to stay calm and suggested, “I think if Elspeth really did do such a thing, she should just make a public apology on social media. Maybe everyone will forgive her.”

A public apology?

Elspeth knew that making a public apology at a time like this was the equivalent of digging a hole for herself. Not only would her reputation be destroyed, but Blake would be affected too.

“I’m not apologizing,” Elspeth declared outright.

Ophelia instantly started fretting. “Elspeth, even if you don’t care about your reputation, Blake still needs to care about his. If you have even a shred of conscience, you should go and apologize on social media right now. What if this ends up affecting Blake’s career?”

“Don’t worry. I won’t let anyone be affected by this.”

“What else can you do? Imitating is imitating. You can’t change what you did!”

“What if there is something else I can do?” Elspeth decided to have some fun.

Naturally, Ophelia didn't believe her.

She had looked into this already. Nancy Star has retreated from the public eye, so there's no way Elspeth is her, right? She studied abroad, so where would she find the time to become a celebrity? What a laughable thought.

"What else is there that you can do? Don't tell me you're going to announce to the public that you're Nancy Star. Who'd believe you?" Ophelia retorted mockingly as she stared at Elspeth questioningly.

"It so happens that I am."

Blake was stupefied when he heard Elspeth's response.

Elspeth Lynwood, the one that was supposed to be engaged to one of them, was actually Nancy Star, the person he admired with all his heart?!

Even Callum was stunned too.

Ophelia shook her head and sighed. "Stop trying to put up a strong front, Elspeth. You'll only make things worse for yourself if you keep telling lie after lie."

Elspeth couldn't be bothered to debate this with Ophelia any longer. She took out her phone, opened Twitter, and changed to a different account.

She went from an unknown alternate account to an account with tens of millions of followers.

A new tweet popped up all of a sudden. Blake realized that the only account he was following on Twitter had just sent out a new tweet after a year of silence.

It was just four words, but that was enough to leave everyone thunderstruck.

'I am Elspeth Lynwood.'

In an instant, the tweet blew up on Twitter with several million retweets. A few people started cheering wildly in the comments.

‘See! I told you that Elspeth Lynwood is Nancy Star, but none of you believed me!’

‘What a slap in the face. Those of you who said that Elspeth imitated someone else need to slap yourselves in the face!’

‘So this is what Nancy Star looks like! She looks gorgeous in the music video! She’s beautiful, has a lovely voice, is well-educated, and has five wonderful men to pick from! Her life sounds like something you’d find in a romantic comedy!’

“It’s Nancy Star’s latest song. I can’t believe how good it sounds! My wifey has such a mesmerizing voice! I’m going to play the song 10,000 times!’

“Hey, you up there, scram! That’s my wife!’

The comments on Twitter flipped around within a minute.

The song started rising on the streaming charts again and even broke its earlier record.

“Do you believe me now, Ophelia?” Elspeth rested her head on her hands. She looked as if she had gotten VIP seats at the theater and was about to enjoy a good show.

Meanwhile, Ophelia looked like she had just swallowed a fly.

How could Elspeth be Nancy Star?!

Disappointment, jealousy, rage, and resentment all coursed through her veins as she clenched her fists. The only thing she could think of as she looked at Elspeth’s attractive face was how much she longed to rip it apart!

“All’s well that ends well, and everyone’s happy now,” Elspeth commented, but she brought up something else. “You were criticizing me and doubting me just now, Miss Fleming. Shouldn’t you apologize to me?”

What Ophelia wanted to do was call Elspeth a b\*tch, but the only thing she could do was force out a smile and apologize. “So sorry about that, Elspeth. I misunderstood you.”

“It’s fine. I’m not a petty person. Consider yourself forgiven.”

Ophelia had come in to have a good laugh at Elspeth’s expense, but Elspeth had turned things around so quickly and was so smug about it now. As such, Ophelia couldn’t stand being in this room any longer.

Once Ophelia left, Blake, who had finally regained his composure, spoke up. He couldn’t hide the excitement in his voice as he said, “Elspeth… Wait, no… Nancy! You’re my role model! I love your songs!”

Nancy had only been active in the music industry for one year and managed to win the most prestigious music award in her debut year before vanishing from the limelight. No one else could do what she did.

Elspeth smiled. “Alright, now. I’m just a normal person.”

“I hope we can continue working together!”

Blake was on cloud nine after having found out that he had just recorded a song with his celebrity crush. He couldn’t wait to work with her again.

Elspeth nodded and smiled without saying anything.

Blake left first as he had to deal with the rest of the press releases, and soon, Callum and Elspeth were the only ones left in the office.

“I never thought you’d have so many identities,” Callum remarked with a thoughtful look in his eyes.

Elsbeth chuckled at that. “You’re teasing me, Mr. Winthrop.”

“Must we talk like that?”

Callum had no idea why he felt a little uncomfortable at the way Elsbeth seemed to be keeping him at arm’s length at all times.

Elsbeth only cocked an eyebrow. “How should I talk, then?”

Callum paused. In the end, he said nothing.

Things were a little odd between them, and even the other Winthrops noticed this.

Seeing as to how Callum seemed to be in a bad mood, Max suggested, “I heard that there’s a new race track at Death Canyon. Why don’t we go and try it out together?”

Theodore smiled when he heard that, and he said, “In that case, take Elsie with you.”

Max pursed his lips. “Dad, this is a boys’ thing. A girl like her would probably be terrified the moment she sat inside a race car. She’d probably start bawling her eyes out. Why are you suggesting that we take her with us?”

“Oh? Are girls not allowed to race cars?” Elsbeth piped up in interest.

“It’s really not that I look down on girls. Some girls enjoy racing cars. It was a girl who broke Callum’s record a while back. I’m sure she must be a beautiful, sexy woman!” Max declared with a look of pure admiration.

The day of Max’s birthday soon came, and the Winthrops invited Ophelia to attend the birthday party.

When Max opened the gift from Ophelia during the gift-opening segment, he exclaimed in surprise, “Wow, this racing suit is really nice! Thank you so much! I hope you brought it without breaking your bank account.”

Ophelia smiled. “You’re welcome. It’s not very expensive.” Then, she cast a smug glance at Elspeth.

When it came to Elspeth’s gift, it was merely a tiny box.

“Elspeth, don’t you think you’re a little too stingy—” Ophelia feigned confusion as she started bringing Elspeth’s so-called ‘miserliness’ to light.

Max unwrapped the gift and saw a car key inside. “Oh my goodness!” he shrieked in excitement. “This is my favorite car! This is the only one in the world, and you can’t buy it even if you have all the money in the world! Elspeth, you’re the best! How did you pull this off?!”

Max was ecstatic. For him, this gift was the best present he had received!

Ophelia looked at the racing suit and quickly realized that her gift was the shabby one in comparison.

“Well, Miss Fleming, you are wealthy indeed to think of my gift as nothing,” Elspeth mocked.

Ophelia lowered her head in embarrassment as she glared fiercely at Elspeth.

Callum’s gift was the segment’s finale, and Max highly anticipated just what he would receive this year. So, when he unwrapped the square box, he was surprised when he saw that all it contained was an asset transfer contract.

“You’ve always liked Death Canyon, haven’t you? You’re an adult from today onwards, so this is my welcome gift to the adult world.” The gift from Callum was equally surprising.

As a result, Callum’s generosity made the presents Max had received from Edmund, Arthur, and Blake seem less note-worthy.

When the party ended, Theodore asked the driver to send Ophelia home. As she gazed at the sky outside, she muttered, “Mr. Winthrop, can you please let Callum send me home? It’s getting dark outside, and I’m a little scared.”

“Sorry,” Callum politely refused, “I may not have time to send you home because there are some things I need to deal with later.”

“Is that so...” Ophelia smiled awkwardly. “Okay then. I’d better go back by myself.”

“Callum!” Margot snapped in dismay. “Ophelia has requested you to send her home. Go.”

“But, Mom—” Callum’s eyes sank in displeasure, and he remained unmoved.

“No buts! Are you trying to piss me off?!” Margot barked furiously, covered her chest, and began to gasp. “Sooner or later, I’ll die of a heart attack because of all of you!”

Her threat worked as Callum reluctantly sent Ophelia home.

Along the way, Ophelia, who sat in the front passenger seat, lowered her head shyly. “Callum, thanks for sending me home.”

“You’re welcome. I’m just doing what I was told.” He focused on the road and did not even bat an eye at her.

She was taken aback by his cold attitude. Then, she bit her lower lip and muttered, “Y-You liked me very much when we were kids, though. You often held my hand, took me to the playground, and dined in nice restaurants. Have you forgotten?”

He pursed his lips in annoyance. “That was all in the past. Also, you’re younger than me, so I should take care of you.”

“But, I—” She suddenly turned her head, her eyes full of tears. “I like you! I have liked you for almost ten years.”

“What?!” A trace of surprise flashed across his eyes.

“Yes, I liked you from the first moment I saw you. I liked to cling to you all the time when we were young. Can’t you see that? I always thought you would marry me, so my dream since I was a kid was to marry you.”

Her affectionate confession didn’t touch him as he replied seriously, “Ophelia, forget about me and like someone else.”

“No!” She suddenly leaned forward and wanted to kiss him, but he shoved her away.

“Ophelia, I hope you can come to your senses. We can’t be together.” Callum’s eyes were hooded with coldness. “If you can’t change your mind, it’d be better for us not to contact each other.”

Soon, they arrived at the Flemings’ house. He motioned her to get out of the car and then left decisively.

As she glared at his car, she stomped her feet in a huff, and her resentment coiled around her heart like poison ivy.

It must be because of that b\*tch Elspeth! He would not have been so indifferent to her had it not been for Elspeth! You’re so dead, Elspeth!

It was already 1.00AM when Callum finally returned home. When Elspeth came downstairs to drink water, she saw him and snorted, “Oh, you’re finally home, huh?”

He did not answer her question. Instead, he asked, “Why are you still awake?”

“I’m thirsty. What? Did you think that I would be waiting for your return, your highness?”

Her remark irritated him, and he frowned. “Don’t stay up too late. We need to sign a contract with the business partner tomorrow, and you’re coming with me.” With that, he went straight to his room without waiting for her reply.



Punctuality was of paramount importance to the partner. Therefore, they rose with the sun and went straight to the hotel where they had arranged to meet.

The potential business partner for this project was Alphascape Group, which specialized in the jewelry industry. Alphascape Group was the only company in the market which could compete with Azure Corporation.

The vice president of Alphascape Group, Dominic Little, personally came to discuss the contract, but he kept glancing at Elspeth and checking out her body while reading the contract. “I’ve read the contract. It’s well written. Miss Lynwood, did you write this?”

Dominic stared straight at Elspeth with a lecherous grin on his face. She was utterly disgusted by his behavior so far, but she suppressed her emotions and nodded. “Yes, I did, but if you have any criticism, please let us know. We will discuss it now.”

Dominic suddenly extended his hand and grabbed Elspeth’s hand. “Miss Lynwood, you’re so polite and graceful. How about I invite you to dinner, and we can discuss the contract privately.”

Callum felt the rage burning inside him as he glared at the chubby hand pawing at Elspeth’s hand. So, he pulled her into his arms and said, “Mr. Little, why don’t you discuss this matter with me? She’s my fiancée, so I know what her plans are.”

Fiancée?! Elspeth’s eyes widened in bewilderment, but to avoid being taken advantage of by this pervert and get the contract signed as soon as possible, she bit the bullet and leaned against Callum.

Dominic’s face turned gloomy. “Oh? I didn’t know that the two of you were engaged.”

“We will be engaged sooner or later,” Callum quipped in a deep voice.

“This meeting is such a disappointment.” Dominic muttered in displeasure, “I think there is no need for the collaboration to continue.”

Elspeth huffed in derision at his comment, “Mr. Little, we’ve spent a week drafting this contract, but now, you’re going to overturn the contract just because you’re upset?!”

“This project is a dime a dozen for us. The profit isn’t eye-catching enough for the Alphascap Group!”

After he said this, he stood up and walked away, but after taking a few steps, he stopped in his tracks and grinned at Elspeth. “But, Miss Lynwood, there is room for discussion if you come to see me in person.”

“I don’t think it’s necessary, Mr. Little.”

Elspeth’s cold expression irritated Dominic, who scowled. “Hmph! If that’s the case, we will never collaborate with the Winthrops from now on!”