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Chapter 511 An Invitation to Dance

At that thought, Sonia hastened her footsteps and hurried back to the hall. She weaved through the people in the crowd as she looked left and right to search for Toby. After walking around the whole place, she finally found him in a corner.

Toby wasn't standing alone—he was talking to a woman who stood in front of him. The woman wasn't especially pretty, but she was tall and elegant and looked like the daughter of some rich family. It seemed like Toby was close to this woman because they clinked glasses while chit-chatting with each other.

Sonia caught Toby smiling at the woman. That woman's even fixing the brooch on his suit... All of a sudden, Sonia's footsteps came to a halt. Her palms were pressed down onto her sides as she felt an inexplicable surge of rage and bitterness filling her chest. She felt extremely terrible.

Zane was standing right behind Sonia, and he let out a bitter sigh after taking a look at Toby and shifting his gaze to Sonia's trembling figure. She really fell in love with Toby again. Otherwise, she wouldn't have reacted like this when she saw Toby interacting with another woman. I'm standing a few feet away from her, but I can sense her jealousy from where I'm standing. However, I don't care. I'm not going to give up just yet, Zane thought. She doesn't know that she's in love with Toby, so I still have a chance. I need to turn her into my girlfriend before she realizes her own feelings for Toby. Everything would be too late otherwise.

At that thought, Zane took a deep breath and hid his intentions before he walked over with a smile. "What are you looking at, Sonia?" He posed her that question although he already knew the answer.

Sonia bit her lip when she heard his voice. "It's nothing," she uttered.

Zane pretended to follow her gaze to look in the direction her eyes had been fixed upon. "Hey, isn't that Emily?"

"Emily?" she asked.

"Yeah, the lady talking to Toby," Zane replied with a nod.

Sonia lowered her gaze. "Do you think Emily and Toby are..." When she realized that her response seemed inappropriate, she quickly shook her head and waved her arms. "No, what I meant was... I don't think I've seen her around. I've never heard of her, either. If she's able to interact with Toby in such a natural manner, I'm sure she must be someone of high status, right?"

Zane knew what Sonia was actually curious about—she wanted to find out about Emily and Toby's relationship. However, since she didn't clarify her question, he pretended not to understand what she meant.

"I don't think so. Emily's from a third-rate family and she doesn't stay in Seafield, so it makes sense that you don't know who she is. However, her family has a pretty close relationship with the Fullers, and she's pretty close to Toby as well," Zane said to Sonia.

"A pretty close relationship..." Sonia's chest tightened when she heard Zane's words. She stole a glance at the two people who were chit-chatting in the corner, and she forced a smile. "I can tell that he treats Emily differently from the way he treats other women. He's patiently listening to her, and he smiles at her a lot—that's how I know that they have a special relationship."

Zane knew that she was overthinking Emily's relationship with Toby when he saw the bitter smile on her face. A pang of guilt struck him when he realized what he had done. However, that sense of guilt quickly disappeared as he raised his head and took a sip of his wine. He realized that he had no duty to clarify Emily and Toby's relationship. Humans were selfish creatures, and he was no different. He had to be a little manipulative to gain attention from the woman he liked, and he didn't see anything wrong with that.

"By the way, Sonia, the dance is about to start, and I don't have a partner. May I have this first dance with you?" Zane looked into Sonia's eyes as he asked her in a sincere tone.

Sonia's instant thought was to reject him, but before he could say anything, she saw Toby and Emily moving in for a hug. Her pupils shrank as a surge of fire burned in her chest. She clenched her fists, then turned to look at Zane. "Okay!" She agreed to dance with him.

Zane clearly knew that she had only said yes because she was triggered by the sight of Toby and Emily hugging each other, but why did that matter? What mattered was that she was now his dance partner.

Zane grinned as he gave Sonia an elegant bow. "Well, let's dance, my beautiful lady."

Sonia took a look at the two people who were still hugging each other, and her gaze dimmed as she took a deep breath and lifted her dress. She gave Zane a tiny curtsy to accept his invitation before she placed her hand in his. Zane grinned widely when their hands touched. Then, he gently wrapped his hand around hers before he led her out to the dance floor.

Both of them had just started walking when Toby turned his head to see the two of them holding hands and walking away from him. His expression changed immediately. Sonia and Zane... They're holding hands with each other and walking toward the dance floor. Are they going to have a dance together?

When Toby realized what was going on, he tightened his grip around his wine glass. He held onto his glass so hard that his hand began to tremble, and the wine inside shook along with his strong grip. The dark aura surrounding his figure was terrifying, and Emily quickly realized his change in mood. "What's up with you, my little cousin?" she asked as she wiped the smile off her face.

Toby didn't answer her question, but fixed his hateful gaze on the two figures who had arrived at the dance floor and were waiting for the music to play. Emily followed his gaze to see the couple who was already in a dancing stance, and she seemed to understand the situation immediately. "Is that the woman you're in love with?" she asked with a gentle smile on her face.

Toby pressed his lips together without answering her question. Emily swirled her wine glass as she looked at him. "Well, why did you get a divorce with her if you have feelings for her?"

"You don't understand, Emily." Toby lowered his gaze as he spoke in a flat tone.

Emily shrugged. "Fine. I might not understand the whole situation, but your beloved lady is about to dance with Zane. Are you just going to stand around and watch them?" Since Emily was Toby's cousin, she was siding with Toby this time. Since Sonia was the woman Toby fancied, she hoped that he would do something to get the woman back to his side.

But Toby merely pursed his lips without saying anything. After a few seconds of silence, he took a sip of his red wine before placing the glass down on the waiter's tray. "Dance with me, Emily." He turned to look at Emily.

"You want me to dance?" Emily glanced at Toby's left arm and raised an eyebrow. "Look, it's not that I don't want to dance with you, but your arm..."

"I'm fine. Come on," Toby said as he reached his right arm out to her. Emily let out a helpless sigh. "Fine. Since you're asking me in such a nice manner, I guess I'll have one dance with you." She lowered her glass and placed her hand into his as she spoke.

Toby took her hand before he led her over to the dance floor. By then, there were already a good number of couples who had gathered around to dance. They were all in their positions and poses, waiting for the music to start.

Sonia and Zane were standing in the middle of the dance floor. As Sonia looked at all the couples around her, she deeply regretted her decision to have a dance with Zane, but it was too late to change her mind. She couldn't go back on her words after agreeing to his request. If she decided not to dance then, the other guests might laugh at him, and it would be her fault. She had no choice but to force herself to dance an entire song with him.

As she was contemplating her decision, she noticed a figure walking over. There was a fresh, minty scent that came along with the person. Sonia's expression stiffened as she turned to look in the direction of the pleasant smell, and she saw Toby and Emily walking over for a dance. They had occupied the spot right beside Zane and Sonia.

Sonia bit her lip as she felt an uneasy feeling in her chest. Why? They can dance if they want to, but why do they have to stand beside us?

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Chapter 512 Exchanging Dance Partners

If we're standing so close to each other, then she will see us, and... Sonia lowered her head. Her expression had obviously turned sour. Zane spotted the change in his partner, and he quickly understood the reason for her bad mood when he saw Toby and Emily near them. It made sense—how could one expect Sonia to be happy when she was watching her lower dancing with another woman in front of her? Furthermore, she had just realized that she had fallen for Toby again.

Zane sighed under his breath before he turned to greet Toby and Emily. "Hey, guys. Are you here to dance too?"

"Yeah. I'm here upon someone else's request," Emily uttered as she patted Toby's shoulder. Toby shot her a look to tell her not to touch him wherever she pleased. Then, he turned to focus all of his attention on Sonia. Sonia sensed someone looking at her, but she couldn't tell who it was. However, she didn't lift her head to check—she didn't want to do such a thing. She knew that her mood would worsen if she looked up to see Toby and Emily standing together.

When Toby noticed that Sonia was completely ignoring him, he pursed his lips. The atmosphere around him seemed to turn heavier than before. Upon realizing this, Emily looked around a few times before she curled her lips into a smile. "Who's this dance partner of yours, Zane?" she asked with an ulterior motive.

"..." Zane didn't know how to respond. If I say that she's from the Reed Family, Emily will immediately realize that she's Toby's ex-wife. Things will seem weird if she finds out that Toby's friend is dancing with Toby's ex-wife. Sonia could sense that Zane was placed in a tough spot.

Well, Emily has already asked about me. It doesn't matter whether I'm doing it out of courtesy or if I'm trying to help Zane out of his tough spot—I'll have to speak up either way. I can't pretend that I don't see them anymore. Sonia took a deep breath before she looked up, and her gaze swept past Toby's figure to land on Emily's face. "Hello, my name is Sonia Reed."

"Sonia Reed. Doesn't that mean that you're..." Emily acted surprised as she turned to stare at Toby.

Sonia nodded. "Yeah. I'm President Fuller's ex-wife. However, you don't need to worry about anything as we're no longer involved in each other's lives."

Toby knitted his brows when he heard her words. What does she mean by that? Could she have misunderstood something?

Similarly, Emily froze for a moment, but she chuckled when she realized what was going on. "You're a really interesting person, Miss Reed. Toby and I aren't—"

"Emily." Zane sensed his opportunities being threatened, so he hastily interrupted their conversation. "Emily, Toby, the song is about to start. We can talk later, alright? There are a lot of people here. Why don't Sonia and I free up this space for you? We can dance on that side of the floor. We don't want to bump into each other while dancing, right?" With that said, he dragged Sonia over to the other side.

Emily stroked her chin when she watched the other couple walking off. "Zane cut me off intentionally, Toby. It seems like he doesn't want your ex-wife to know about our relationship."

"I know." Toby nodded. "He likes Sonia too." Zane probably noticed that I have caught feelings for Sonia again, Toby thought. That's why he wants Sonia to continue misunderstanding my relationship with Emily. That's the only way she will stay away from me. I can't believe Zane's using these manipulative tactics now, Toby thought as he glared at Zane. Toby's eyes narrowed as if he were keeping watch on a potential threat.

"What? He likes Sonia too?" Emily was too shocked to wrap her head around the situation. "B-But how could he like Sonia? He's your friend; shouldn't he..."

"It's fine." Toby parted his thin lips to speak in an icy tone. "I won't let them get together even if he likes her." Sonia can only belong to me!

"What are you going to do now?" Emily asked him curiously, but Toby didn't give her a direct answer and changed the topic. "The music is playing, Emily."

Waltz music filled the room, and everyone on the dance floor began to move along to the rhythm of the music—one step forward, one step to the side, a spin, and another step backward. The Waltz wasn't as upbeat as some other social dances, but a more elegant and gentle form of dance that was pleasant to the eyes.

Although Sonia was dancing with Zane, all of her attention was on Toby. It felt as if acid was corroding the surface of her heart as she watched Toby dancing with Emily. He injured his left arm, yet he insisted on dancing with Emily. It shows that Emily means a lot to him.

Zane's lips curled downward when he realized that Sonia was focusing on Toby. He instinctively tightened his arm around her waist to pull her close to him. Sonia hadn't expected Zane to do such a thing, so she stumbled and fell into his arms. "What are you doing?" she asked as she glared at Zane with a slight frown, clearly displeased with his actions.

Zane beamed. "You're my dance partner, but you've been looking at someone else the whole time. You should at least show me some respect, right?"

Sonia realized that her actions had been inappropriate after hearing what Zane said. "I'm sorry. I..." She looked at the ground.

"Alright, forget it. Spin." Zane removed his arm from her waist before he raised her right hand up. Like the rest of the ladies on the dance floor, Sonia went along the direction of the lifted right hand to spin around in her spot. After she spun, Zane placed his hand on her waist again. They came face to face with each other, and they continued dancing.

Meanwhile, Toby narrowed his eyes when he saw Zane and Sonia together, and he muttered to Emily, "I need your help during the last part of the dance, Emily."

"What are you going to do?" Emily looked at him.

"During the final spin of the dance, I'm going to try to snatch Sonia over from Zane," he stated before pressing his lips together. Emily giggled when she heard what Toby wanted to do. "That sounds pretty romantic. Okay, let me help you with that."

"Thank you." After thanking her, Toby took Emily's hand and led her closer to Zane and Sonia. When they got closer, Toby and Emily returned to their dance position and continued waltzing.

Since Toby and Emily were standing behind Sonia, she didn't realize that they had sneaked up behind her. Zane, on the other hand, was quick to realize that something was wrong. His eyelids twitched when he saw Toby. Toby's doing this on purpose. He's coming over intentionally. Judging by the excited look on Emily's face, they might be planning something.

Zane had a bad feeling in his heart. He frowned for a moment before he realized that he could bring Sonia away from them to dance in another spot as well. However, before Zane could start moving, the song's tempo changed from a gentle pace to a more exciting and upbeat one.

They were at the climax of the Waltz—this was also the part where the dance was supposed to get a little more exciting. The male and female partners would have to separate at this part—the male had to push the female about ten feet away from him, and the female would take two large twirls to return into the male's arms. This part was also the most fun part to watch during waltzes.

Zane had no choice but to forget about changing spots for a while. He decided that he would bring Sonia away after they completed the two huge twirls. However, the moment Zane pushed Sonia out and away from him, Emily spun over and stopped in front of Zane. Toby, on the other hand, showed up in front of Sonia.

With one hand holding Sonia's arm, Toby led her back to the spot he had been dancing with Emily. Sonia was too stunned to respond.

"Sonia—" Zane panicked and was about to run over when he saw what was going on. However, Emily put her hand on his shoulder and smiled. "I'm sorry that Toby stole your dance partner today, Zane. But it's fine—I'm the compensation you get for that. We can be dance partners for the rest of the night."

Zane's lips twitched. Why would I want to dance with you? "You and Toby did this intentionally, right, Emily?" Zane shot Emily a disdainful stare.