

Chapter 111 | Saved Your Life

Alicia had taken several hits and bumped her head, but her injuries weren't serious. She steadied herself against the wall and slowly made her way downstairs.

She searched everywhere for Caden.

Eventually, she spotted him at the lawn party.

As she approached, something felt off.

Caden was standing amidst the crowd, emanating an intimidating aura. Nobody could even muster the courage to stand an inch closer to him.

The entire crowd was silently watching everything unfold.

Mrs. Reyes stood at the front, watching Caden with worry in her eyes.

Alicia spotted an empty chair and took a seat, aligning her focus with the crowd's gaze.

Before Caden, the group of children involved in the earlier incident stood in a straight line.

They awaited his commands, hanging by his every word.

"Channel every ounce of strength to overcome the others. The one who loses will face punishment, while the last one standing will earn a reward from me," he announced.

His voice carried a mix of levity and authority.

He resembled a general leading his troops into battle.

Alicia observed the children who once strutted around like a gang of bullies. Now, they stood as timid as lambs, subjugated by Caden's commanding words.

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They weren't doing it because of obedience.

They were following his commands out of fear.

Everyone, even the children, knew what it felt like to fear authority.

Caden stepped back slightly and caught a glimpse of Alicia in his peripheral vision. He frowned, but the expression vanished almost instantly.

The children erupted into chaos, fighting among themselves.

Alicia had no interest in their antics. Dizziness washed over her as she made her way to Caden. "Hey..."

Without looking up, Caden pulled a chair closer and sat down. "Yeah?"

Alicia struggled to move her chair near to him.

Each movement sent a wave of dizziness through her head, but it was manageable.


After taking a brief moment to gather her thoughts, Alicia examined Caden's face. "What's going on with them? Why do they listen to you so easily?"

Caden responded with clarity. "The incident created quite a scene. Randolph wanted to avoid police involvement, so he asked me to handle things quietly."

"Why did it have to be you?" Alicia asked instinctively.

Shouldn't she be the one to determine what happened? After all, she was the one who had been harmed.

She told herself her question came from genuine curiosity and not malice.

However, Caden wore a stern expression. "You were unconscious. As your ex-husband's brother, I was given temporary authority to make decisions for you." 

Alicia nodded slowly.

"Thanks," she replied with sincerity evident in her voice.

Caden scoffed and said, "Lucky for you, I had some time today, but next time, handle it yourself."

Alicia stared at him, momentarily lost for words.

A moment later, she mumbled, "I wasn't blaming you."

Caden remained silent.

His attention shifted back to the children as they fought.

Ted stood out as the strongest among them.

Even so, he was the most terrified, and he tried to fight with all his might.

He quickly took down the other kids one by one.

Their mothers rushed in to break up the chaos, pushing Ted aside, while Mrs. Reyes shielded him.

It didn't take long until some of adults joined the fray.

At this point, the shit hit the fan.

Alicia felt a sense of satisfaction. "Your methods remain as ruthless as ever."

Caden appeared indifferent.

To him, it resembled a circus performance.

Alicia didn't approach him just for casual conversation.

She intended to explain why she had called out for Joshua while unconscious.

But for some reason, looking at his face left her speechless.

In her dream, she felt deep sympathy for that unfortunate boy.

His mother had passed away in the hospital, and his father showed no



interest in him.

His younger brother, born the same year, not only failed to comfort him during his darkest moments but also made his pain worse.

She had lost her parents too.

This suffocating pain was something she understood all too well.

Alicia opened her mouth to speak. "Caden..."

Caden's face remained unreadable. "Go ahead."

Alicia scratched her palm, searching for the right words.

"Were you the one who saved me?"

"It was nothing," he answered with an air of detachment.

Alicia pressed on, "Why did you act so cold after saving me? It feels like you're holding a grudge against me."

Was it because she had called out for Joshua in her dream?

She couldn't bring herself to ask the question, because she was worried about the embarrassment of being wrong.

Instead, she decided it was best to wait for his response.

Caden answered with a frosty tone, "Don't you realize we might hold a deep-seated grudge?"

Alicia found herself at a loss for words.

Caden added, "I saved your life. That means you owe me."

Once again, she had no response.

She knew she was overanalyzing the situation.

Maybe she shouldn't have sought him out.


At that moment, Ted raised his hands in victory from the pile of children. "I won! I beat them!"

Alicia glanced over, feeling frustrated.

"He's the one who pushed me down, thinking he could get away with it just because he's a minor."

Caden remarked, "You couldn't even handle a child? Are you proud of it?"

Alicia's head throbbed painfully. "They ambushed me."

Ted dashed towards Caden with excitement shining in his innocent eyes. "Sir, I won! Where's my reward?" 

Mrs. Reyes felt a sense of unease creeping in.

She quickly pulled Ted back. "Ted, we don't need a reward. He was just joking."

Ted shook his head stubbornly. "No! He promised me. I want my reward!"

Caden fixed his gaze on Ted.

His eyes held a menacing intensity that was difficult to interpret.

"You fought well. You deserve a reward." Caden turned to Alicia. "Arrange the reward for him."

Alicia winced, trying to ease the pain in her head.

His words left her stunned. "What?"

