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Chapter 243, Coolest Girl in Town

Jamie's eyes darkened at Madeline's words, but his face gave nothing away. He merely said, "It'd be a blessing from God if I could have a girlfriend like Miss Sinclair. It's just too bad that I'm not lucky enough to meet a good partner like her in my lifetime." Upon hearing this, Elise gave Jamie a big thumbs up in her mind. *This guy's gotten better at talking*, she thought. On the other hand, Madeline's face grew even darker at Jamie's words. Jamie ignored Madeline's expression, though. Instead, he turned to look at Elise, asking, "Did you buy all these, Miss Sinclair?"

Elise was somewhat puzzled. Nevertheless, she shook her head and replied, "No, Mrs. Griffith bought these for Miss Dahlen here." Jamie let out a long sigh. "I see. I saw you carrying these bags, so I thought you were the one who bought all these. Anyway, it's rare for you to come to my shopping mall. Did you find anything you like after shopping around?" Upon hearing this, Elise finally figured out what Jamie was up to. She immediately replied with a smile, "Well, I had my eye on a few Hermès handbags just now." The instant she finished her sentence, Jamie immediately understood what she implied.

He ordered the men behind him, "Pack up all the new handbags in the Hermès store and have them delivered to Miss Sinclair's home." "Yes, Young Master Jamie." The men hurriedly carried out his orders. Meanwhile, Maya was instantly stunned by what was happening. Did he just say 'all the new Hermès handbags'? That's the dream of countless young ladies! A Hermès handbag is as valuable as ten Chanel handbags combined, yet this man offered to give Elise an entire limited-edition series! she thought. In an instant, she felt that the handbags she had just bought today didn't appeal to her anymore.

"What about clothes? Or jewelry?" Elise seemed to give it some serious thought. Then, she said, "I heard that Cion, the jewelry brand, has just introduced a necklace that's worth millions..." Without batting an eyelid, Jamie immediately ordered, "Pack up that flagship piece from the Cion store and have it delivered as well." Even Madeline was stupefied when the man offered to give a necklace worth millions to Elise as a present without the slightest hesitation. Just what's so special about Elise that makes this guy spend so much money on her?

Maya quickly took Madeline's arm and exchanged glances with her, while Madeline patted the back of her hand to comfort her. Well, let's see if this guy's really that generous with

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money. However, in less than ten minutes, Jamie's bodyguards came carrying many shopping bags. All these bags contained Hermés Birkin bags, and one of them even contained an exquisitely decorated gift box. "I hope you're happy with these, Miss Sinclair." Elise crinkled her eyes in a smile as she knew the reason why Jamie had done all these. Playing along with him, she replied with a nod, "Thanks for the gifts. I like them very much."

"Well, I'm glad to hear that you like them," Jamie said, before turning to look at Madeline. "So, are you gonna continue shopping, Mrs. Griffith?" At this moment, though, Madeline was no longer in the mood for shopping, for the sight of those shopping bags made her feel very embarrassed. "No, I don't think so. We've bought enough things, so we'll be going back." "In that case, could I have someone escort you home?"

Before Madeline could answer him, Maya replied first, "Sure! As it happens, I'm tired from shopping." She just wanted to run away from here as soon as possible since she really couldn't stand it anymore. Madeline was inwardly displeased. She shot an angry glare at Elise, but she didn't say anything else. Before coming to the shopping mall, she had planned to open Elise, that country bumpkin's, eyes and make her realize the gap between her and the Griffiths. But now, she was dumbfounded by everything Jamie had done. "Sorry for troubling you, then," Elise said. Jamie hurriedly had a special car arranged to drive the three women home.

Madeline kept a sullen face on their way home, whereas Elise was much more relaxed. After arriving home, Madeline tossed the handbag in her hand to the servant and then said to Elise in displeasure, "You're a lady, Elise. Don't you know that a lady should stay reserved? When men give women presents, they usually do so for a purpose. How could you date my son while accepting presents from other men? Aren't you ashamed of that?" However, Elise smiled faintly without the slightest displeasure. She replied, "I think you're overthinking it, Mrs. Griffith.

Mr. Keller and I have known each other for years, so there's nothing wrong with me accepting gifts from him. Besides, you must've gotten tired from an entire day of shopping, so let's not worry about me. If you think it was inappropriate for me to accept gifts from someone else, I can do nothing about that. After all, I've got no right to control what you think." "You... You've got quite the sharp tongue. Aren't you worried that I'll tell Alex about this?" "Well, whether to tell Alexander about this or not is up to you. You're free to choose whether to do it or not.

I'm going upstairs for a rest," Elise replied. With that, she turned around and left. Madeline was as mad as hell, for she found that she could do nothing about Elise. Just then, the

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servant came over with the Hermès shopping bags in her hands. She asked Madeline, "Madam, where should I put these bags? Should I put them in your room as usual?" Madeline replied snappishly, "Don't ask me about that! Just put them wherever you like." The servant was confused, but she dared not breathe. Just then, however, Elise poked her head out from somewhere, saying, "Stella, please send them all to my room."

Stella immediately replied, "Yes, Miss Elise." Then, she looked at the servant next to her, saying, "These are Miss Elise's stuff. Just send them to her room." The servant hurriedly brought all the shopping bags upstairs. Madeline felt like a formless fire was burning inside her. I've got to chase Elise out of this house as soon as possible! she thought. As soon as Alexander came home, she went up to him and said, "I've got something to tell you, Alex! Elise's fooling around with someone else out there..." Alexander's expression changed slightly at Madeline's words, but he merely replied, "What are you talking about, Mom?"

Madeline couldn't care less about anything else, though. She told Alexander everything she had seen today, though she didn't say a word about what she had done on purpose. "I'm telling you, Alex, that Keller guy really spent a lot of money on her! It'd be understandable for him to do that if they were a couple, but he gave her such valuable presents despite them not being a couple. This simply doesn't make sense! Not only that, but Elise accepted his gifts like it was nothing. There's no doubt that she's cheated on you by doing so!" "That's enough, Mom! It's not what you think.

I trust Elise; she's not the kind of person you're talking about." This was the first time Madeline had seen her son talking to her like this, and the fire within her continued to rage. "Alex, you're being fooled by that woman—" However, before she could finish her sentence, Alexander cut her short, saying, "Enough is enough, Mom! Let's not talk about this anymore. I'm going upstairs." With that, he went upstairs, leaving a stupefied Madeline behind. Alexander went to Elise's room and knocked on the door. Right after that, Elise's voice was heard saying, "Come in."

When Alexander pushed the door open and entered, he saw some shopping bags containing high-end luxury items. His eyes darkened, but he walked toward her without looking sideways. At this moment, Elise was sitting at her desk and fiddling with the cell phone in her hand. "Oh, you're back," she said. The next second, though, Alexander grabbed her wrist right away and pulled her into his arms. Then, he held her close, asking, "Did my mom give you a hard time today?"

Elise blinked her eyes before saying with a smile, "No, she didn't! She just took me on a shopping trip. These are the things I got, but they were given to me by Jamie as presents."

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Alexander said with a straight face, "Just use the card I gave you when you go shopping next time. Don't accept any presents from other men again."

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Elise quickly explained, "It's not like I wanted to accept Jamie's presents, but the situation at the time..." Just then, however, she thought of something. After all, Madeline was Alexander's mother. However displeased she was with Madeline, she couldn't say nasty things about his mother in front of him. Therefore, she changed the subject and said, "Never mind, I'll return them after leaving them here for a few days." However, Alexander tightened his arms around her. "I'm sorry, Elise. I don't think I can accept other men being nice to you, so I've got to be twice as nice to you in the future."

Elise didn't say a word. There were some things that she didn't want to tell him lest it made him feel even more irritable. However, she could sense that Madeline was hostile to her. Seems like it's true that the relationship with one's mother-in-law is the trickiest problem in the world. Perhaps I could reduce the conflict between us by avoiding her, she thought. At the thought of this, she made up her mind. When Alexander came out of Elise's room, he gave Cameron a call. "Help me find out what happened at Moore Plaza today." Cameron merely replied, "Yes, Young Master Alexander," on the other end of the line without asking any questions.

After hanging up the phone, Alexander looked back and stared at the tightly closed door. Even though Elise said nothing about it, he could sense that there was something wrong with her mood today. What should I do to reduce her worries? he thought. Over the next few days, Elise went out from dawn till dusk, going to Brendan's studio to help him with his work. As she avoided meeting Madeline almost every day, the two women rarely ran into each other, thus avoiding many conflicts.

However, Madeline wouldn't let it go at that. One day, the servant received an exquisitely designed invitation card. "Madam, it's an invitation sent by the SK Group." Madeline took the invitation card and glanced at it. "Just put it there! I'll make time to attend the event." "Yes, madam," Stella said. Just as Stella was about to leave, Madeline stopped her, saying, "Wait a minute, Stella." "Is there anything else, madam?" Coming straight to the point, Madeline said, "You've worked for the Griffiths for years. I suppose I can talk about this with you without

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mincing words. You've served Dad by his side for so many years, so you know his temperament better than anyone else.

I'm just curious as to why he would arrange for Alex to get engaged to a country bumpkin like Elise." Stella was troubled by Madeline's question. "Madam, this is a matter within the Griffith Family. I'm only a servant, so I'm not qualified to comment on this." Madeline immediately replied, "It's okay, Stella. I just want to know what Dad thought, so you just have to be honest." Still, Stella was unsure of what to say in response. In the past few days, she had noticed that Madeline seemed to be displeased with Elise. Naturally, she couldn't say anything about it as a servant, though she felt more and more sorry for Elise.

"Madam, since you asked me the question today, allow me to say that Elise is actually a fine lady. She excels in her studies and is the top scorer in the college entrance exam this time. Back when the late Mr. Griffith was still around, she never exploited his fondness for her to do anything inappropriate. Instead, she always had the interests of the Griffiths in mind. As for her relationship with Young Master Alexander, I don't think it's proper for us to speak out of turn about the love between a man and a woman. But I believe that Young Master Alexander must've liked Miss Elise because there's something extraordinary about her. Besides, they look like a perfect match. I think they'll definitely be happy if they get married."

"That's enough..." Madeline interrupted Stella before the latter could continue her speech. "Getting married? How could she marry into the Griffith Family with such a family background? Isn't that a bit too laughable?" Upon hearing Madeline's words, Stella realized that Madeline disliked Elise because of the latter's family background. Turns out that rich families value marriages between families of equal social standing above everything else. Well, the late Mr. Griffith was better; he didn't hold such vulgar and old-fashioned views, she thought. Just then, Madeline said, "Tell me the truth, Stella. Has she done anything... indecent with Alex over the time she spent here?"

Upon hearing this, Stella immediately replied, "You're overthinking it, madam. There's nothing indecent between Miss Elise and Young Master Alexander. I can vouch for Miss Elise about this." Madeline heaved a sigh of relief. Seems like they've yet to reach that point in their relationship. In that case, there'd still be a way to improve the situation, she thought. "Alright, I got it. You may leave." Stella wiped the sweat off her forehead before going to the kitchen. Then, she breathed a sigh of helplessness, saying, "Why would a kind person like you come across such a mother-in-law, Miss Elise..."

Elise didn't know what had happened, and she didn't come home until 10PM as usual. Whenever she came back at this hour in the last few days, the lights in the living room

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would've already been switched off. Today, however, the spacious living room was brightly lit. "You're back at last, huh?" Elise heard Madeline's voice as soon as she entered the house. When she looked up subconsciously, she saw Madeline sitting on the sofa in the living room. She asked, "Why are you still up at such a late hour, Mrs. Griffith?" "I was waiting for you," Madeline replied succinctly.

"Come here. Let's have a talk." Elise walked over to Madeline and sat down beside her. "Is there anything you'd like to talk to me about, Mrs. Griffith?" "Uh-huh," Madeline replied. "I heard from someone in the family that you'd be staying here for only a year. Since it's about time, I'd say you should consider moving out and staying somewhere else. After all, you're a lady, so it's quite improper for you to stay at someone else's place all year round." For a moment, Elise didn't know how to respond to Madeline's words. She came here because Jonah had invited her to, but now that Jonah was gone, it did seem improper for her to continue staying here. Moreover, Madeline had asked her to leave.

"You're right, Mrs. Griffith. I should be moving out indeed." Madeline then said, "I don't mean anything else, but you're a lady, so your reputation is quite important. Those in our family are mostly guys, so it'll be embarrassing if word gets around about this. How about this? I've got a 2-bedroom apartment downtown, so you can stay there if you want." "Thanks for your kind offer, Mrs. Griffith, but it's not necessary. I'll find a place to stay on my own." Madeline heaved a sigh of relief when she heard Elise say so. "That's good. You're engaged to Alexander, but you two aren't married yet, after all, so your relationship is still subject to change.

I'm doing this for your own good, so if Alexander and the others ask you about it later, I hope you'll tell them that it's your own decision." *To put it bluntly, I can't say that she drove me out.* There was no way Elise didn't understand the meaning behind Madeline's words. Indeed, she was like an outsider to this family, so it was a bit improper for her to stay here. "Don't worry. I understand that." Therefore, Elise packed up her stuff the next day. She had bought an apartment in Athesea long ago, though the place had always been vacant. Originally, she had planned to move there when she finished spending a year at the Griffith Residence as she had promised to Robin.

Now that she was going to move out, she could stay in that apartment for the time being. She announced right away during breakfast that she was planning to move out. In an instant, those at the dining table were surprised, and Danny was the first to speak. "You're moving out? Why, Boss? Why are you moving out? You're doing fine while staying here, anyway." Brendan asked right after that, "Did something happen, Elise? Why do you want to

move out all of a sudden?" Jack was puzzled, too. "Don't tell me you want to move out because you have a hard time adjusting to it now that my parents are back?"

Elise immediately replied with a smile, "No, that's not it. I just feel that I've bothered you guys a little by staying here for too long. Now that the college entrance exam has ended, I'll be going to university at Tissote when the semester begins in September. It'd be inconvenient for me to continue staying here, so I decided I might as well move out." "That can't be true, Boss! Don't move out, okay? If you move out of here, I'll have a problem improving my ranking in games.

How am I supposed to play games with you then?" Brendan chimed in, "That's right, Elise. There's still a month before the semester begins, so you can totally stay until then." As soon as Brendan finished his sentence, Alexander, who had been silent the whole time, looked up at Elise and asked, "Where will you be staying?"

Elise answered honestly, "I'll be staying at Bollinger Gardens on Ellingmont Lane." "I'll help you move your stuff there later, then." Elise nodded in agreement, but she couldn't help feeling a bit disappointed deep down inside. He didn't even ask me to stay, she thought to herself.