

Chapter 105 Are You My Son

Now, it was Rachel's turn to blanch.

Mrs. Reyes, relieved that she was no longer in the hot seat, quickly chimed in, "Mrs. Gray, we've been at this for ages, and you only remembered this now? It's clearly your mistake!"

Rachel blinked in shock, momentarily stunned.

She hadn't expected Mrs. Reyes to turn on her so quickly.

Mrs. Reyes's smile was cold, knowing. In her eyes, Rachel was nothing more than an acquaintance—certainly not a friend. And when millions of dollars were at stake, loyalties shifted easily.

Rachel's heart sank, a heavy weight settling in her chest.

The entire scheme had been her idea, but now she was staring down the consequences, and it stung.

But to lose millions of dollars? That was a sum she couldn't easily dismiss.

Randolph had always been miserly, and most of the funds in her account had been painstakingly earned by herself. The thought of parting with that kind of money made her stomach churn.

Mrs. Reyes had powerful connections, and Rachel knew she couldn't afford to fall out with her. That left only one person—Alicia.

Rachel took the path of least resistance. She forced a small, tight-lipped smile. "Ms. Bennett, everyone makes mistakes. Don't you think you're being a little too harsh?"

Alicia's eyes glittered with icy amusement. "What's the problem? Can't you afford it?" She paused before delivering her next words with a pointed sharpness. "It's fine. You can write up an IOU, and we'll calculate the interest based on bank rates."



Rachel's smile faltered, her expression souring. "Ms. Bennett, must you really be so aggressive? Mr. Ward joined us and won quite a bit. It's not like you're suffering any losses."

"That's money he won. What does that have to do with me?" she asked, tilting her head to the side in feigned confusion. She then turned her gaze to Caden and asked pointedly, "What makes you obligated to support me financially? Are you my son?"

Caden's eyes narrowed, his irritation barely masked.

"Alicia, you're so ungrateful," he thought, suppressing the urge to roll his eyes. "I'm here to help, and you're turning this against me?"

Sensing an opportunity, Rachel hurriedly said, "Alright, let's drop it. Mrs. Reyes didn't intend to single you out."

Alicia scoffed, her patience thinning. "If Caden hadn't stepped in and noticed, Mrs. Reyes would've kept me playing for hours. I was losing tens of thousands of dollars with each round. How much would I have lost after all that time? How is that not targeting?"

Rachel raised a brow and crossed her arms. "You could've conceded or simply walked away. No one forced you to stay in the game."

Mrs. Reyes, not one to miss an opportunity for mockery, added with a sly grin, "Exactly. If you were losing so much, why didn't you just leave?"

Alicia's smile didn't reach her eyes as she straightened. "Fine," she said icily. "But don't blame me for what comes next."

She nudged Caden's arm with a challenging gaze. "Call the police, Mr. Ward."

Caden's expression hardened, his voice dripping with disdain. "Why are you ordering me around? Do you really think I'm your son?"

Alicia's lips pressed into a thin line, speechless for a moment.

She shot him a glare, mentally cursing the man.

So exasperating!

Rolling her eyes in frustration, Alicia pulled out her phone and dialed the police.

Seeing how serious Alicia was, Rachel jumped in, trying to defuse the situation. "Ms. Bennett, that's enough!"

Caden, his expression dark, kicked a nearby chair.

The chair skidded across the grass, blocking Rachel's path.

Alicia, unbothered, let the call go through. "Hello? Is this the police?"

Rachel's eyes widened, her thoughts racing. If this escalated, Randolph would have her head. With a heavy sigh of resignation, she muttered, "Alright, fine. I'll pay!"

Alicia glanced up with a small, victorious smile, casually showing her phone screen.

"Relax," she said, her tone sweet and unhurried. "I didn't actually call the police."

Rachel was left dumbfounded, staring at her in disbelief.

With a falsely innocent expression, Alicia added with a shrug, "I wouldn't take it that far. It's just a small amount of money after all."

Rachel's face hardened as she gritted her teeth.

Now that she'd spoken up, she couldn't exactly go back on her word.

Begrudgingly, she transferred half the amount, unable to cough up the entire amount.

Rachel then turned to look at Mrs. Reyes meaningfully, indicating the latter had to shoulder the other half.

Of course, Mrs. Reyes didn't want to, but she couldn't make a scene, so she grudgingly transferred the money to Alicia.

Alicia checked her account balance, her fingers tapping the screen unhurriedly. Every cent was there.

Caden, on the other hand, glowered silently when he saw her eyes light up with satisfaction.

She'd been through so much, fought tooth and nail, and yet this small victory seemed to be enough to make her glow.

"You sure you counted it properly?" Caden's voice cut through the moment, laced with icy disdain. "Perhaps there's an extra two dollars in there somewhere?"

Alicia blinked, surprised by his sudden comment. She slipped her phone back into her bag, her brow furrowing slightly.

Why was he asking her this out of nowhere?

"I've already checked it," she replied, puzzled. "Everything's accounted for. Why?"

Caden's lips twisted into a cold smile. "For all the fuss you've made, how much did you spend, and how much did you really earn? Ms. Bennett, it seems your time comes quite cheap."

Alicia's eyes widened as his meaning sunk in.

Her moment of triumph suddenly felt hollow, leaving a slight bitterness in her chest.

Their gazes locked. He didn't need to say more—she got the message.

In a silent exchange, Alicia's eyes seemed to ask, "Can I push them even further?"

Caden's gaze flickered with a subtle challenge, his eyes silently conveying, "Up to you."

Alicia silently asked, "Will you back me up?"

He didn't answer, just tilted his head, resting it against his hand, rubbing his temple in that familiar, casual way.

It wasn't exactly a "Yes," but she understood.

Before Mrs. Reyes could slip away, Alicia stopped her in her tracks.

Caden let out a soft huff, shaking his head in disbelief.

Different? How was he any different?

The thought drifted across his mind, but he quickly brushed it away. Without a word, he pulled out his phone and transferred the money he had won earlier into her account.

Alicia blinked in confusion. "Why are you giving me money?"

He didn't look at her, only shrugged. "That money passed through your hands. It's bad luck."

This time, she was the speechless one.