

Chapter 104 Losing It

Alicia couldn't find the right words to say.

Mrs. Reyes's eyes settled on her.

Uncomfortable with the situation, Alicia clenched her jaw and shot a sharp look at Caden. "It was not on purpose. Sorry."

Caden responded, "Oh, I assumed you were asking for a card from me."

Once again, Alicia was left in silence.

Mrs. Reyes let out a soft laugh.

"Ms. Bennett, are you losing your grip?"

Finding an unexpected wave of boldness, Alicia replied, "I have been sitting here so long that my legs cramped. That is why I accidentally hit Mr. Ward. But watch out, Mrs. Reyes, you might be next."

Mrs. Reyes's expression darkened.

She scolded, "Good sportsmanship is important when playing. Even if it is just for fun, you should still understand the rules and not resort to underhanded tactics."

Caden chuckled, "I have to ask who came up with the rules for this table?"

Mrs. Reyes answered, "Nobody created them; they have been established for generations."

"I could have sworn it was you, Mrs. Reyes," Caden commented.

Mrs. Reyes's heart skipped a beat as her gaze flicked toward Caden.

Was there something beneath those words?

Did he suspect anything?



But his face remained unreadable.

The weight of the moment pressed on her, draining her usual confidence.

One ally had already slipped away.

After losing all her chips in record time, Alicia began playing with abandon, which only intensified her aggressive moves.

Even though Mrs. Reyes remained ahead.

Her wins were becoming less certain.

Shuffling his cards in his hands, Caden remarked, "Three thousand dollars feels like nothing. Mrs. Reyes, what do you say we up the stakes?"

Mrs. Reyes paused, uncertain.

Caden added, "If you are not up for it, then never mind."

Mrs. Reyes could not tolerate such a slight.

She agreed without hesitation, "What is your proposal, Mr. Ward?"

"One hundred thousand dollars."

Mrs. Reyes fell silent.

Her instincts told her that Caden's sights were set on her.

A heavy sense of unease settled over her.

Alicia, unfazed by her empty wallet, glanced at Mrs. Reyes's grim face and grinned. "A hundred thousand? That is all? That is pocket change. Let us bump it up to two hundred thousand. Mr. Ward can afford it. Congratulations, Mrs. Reyes looks like today's your lucky day!"

Mrs. Reyes could not bring herself to smile.

Alicia's words seemed like praise, but Mrs. Reyes knew she was being trapped.

Still, with the biggest winnings so far, backing down was not an option.

"Fine. We will go with Mr. Ward's idea," Mrs. Reyes finally conceded.

But Caden interjected, "Actually, let us follow Ms. Bennett's lead. Two hundred thousand sounds much more thrilling."

Mrs. Reyes was at a loss for words.

Alicia pressed on. "Mrs. Reyes, what is the matter? You do not seem thrilled. Is two hundred thousand too modest? Should we raise it to five hundred thousand?"

Mrs. Reyes cut her off, "Two hundred thousand is perfectly fine."

Alicia stifled a grin.

Before the game began, Mrs. Reyes had still clung to a faint hope.

Even though she lost a partner in the game, Rachel had rigged the dice in her favor. As long as she played cautiously, not even Caden could surpass her.

But, to her astonishment, by the second round, Caden began racking up wins.

Sweat began to gather on Mrs. Reyes's palms.

How was this even possible?

Then came the second round, and the third...

Caden swept through them all.

His hands seemed to improve with every game.

Mrs. Reyes's head started to spin.

Another woman at the table, crushed by her losses, quietly stood up and left without saying a word.

Rachel smoothly slid into the vacant seat.

Caden glanced at her and said, "Mrs. Gray, your timing is impeccable. I have got a question for you."

Rachel kept her composed and gentle smile. "I am listening, Mr. Ward."

Without a word, Caden picked up the dice.

Then casually let them fall in front of her.

"Care to explain this?" he asked.

Alicia wore a look of confusion.

Mrs. Reyes had not anticipated Caden would catch that detail, and she tightened her grip.

Alicia quickly put the pieces together. "Is there an issue with the dice?"

She snatched them up and scrutinized them intently.

Yet, despite her thorough examination, she found nothing amiss.

Feeling a surge of curiosity, she asked, "What did they do to the dice?"

Caden kept his face neutral. "I am not certain. You will have to consult Mr. Gray."

Rachel looked at the dice.

Unless caught outright, she would not concede anything. "They're just standard dice. What is the issue?"

Caden replied in a relaxed tone, "In that case, I suppose I will need to bring in some experts to take a closer look."

He paused for a moment before shifting his attention to the visibly rattled Mrs. Reyes. "I heard Mr. Reyes is out of town on a business trip. Do not worry; I will make sure the media receives all the details and send him a special copy of today's highlights."

The mention of her husband sent a wave of fear through Mrs. Reyes. "Mr. Ward, please don't..."

Rachel quickly realized that Caden was there to back Alicia, leaving her feeling cornered.

With no other options available, she decided to make a concession. "I just remembered that this card table had some prior issues that I neglected to address. My apologies, Ms. Bennett. I will have Mrs. Reyes reimburse all your losses. We are all here to enjoy ourselves, after all. Let us not allow money to spoil the fun."

Alicia offered a faint smile.

Even now, they were holding her responsible for the turmoil.

"Mrs. Gray," Alicia replied, "since you are being so generous, why don't you refund the money I lost to Mrs. Reyes earlier?"