

Chapter 32 Proposal

Joshua made a surprise proposal.

This shocking announcement hit the news, and the netizens who had been targeting Lilliana would soon redirect their attention.

They would begin to dig into Joshua's past, searching for any trace of his relationship history, ultimately revealing that he had been married and divorced.

So much hidden information would come to light.

In essence, Lilliana's scandal would fade into the background.

Joshua had taken the brunt of the online backlash for her.

Caden's gaze shifted to the screen.

He let out a light scoff.

"What a truly touching love story," he remarked.

Alicia found herself staring at the screen, almost entranced by the unfolding events.

The display soon changed to a video.

It featured Joshua's heartfelt confession.

He crafted a story about how he and Lilliana met and fell in love.

Then Joshua revealed a dazzling diamond ring and gently placed it on Lilliana's finger.

The camera zoomed in, capturing the moment with clarity.

Alicia's eyes were suddenly filled with tears, and her breathing turned shaky.



Caden turned to look at her, his indifferent gaze taking in the fragile expressions on her face.

Alicia lowered her eyes, trying to mask her feelings. "It's just a proposal. What's so touching about it? Honestly, it feels a bit cliché. That diamond ring looks like a rip-off. It's super expensive but not really worth it."

Caden's expression remained devoid of any emotion.

He casually responded, "That brand of diamond ring is priceless."

Alicia's eyes reddened further as she laughed bitterly. "I guessed correctly. Joshua has lost a fortune."

Caden sneered at her words.

"It's not really a loss, though. At least when he married you, he didn't spend a single penny."

Alicia fell silent at his remark.

"Oh, wait, he did spend a little," Caden added slowly. "He bought you a silver ring for a few bucks."

Well...

The room grew eerily quiet, intensifying Alicia's heartache as she processed everything happening around her.

Alicia poured herself a glass of wine, trying to appear relaxed as she asked, "Would you like a drink?"

Caden stayed silent, showing no interest in her offer.

Alicia didn't anticipate his response and lifted the glass to her lips.

She knew she was slightly allergic to alcohol and usually got drunk quickly, which was why she rarely indulged.

Today's wine was particularly strong.

As she drank, it caught in her throat, causing her to cough immediately.

Her face flushed bright red, and tears began to well up in her eyes, though they wouldn't fall.

Caden's expression darkened.

He looked down at her with a hint of disdain in his gaze.

"If you're so eager to die, why not just down it all in one go?" Caden remarked.

Alicia chose not to respond to his taunt.

After catching her breath, she realized she needed to take her time, so she began to drink slowly, taking generous sips.

Caden observed her as she treated the wine as if it were merely water.

After three glasses, the signs of Alicia's allergic reaction became evident. Small red patches appeared on her neck, revealing her body's distress.

Caden frowned and firmly pressed down on her hand as she reached for another glass.

Alicia sluggishly lifted her head, gazing at him through her intoxicated haze.

"What the hell are you doing?" he asked.

"Stop drinking!" he said.

Alicia weakly attempted to pull her hand free, but she couldn't match his strength.

"Let go of me, Caden!" she snapped, her voice laced with frustration.

Caden responded, "If you want to drink yourself to death, go do it somewhere else. Dying here would only make me a suspect."

Alicia narrowed her eyes, staring at his hand as if contemplating her next move.

Caden felt an unsettling tension in the air.

Before he could pull back, Alicia suddenly opened her mouth and bit down hard on his hand.

She was clearly releasing her pent-up frustration with that fierce action.

Even someone as patient as Caden couldn't help but flinch slightly. "You truly behave like a dog, biting anything that comes close."

Despite his comments, he kept his hand right where it was.

Alicia continued to bite until her jaw began to ache, finally releasing her grip.

She stared blankly at Caden's bleeding hand, and tears unexpectedly streamed down her cheeks.

In a clumsy yet gentle motion, she leaned forward and licked the blood from his hand.

Choking back her emotions, she murmured, "I'm so sorry."

Her soft tongue brushed against the wound, triggering an unbearable itch that made him wince.

Caden's frown deepened as he swiftly pulled his hand away.

Alicia slumped forward over the table, feeling defeated.

Outside, fireworks exploded in the night sky.

Purple bursts lit up the darkness, casting a glow on Alicia's pale face.

Alicia had once shared with Joshua that purple fireworks were her favorite.

However, Joshua had never taken the time to set them off for her.

Everything he owed her, he now freely gave to someone else.

Caden never imagined he would find himself in such a situation.

Because Gerry was passed out and Alicia was having an allergic reaction, Caden knew that he had quite a challenge on his hands.

He instructed someone to take Gerry away.

When he turned back, he saw Alicia dry heaving.

She retched repeatedly but couldn't bring anything up, fumbling around the table in a dazed state.

Caden approached her and asked, "What are you looking for?"

"I'm looking for tissues," she muttered.

Alicia glanced up at him before leaning weakly against his chest, wiping her mouth on his shirt.

Cad was at a loss for words.

He regretted coming back.

Noticing the red rashes covering her exposed skin, he realized her allergy was severe. He hesitated for a moment but then decided to lift her up.

Just as Caden carried Alicia, Hank arrived after parking the car, witnessing the scene unfold.

Hank was taken aback. He was fully aware of Caden's aversion to women. He offered politely, "Mr. Ward, let me handle this."

Caden replied in a flat tone, "There's no need. Just drive the car to the entrance."

Hank responded, "Yes, sir." Nonetheless, he secretly pulled out his phone, preparing to take a picture.

Just as he was about to capture the moment, Caden shot him a stern glare.

Hank quickly raised his phone, pretending to check his hair in the reflection. "I wasn't taking pictures of you two. I was just making sure my hair isn't messy."