

Cooler Girl in Town Chapter 451

Chapter 451 Tickets to the Black Market

Joseph hesitated for a moment. Seeing that Elise wasn't saying anything to stop him, he said with a nod, "I'll think about it."

Danny jumped with excitement. "Oh, yeah! Please be sure to think this over! I was afraid that you wouldn't think about it, you know?" he said. After a moment, he collected himself and said unflinchingly, "Come on, I'm ready. Whatever the test is, bring it on!"

"Hmm." Joseph frowned slightly. "Firstly... get out of my room."

Danny's overflowing enthusiasm was quenched at once. "Huh?"

"You idiot." Elise slapped the back of Danny's head from behind. "He's now a patient who needs rest. You want to see him being sickly all the time?!"

"Oh, yeah, that's right!" Danny ducked his head while nodding vigorously. "Well, in that case, I won't be bothering you anymore, Mr. Fuller. Just tell me if you need anything. Starting from today, I'm at SK Group's disposal. Just put me wherever you need me to be!"

Joseph was speechless; he didn't expect Danny to be so good at talking. With an awkward look of embarrassment on his face, he said, "I'll remember you."

Danny clenched a fist in front of his chest and made an encouraging gesture to cheer Joseph on. Facing Joseph, he thumped on his chest before leaving the room in a solemn manner.

At the sight of the scene, Joseph's eyebrows twitched continuously. He began to wonder if he had made a wrong decision.

Elise gave Joseph a sympathetic look. Then, she closed the door and left as well.

Meanwhile, Danny was hopping and leaping around like a rabbit in the courtyard, giving Alexander no peace.

Alexander shook his head. "When will you behave more like an adult?" he asked, before walking toward Elise. "Ellie, what kind of medicinal ingredients do Grandma and the one in there need to recuperate? Just make me a list. The black market will open in the suburbs tonight, so I'm gonna buy them back."

"Is the black market coming to Athesea too?" asked Elise.

"Uh-huh." Alexander nodded. "It's been 13 years since it last opened. You're lucky."

"Yeah, that's true," Elise agreed.

One of the reasons the black market had endured through so many years was that it had always been held randomly in different places. In order to see and experience in person what the black market was like, one had no choice but to follow the information released on the darknet. Also, its actual venue would only be announced the day before it actually opened.

Even so, the black market had attracted black market lovers from all over the country and even all over the world, who gathered at the black market like moths flying into flames. Therefore, those who could enter the black market had to be considerably powerful in terms of both social background and financial resources.

In other words, being a shareholder of Frazier Incorporated alone wouldn't be enough for that. Elise knew that Alexander had an even greater power backing him up—only it wasn't yet the time for him to tell her about it.

Just then, Danny threw himself at them and said with a slur in his voice, "Count me in, Alexander!"

"You?" Alexander raised his eyebrows, which was pretty rare. "If I take you there with me, you'll end up being sold off without you realizing it."

However, Danny argued, "Are you really my brother, Alexander? Yeah, all I know is to eat, drink, and have fun, but it's not like I wanted to be like that in the first place. You never took me out with you and let me see the world, so when am I gonna learn something?" At this moment, he felt like a talented young man in ancient times, who failed to land a job in the

government and was both depressed and frustrated from being unable to fulfill his ambitions.

Alexander's eyes dimmed a little at Danny's words, but he wasn't good at consoling people. Seeing the world wasn't just as simple as what it sounded like. Now that the situation was still volatile, how could he agree to risk Danny's life by taking the latter out with him?

Noticing the change in Alexander's expression, Elise put out her hand and gave Danny a pat on the back in an easy manner. "I'll take you there."

"Ellie!" Alexander instantly got nervous, as though he was being confronted by a formidable enemy. "Stop fooling around. You know that the black market is no ordinary market, and that you can be in danger anytime. You'd better not go there yourself, let alone take Danny with you."

Danny's hope, which had just been kindled, was extinguished at once. In an instant, he lost heart completely.

"It's okay," Elise replied calmly. "It's not that dangerous. As it happens, I also want to visit an old friend at the black market, so I can take Danny with me while I'm at it. And besides, you've forgotten something; I'm not one of those damsels who live a pampered life and never need to fend for themselves."

Alexander had no choice but to relent. After all, he could say no to anyone except Elise. "Okay, you may go there, but we have to agree on a few rules. You must stay within my sight and be no further than one meter away from me at all times. Also, you must always listen to me," he said with a serious look on his face.

"Okay," Elise said. It's always been like this as long as he's present, anyway.

Alexander nodded. However, upon seeing Danny, whose eyes almost popped out of his head in excitement, he resumed a stern countenance. "Don't get too excited about it yet. I'm going to make calls now. If I can only get one ticket, you're gonna stay at home!" Then, as Danny watched bitterly, he calmly took out his phone and stepped aside to make phone calls.

Danny smacked his lips in vexation. When he looked back, though, he saw Elise sending a text message with her head down. The message read, 'Get me some tickets to the black market.'

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Chapter 452 Hey, You Wanna Save Face?

Perplexed, Danny asked, "Are you going to the black market, Elise?"

Elise glanced up at Danny while putting away her phone calmly. "Uh-huh," she replied, before sitting down in the rocking chair next to her and rocking back and forth leisurely like an old man.

A while later, Alexander came back with his cell phone. He said indifferently, "I've gotten two tickets."

"Yes!" Danny raised his fist in victory. He asked in surprise, "In that case, I can go with you two, right?"

"Nope," Alexander replied harshly.

Danny was instantly filled with disappointment. Just then, however, a gust of wind suddenly blew past him, and he sensed someone flying past him in a supercilious manner.

The next second, a familiar voice sounded from behind him. "Miss Sinclair, here are the tickets that you've asked for. There are ten of them. Master Bryce said you can bring friends with you to the black market, and if the tickets aren't enough, you can give the market manager your name so that the rest of them can enter," the man said reverently.

As soon as the man finished his speech, Danny turned around and dashed back to Elise's side with the speed of a nocked arrow, staring at the stack of tickets in the box with shining eyes.

Elise took the tickets. "Thanks for bringing me these. You didn't have to come in person, though. Just let somebody run the errand for you next time."

The man showed an acute sense of propriety. "Like I said, I'm honored to be at your service, Miss Sinclair. Well then, I won't be keeping you any longer," he said politely. Then, he turned around and left.

As soon as the man disappeared from the door, Danny jumped up and hugged Elise. "Oh, my God! What a fantastic sister-in-law I've found for myself! Black market! It's the tickets to the black market! They're so difficult to get, yet that guy gave you a stack of them!"

At the sight of the scene, Alexander's bushy eyebrows snapped together, and he hemmed twice crossly. "Ahem! Ahem!"

However, Danny was totally oblivious to it. Wrapping his arms around Elise, he shook her in gratitude with all his might.

Alexander's face darkened. He walked over to Danny right away, forcibly wrenching the latter's arms away from Elise. Then, he said in a voice devoid of warmth, "It's inappropriate to be overfamiliar with someone of the opposite gender, Danny."

"What's the problem with that? Elise and I are a family!" Danny argued obsequiously.

However, not even Elise could stand listening to the boy's words any longer. She opened the transparent box containing the tickets, took a ticket out of it, and handed the ticket to Danny. "Here, take it."

Danny waved the ticket in his hand, flaunting it in front of Alexander as if it were some precious treasure. "Look, Alexander! Now I can go to the black market even without you!"

Alexander shook his head before turning to look at Elise. He said with a note of tenderness and resignation in his voice, "Just spoil him all you want."

Danny brazenly clung to Elise once again. "What's wrong with her spoiling me? Since you're not doing so, it's only natural that someone else is gonna do it. It's none of your business! I hereby declare unilaterally that starting from today, I'm Elise's real brother, and I'm cutting all ties with you!"

Alexander shot a disdainful look at Danny. "What an ingrate," he said. Then, he haughtily returned to his room.

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Night fell soon afterward, and Elise and the others quickly set off for the black market in a car.

After following the instructions on the ticket, they arrived at the place where the black market was held. It was an undeveloped suburban area with not a single habitation within a near 100-mile radius—the deciding factor that led to the black market being held here.

Upon getting out of their car, Elise and the others saw a market as lively as the commercial street. The entire black market looked more like a street in ancient times, but it was lit with modern technology. In short, it was a retro-styled commercial street.

Despite its peaceful and prosperous facade, everyone knew that everything—from something as tiny as a needle to something as enormous as invisible power—could be traded on the black market. The interests of the parties involved in the transactions were inextricably interwoven, making the transactions far more complicated than the simple buying and selling of goods that they were purported to be.

After signing in at the entrance, Elise and the others entered the bustling market.

On the outermost fringes of the market were peddlers selling smuggled daily commodities. These people smuggled inexpensive items from abroad, then waited for buyers to purchase them so that they could pocket the price difference. Meanwhile, having gotten their hands on the items, the buyers would repackage them at low cost with obscure and incomprehensible foreign language, labeling them as top-quality goods from abroad in order to make exorbitant profits by selling them at ten to twenty times the original price.

The black market was also the best place for profit seekers to get rich overnight, which was why so many people scrambled to try getting into the black market, all in hopes of striking it rich.

When the group walked past what seemed like a fortune-telling stand, Elise inadvertently took another glance at the stall owner, upon which the man immediately latched onto her like a limpet. “Hey, sweetie! You must be a celebrity. Wanna buy some fake fans? We can also regulate comments on your social media, boost your retweets, and amplify your social media followings! Come on, we offer great value for money! You know H, the nation’s darling? She’s bought fake fans from us, too!”

Upon hearing his words, Elise couldn’t help but laugh. She stopped in her tracks and teased, “Hey, be careful lest I file a complaint against you for the false advertising.”

"That's right!" Danny stepped forward and pushed the stall owner back a few steps. "What you said about H buying fans from you is just sheer nonsense. Does she even need to buy fake fans? She draws fans with her own talents!" He looked at the stall owner as if the latter was a retard. How dare you rip people off blindly without recognizing H herself standing right before you? Seems like not only are the black market transactions shady, but these black market traders are also evil-minded!

The stall owner dared not make a sound since he was outnumbered by Elise and her group. Then, seeing the murderous look in Alexander's eyes, he immediately ran back to his stall.

Elise chuckled and continued to walk on.

"Ellie," Alexander called out to her just then. "I'd like to buy something over there, so don't wander too much. Just go straight down the road slowly and wait for me, okay?"

"Just go ahead. Don't worry about me," Elise replied.

With that, Alexander left with Cameron.

On the other hand, Claude had his eyes on the herb market as soon as the group entered. The instant Alexander excused himself, he immediately slipped away to the stall selling medicinal ingredients nearby, leaving no one else but Danny beside Elise.

The two strolled aimlessly along the market stalls, but they didn't find anything they wanted to buy. Just when they reached a corner, a tall and brawny brute suddenly popped up and stared at them fiercely, saying, "Hey, you wanna save face?"

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Chapter 453 Selling Faces

Danny instantly stood in front of Elise. "Who are you, and what do you want?" He pulled a long face with studied ferocity. He knew he was weaker than Elise in terms of strength, but he was a man after all. In moments of danger, he had to stand in front of her to protect her.

However, such a huge commotion drew no response from the street vendors and passersby around them, who were already used to such situations. Ignoring the worrying situation the three were in, they continued running their own businesses, haggling over prices as though their world was separate from that of Elise and the others.

After confronting the brute for a moment, Danny narrowed his eyes, ready to strike the first blow. However, just as he was about to make a move, the burly brute before him suddenly laughed obsequiously. "Hehe, I was just kidding, folks. Don't get the wrong idea, okay? I meant it literally!"

Danny was astounded; he had thought he and Elise were about to run into a grave situation at last. At the sight of the situation, he spat with a frown, saying, "Tsk. Just my luck. So, what business do you have with us?"

"Selling faces, of course. Look at this, folks..." the brute said while putting his hands on the back of his head. After a brief pause, he suddenly tore at his hairy scalp and stretched it toward both sides.

Danny took a step back immediately as the sight of the creepy scene gave him goosebumps.

The next second, though, the brute tore off his entire face.

"Eek!" Danny's face scrunched up with disgust as he thought he was going to see the man's badly mutilated face.

However, when the brute took away his face, what was revealed was another, more good-looking face that looked totally unlike the one just now.

“What the hell?” Danny’s lips twitched. “Is that face-changing?”

On the other hand, Elise watched the show with great interest as a bloodthirsty smile played across her lips.

“Yes, and no. You might as well say it’s an art of disguise.” The brute was still smiling broadly, but his delicate features looked very amiable. “We make masks using fine-quality imitation human skin that feels no different from real human skin. Although the masks are made to order on a one-to-one basis, it’s very easy to wear them, allowing you to transform into someone else with little effort! Still worrying about being caught cheating on your lover? Still afraid to show yourself for fear of making a laughingstock of yourself? Worry not, for our masks keep you free from worries!”

The brute promoted the advertising slogans while holding up the ‘human skin’ in his hand, showing it around in various poses. The scene looked extremely bizarre.

Seriously, would anyone buy masks from him with such advertising slogans? Danny wondered. The next instant, however, he heard Elise say, “Interesting. May I add you on WhatsApp? I’ll do business with you.”

“Really?! Haha! I’m making the first transaction at last!” said the brute. Then, he continued to promote the ‘human skin’ in his hand, saying, “Sweetie, I’d suggest that you buy more of them so that you won’t have to worry about getting caught no matter how many times you cheat on your boyfriend!”

“Who said I want to cheat on my boyfriend?” Elise finally realized why the brute had few customers despite the nearby stalls doing booming businesses. I’d better not waste my breath talking to this guy. He’s got such a foul mouth, she thought. “Anyway, let’s exchange our numbers first. I’ll call you later to talk about our collaboration.” As she couldn’t stand the brute’s irritating words anymore, she quickly exchanged contact information with him. After wiring him the deposit, she told him to go back and wait for an update.

Seeing that the money had been transferred to his bank account, the brute left merrily with the ‘human skin’ in his hand.

Staring at the face hanging from the brute's hand, Danny shuddered with a chill running down his spine. Then, he moved closer to Elise, asking, "Elise, what are you buying such useless stuff for?"

"I have uses for them." Elise smiled before continuing to move on.

The black market was large, so Elise and Danny only finished visiting one-third of its area after walking for two hours. Having gotten tired from all the walking, they found a milk tea stand and sat down to get something to drink, waiting for Alexander while they were at it.

The stand owner was a Thai who couldn't speak English but was good at making milk tea. As a result, despite finishing more than half of her cup of milk tea in one gulp, Elise didn't get sick of its sweetness.

Just as Elise was wondering if she should buy another cup for Alexander, a man walking past her suddenly collapsed at her feet. As a doctor, she instinctively got up and tried to help him up, taking his pulse upon touching his wrist.

A moment later, a grave expression took over her face. If she had to find a term to describe the state of this man's health, it would be withered. If one could draw an analogy between a healthy man and a fresh, tender, and juicy sponge gourd, then the man, who appeared to be in his thirties, had become like a dry and fibrous loofah.

There was little need to treat such people. Still, healers were supposed to treat all patients as equal, so Elise tried to treat him using traditional medical treatment.

Luckily, the man had quite a strong will to live, and he slowly opened his eyes.

Elise asked with a serious expression, "Who are you? Why are you here?" In fact, such a dying person seemed out of tune with the black market, for one could gain nothing from them.

The man's face was bloodless, and his eyes were sunken. After taking a few sharp breaths, he explained intermittently, "They... took both my kidneys away... without paying me money... I came to ask them for money, but I couldn't find them... They're hiding from me..."

With that, the man lost his strength and leaned against the leg of the table at his last gasp, his eyes opening and closing, as if he would die at any time. However, he had basically made his tragic story clear. In short, it was the story of a desperate man, who ran into a

bunch of organ smugglers and had both his kidneys taken away without getting paid for that.

Unable to bear the sight of the scene, Elise got up and said to Danny, "Help him up and find a place for me to give him treatment."

"Okay." Danny nodded.

However, just as he was about to help the man up, a few men suddenly rushed over from the roadside, making a loud noise as one of them pointed at the dying man and said, "He's here! Didn't I say that he wouldn't last long? Hurry up and take him back. Perhaps he's still warm!" As he spoke, the bunch of men came to the dying man and were about to carry him away.

Grabbing one of them by the wrist, Danny snapped, "Who are you guys? What's your relationship with him?"

"Who are you, then?" asked the vulgar man in reply from a distance away. Then, he warned, "A new face, eh? No one told you to stay out of other people's business in the black market, huh?"