

## Chapter 681 He Hasn't Given Up Yet

Westley walked forward carefully, his arms around Gabrielle. After going for two hundred meters, they came to a large square with several little sunshades. Numerous bonfires were lit in the square's center. Some people were conversing, drinking, and dancing, while others were barbecuing on nearby grills.

Around twenty young men and women were present. They appeared to be college kids, conversing and singing cheerfully. The atmosphere was pretty animated.

Gabrielle, too, was a college student who was yet to graduate, but she felt out of place. She had already seen too much and was no longer so pure and harmless.

Although they had grilled in this manner the night before, a group of experienced individuals were in contrast with the pure college kids in front of them.

"Youth is a wonderful thing," Gabrielle exclaimed.

Westley was first amazed upon hearing this. He doubted that his wife, who was just in her early twenties, said it.

Gabrielle was still young. How could she have the audacity to express envy for other people's youth? How about him? He was over thirty years old!

Westley felt a twinge of resentment at the thought.

"Gabrielle, you are in your youth. You still are a college student who's yet to graduate. Your face is young and lovely. Someone would even think that you are underage," Westley said romantically, rubbing her beautiful head.

Westley's wife enviously coveted others for their youth, which upset Westley.

"I don't resemble a teenager at all. You believe I am youthful and attractive, while others believe I am older." Gabrielle couldn't stop herself from laughing.

"So, if you are not youthful, how about me? I am an old man above the age of thirty. I'm not sure I deserve you anymore." Westley jested.

Gabrielle couldn't resist laughing when she heard what he said. Envy for others vanished in an instant.

"In my heart, you will always be the youngest and most gorgeous man! You are not at all elderly!" Gabrielle lavished intriguing words on him.

"I thought you meant that I'm old. But well, I'm an old man now. You aren't as fond of me as you were some time ago." Westley was well aware that she did not mean it and hence said it deliberately.

"Naturally, I like you. You are not at all elderly. Men in their thirties are said to be a flower. Men your age are the most endearing. Are you unaware of the number of ladies in town that have a crush on you? They are yearning for an opportunity to flirt with you. Women interested in getting married to you can form a queue stretching from the eastern town to the western end of the town.

How could I not fall for you?" Gabrielle was skilled at enticing people, particularly this envious man.

"All said and done, you are the only one I adore. Regardless of how much you dislike me, I adore you," Westley said seriously.

He took advantage of the moment and expressed his love for her again. Gabrielle definitely melted.

Everybody might have enjoyed hearing lovely words. But Gabrielle particularly preferred to listen to

nice remarks following her relationship with Westley.

After marrying her, Westley spoke nice words more easily. He took pleasure in demonstrating his affection for her.

"I will always adore you. You also are a one-of-a-kind and endearing individual who holds a special place in my heart. I've never shunned you, honey," Gabrielle said seriously and romantically.

"Even if you dislike me, I will not abandon you." Westley resolved to hold her hand in perpetuity.

"You have the audacity..."

Westley's phone rang during their conversation. It came from Alvin. Something must have gone amiss.

"I have to get this." Westley glanced at her.

"There is no issue. I'll go ahead to have a look." Gabrielle was not about to eavesdrop on his conversation, despite the fact that he never avoided her.

On the other hand, Gabrielle decided to proceed and have a look. She desired to observe the youthful and vivacious barbecue party.

"Be careful and keep close," Westley said acutely.

"Don't worry. This place is secure." Gabrielle walked away, waving to him.

Gabrielle did not make her way to the square. Contrarily, she stood beneath the street lamp, watching a bunch of young people sing and yell, living the moment.

Although Gabrielle went to college, she had never attended a party like this one with her classmates, save from the spring trip and fall tour.

She was jealous of them in a manner.

"Gabrielle?" Her concentration was distorted by a familiar voice.

Gabrielle first believed that it was Westley, but the voice was off.

In the square, she noticed a boy walking towards her. He called her name just now.

He faced the light, hence she could not see him clearly.

"Jax?" Gabrielle took a surprised look at the man.

She had not anticipated Jax associating with a bunch of students. Perhaps they were not all students. Perhaps there included some rich kids.

Almost all of Jax's friends were born with a silver spoon in their mouths. They were members of Antawood's upper class. He too was born in the purple.

Birds of a feather flocked together.

Jax was not surrounded by regular people.

Gabrielle felt mortified to envy those young people on the thought that they were not students but wealthy upper-class children.

"Wow, it's really you. I believed I was mistaken. What has brought you here?" Obviously, Jax was ecstatic.

After all, Gabrielle was the first female he liked too extensively. He must have been happy to meet her in such a setting.

Gabrielle was a little regretful now. Why was she compelled to stand below a bright street lamp? It would have been easier to spot her there.

She opted to stand beneath the street lamp so that Westley could see her immediately when he concluded the phone conversation. She had no intention of letting other males see her.

But Jax saw her. Too bad.

Who could have predicted that Jax would be here? Damn it!

"I-I came here with my family. Were you accompanied by a friend? Enjoy yourself. I'll be on my way."  
Gabrielle was adamant about avoiding any misunderstandings. Westley would be displeased when he subsequently saw them.

Besides, she was averse to being close to Jax. He had publicly declared his love for her.

However, she had denied him the chance.

It was impossible to stop Jax from loving her.

"So you are not alone here. Look, all of them come from our college. You ought to have known them. Maybe you should say hi to them, huh?" Jax was so excited.



## Chapter 682 Can I Have A Meal With You

'They are the students from my university?' Gabrielle doubted what Jax told her.

She took a look at the young people who were chatting by the bonfire. She had doubts about it since she hadn't seen any of them before.

If it weren't for the fact that Jax came over to talk to her, she would have considered them as strangers.

She got to know Jax when she joined several societies at university before. She was aware of the fact that Jax had feelings for her.

However, Gabrielle remained indifferent about it the whole time as she didn't like Jax. She didn't give him any chance at all as she avoided his every attempt.

They were still friends, but that was all and nothing more. However, Gabrielle tried her best to steer clear of him because Jax was very popular at her university. Many girls liked him and expressed their love for him.

Gabrielle was intelligent enough to know that associating with him in whatever way was akin to getting herself in trouble.

Therefore, she tried her best to avoid him.

Not to mention that she had no interest in him or his private life at all.

Moreover, Gabrielle wasn't the type of person who enjoyed socializing with people. Even if she joined some kind of community club, that was out of obligation and even then, she would not reveal too much about herself. So, naturally, she was the least eye-catching one in her social relations.

As a result, she was not keen at all about joining the reunion or getting along with other students.

That was the reason why she wasn't familiar with most of the students in her university. As a result, in other students' eyes, she was a beautiful girl who had a low-key personality and had won several golden prizes in the campus design competition.

People even called her a stone-cold fox behind her back, and the girls in other departments disliked her.

What they hated most about Gabrielle was the way she behaved so arrogantly with that pretty face of hers. And yet, she was nothing more than an adopted daughter of the Jones family.

"Jax, since they are your schoolmates, I won't go to say hi. After all, I'm not familiar with them and it will only be embarrassing if I go over." Gabrielle waved her hand and refused politely.

It was not that she had a social phobia. She just didn't like to make friends with strangers, especially when it was in the face of a group of strangers.

After all, they were not even her classmates, but the schoolmates whom she hadn't even seen before.

"You don't have to be embarrassed. Although you are not familiar with them, they are good friends with me. I organized this event so that we can reunite and have fun. Actually, I wanted to invite you, but I thought that you might be very busy during the festival. I didn't expect that we would meet here. It must be fate, don't you think so? Let's... Let's have some fun together, okay? I want to introduce my friends to you first," Jax persuaded as he looked at Gabrielle with a flattering smile.

He was so happy at the moment to see Gabrielle here. After all, this was the girl he fell in love with at

the first sight. During the school days, he had expressed his feelings to her and he didn't give up courting her even after a long time.

Although he wouldn't call himself a devoted man and he couldn't say how long he would like Gabrielle, as far as he knew, he still felt something for her at the moment.

When he saw her standing in front of him, he noticed his heart still beating quicker than usual.

Therefore, he proposed to introduce her to his friends. This way, she could get involved in his life slowly.

When he planned to come to the Novo Resort, he first thought of calling Gabrielle and asking her to come here with him. In this way, he could also take the opportunity to cultivate the relationship between the two of them.

However, just as he was about to do so, he suddenly lost the courage. Because of Emily's matter last time, he felt ashamed to contact her again.

So, he gave up on his plan.

However, who would have expected that he would meet her at the Novo Resort like this? It was a great surprise for him. When he saw Gabrielle, he was so excited that his heart almost jumped out of his chest.

"No, thanks, Jax. I have to stay with my family. Maybe next time." Without even considering about it, Gabrielle refused again, and this time, her attitude was more firm than just now.

All in all, she just didn't want to have anything to do with Jax, nor did she want to have anything to do with his friends. Most importantly, she was basically a married woman now, so she didn't want Westley to misunderstand her.

Since she had a husband now, she would be cautious in the matters related to other men.

It was for the best in order not to be misunderstood and it was a respect which should be given by her to the other half in marriage.

"Gabrielle, I understand that you want to be with your family. If it's not really convenient for you today, I won't mind it. But since we will stay here for the next two days, there's still a chance for you to join me. If possible, I'd like to invite you to have breakfast with me tomorrow. Of course, your family can join us, too," Jax said again with a hint of expectation in his tone. He didn't want to give up this kind of opportunity.

Gabrielle thought in amusement, 'Did he just invite my family to have breakfast together?'

If Jax knew that the family she was referring to was Westley, he would probably give up the idea and run away. After all, not everyone had the courage to invite Westley for breakfast so casually like this.

"I appreciate your kindness, but I don't think we can accept the invite," Gabrielle retorted calmly.

Asides from the reason that she felt uncomfortable, she was afraid that Jax would feel burdened. After all, even if Westley learned of this and agreed, Jax might not be able to have breakfast with him at ease. Besides, it was very unlikely that Westley would agree to have breakfast with him.

"If it's not convenient for your family, how about I treat you to breakfast alone then?" Jax continued persuading, seemingly oblivious to Gabrielle's unyielding attitude.

"Jax, you don't have to buy me breakfast here. This resort serves three meals to the guests." In fact, if it was for Gabrielle, it could be possible, but she didn't want to tell him that she knew the owner of the resort. Anyhow, what she said was true.

In addition to other specific reserved dishes, the resort provided three meals a day to the guests.

Jax felt a little embarrassed when he was rejected once again. Why was it so difficult to ask a girl out for a meal?

"Gabrielle, I know that. I mean we can try some specialties here. If you don't prefer that, we can always have a meal outside another time. After all, we haven't seen each other for a long time. I just want to treat you a meal," Jax said anxiously as he observed Gabrielle's reaction carefully.

Of course, Gabrielle knew that they hadn't seen each other for a long time. After all, she had been absent at college and she didn't go back to attend after she came back from Bangkok either. Nevertheless, she wasn't very close to Jax, and what was more, the fact that he was the cousin of Benny didn't make her feel the need to do so. So, they hadn't seen each other in private at all.

They didn't even have contact with each other. She didn't expect to encounter with him here like this.

"Jax, we indeed haven't seen each other for a long time. Thanks for your invitation, but I really can't make it." Gabrielle was determined about her statement as she looked at him calmly and indifferently.

At this moment, Jax realized why Gabrielle was called stone-cold fox at Alorith University. He had never seen her smile at anyone except for Sloane and Austin. She indeed lived up to her nickname.

However, what could he do when he was so attracted to her? He had fallen in love with her at the first sight.

"Gabrielle, can't I really have a meal with you? Can you at least consider about it? Don't tell me you are acting like this because of what happened between my cousin and Sloane. It has nothing to do with me. You can't refuse to give me a chance just because of them, right? I really want to be friends with you," Jax said sincerely, and his tone had a hint of powerlessness.

"Jax, I don't mean to make you think that way. I don't dislike you, nor do I blame you for others' matters. It's just that I'm married. Do you know about that?" Gabrielle asked calmly. 2



## Chapter 683 A Couple

'Gabrielle is married?' These words echoed in Jax's head, and his heart sank in shock.

He had heard a little bit about Gabrielle's marriage before, but he didn't know if it was true or not, and he didn't know who her husband was. Because there were no hard proofs, he thought it was just a rumor.

However, now that he heard Gabrielle say it personally, he was shocked to the core.

His entire body felt as if it had been struck by a thunderbolt from nowhere, and he froze on the spot.

"Gabrielle, I've heard of it. But I thought... It was just a rumor." Jax spoke in disbelief.

Regardless of what he had assumed in the past, Jax felt he had no choice but to believe it now that Gabrielle had confirmed it herself.

Gabrielle was really married.

"No, it's true. Why should I lie about my marriage? I don't have that kind of strange hobby." Gabrielle gave out an explanation in a calm manner.

Still, Jax's reaction left her dumbfounded in her heart. After all, why would she lie about something as serious as a marriage? It was not something to lie or joke about in the first place.

"Some pretended to be single, and of course, some might pretend to be married. I thought..."

"You thought I lied for fun or to save troubles?" Gabrielle calmly continued Jax's sentence.

Without saying anything, Jax just looked at Gabrielle, trying to read her expression in the hope that she was telling a lie. He did really wish for it to be nothing but just a lie. But, when he saw her calm and firm expression, he realized his wish was not granted. She didn't appear to be lying at all.

So, Gabrielle was really married.

"Gabrielle, you always keep a low profile. None of us knew when you got married. And what kind of person is your... husband?" Although Jax knew that he had no right to ask Gabrielle about her husband, he couldn't help but want to know who that man was.

After all, he was the one who had won the heart of the beauty, who was known for her cold and distant demeanor. To be able to marry such a beauty, that person must be something.

"My husband is a good man. He loves me very much, but he is very low-key. We didn't make our marriage public because I haven't officially graduated yet, and he doesn't want me to be troubled." Gabrielle cleared out the other party's curiosity. Despite her calm demeanor, the corners of her lips instinctively raised, and her eyes were filled with tenderness when she mentioned Westley.

It was not like Jax hadn't been in love before. Naturally, he knew what it meant from the look on Gabrielle's face when she mentioned her husband. There was no way she would have such a tender and happy expression on her face if she didn't genuinely love the other person, whether he was her husband or not. She showed such an expression only because she had this person in her heart.

Therefore, Jax felt sure that Gabrielle liked her husband very much.

The look on her face when she mentioned her husband was clear proof. If she didn't love him, she wouldn't have that look on her face.

"Gabrielle, I can see that you two are in a good relationship. I am relieved to know that he loves you and treats you very well." Jax knew that he was in no position to say such a thing, but he couldn't help

but speak out his mind.

"Yes, he is really good to me. So you don't have to worry about it," Gabrielle said calmly.

Every word she said showed that she was trying to defend her husband. Although these words were a bit cruel for Jax to hear, he couldn't say anything about it.

"Gabrielle, as long as you are truly happy, I'll be happy for you." Jax couldn't say anything but give the couple his blessing. He did have a lot of things he wanted to tell her.

However, the words were stuck in his throat, and he could only swallow them down in the end. He felt quite painful and uncomfortable inside.

"Thank you, Jax. I'm sorry I have to refuse your proposal to treat my family to breakfast. My husband will be unhappy." A faint smile appeared on Gabrielle's face. Although she still had a bit of indifference in her demeanor, she was doing her best to look nice. Sure enough, Jax felt enchanted when he saw the smile on her face.

Being able to see Gabrielle's smile still made Jax happy, even though he knew that she smiled at the thought of her husband.

"I know. I won't force you to do anything that will make you unhappy. We will still be friends in the future, right?" Jax asked in a low voice, with a bit of uncertainty in his tone.

"Of course, we are still friends," Gabrielle responded with a slight nod.

"I would love it. I was just worried that you would treat me as your enemy because of Benny," Jax said seriously.

"No, as I said, you and Benny are different people. I won't put his blame on you." Although Gabrielle disliked Jax a bit because of his relationship with Benny, she was not such a person to hold grudges against someone.

"Then I'm relieved."

"Enjoy yourselves. I need to go back now. It's getting late." Gabrielle waved at Jax and prepared to leave.

"Gabrielle!"

"It's really Gabrielle!"

"I haven't seen you for a while. I didn't know you would be here. Did Jax invite you here?"

"It must be. Otherwise, why are the two of them alone here?"

As Gabrielle was about to leave, the two girls came by and greeted her warmly.

Gabrielle vaguely remembered that the two girls were members of their photography association at school, but she couldn't remember their names.

Although Gabrielle studied jewelry design, she was also quite fond of photography and creative things, so she signed up for a photography association, where she met Jax.

Suddenly, Gabrielle felt that no matter how low-key she tried to be, it seemed that everyone knew her. But on the other hand, she didn't even remember their names.

How embarrassing it was!

"Hey, guys. Jax didn't invite me here, I came here for vacation with my family, and I happened to meet Jax here." Although Gabrielle still couldn't remember what their names were, she thought it would be better to explain the situation. After all, she didn't want to cause any misunderstanding.

"What a coincidence! Jax asked us all to come here for a vacation. Are you sure Jax didn't invite you



here? We were questioning why he didn't invite you when we arrived today. And now you're here."

"Yes, it must be because Jax called you or something, or else why would you be here so coincidentally?"

"Or maybe it was because you two have a good understanding of each other?"

The two girls talked one after another, completely ignoring Gabrielle's feelings toward their guesses. First and foremost, Gabrielle and Jax had nothing to do with each other. However, hearing what the girls said, Gabrielle felt that the two of them were indirectly implying that they were suspicious of her and Jax's relationship.

But they really had nothing to do with each other.

"Girls, enough. Gabrielle and I are friends, just like you guys and me." Jax could clearly see the discomfort on Gabrielle's face and immediately opened his mouth to defend her.

"Oh, are you defending Gabrielle? Just admit it, Jax. You don't just see Gabrielle as a friend. You like her."

"That's right. You two can't just be friends."

"I'm sorry. I'm going back first. My family is waiting for me. They will be worried about me if I stay here for a long time." Gabrielle didn't want to listen to them anymore and decided to leave.

## Chapter 684 Party

Gabrielle wanted to leave, but the girls stopped her. They grabbed Gabrielle's hands and pulled her back.

"Since you're already here, Gabrielle, why don't you join us for a drink? We're all buddies and members of the same club, after all."

"Exactly! It's rare for us to meet here. Since we have the opportunity now, why waste it?"

"What do you say, Jax?"

Gabrielle's body stiffened. She wasn't used to having strangers touch her.

Even if these people were members of the photography association, she didn't know them well enough.

Getting held by them like this was uncomfortable.

"I'm really sorry, but I'll have to pass. My family is waiting for me. I should go meet them." Gabrielle shrugged them off but failed.

The two girls were already drunk. Both of them held Gabrielle down with surprising strength. It was as if she was being kidnapped.

"Oh, that'll be fine! I'm sure your family would let you stay here for the night. Just call them and say you're partying with us. I'm sure they would understand."

"We promise that Jax will send you back home safely. We are schoolmates and in the same club for four years, yet you never hung out with us."

It was true. Gabrielle was very aloof during college.

Hearing their comments, she felt obligated to stay. Not to mention Jax was hosting it.

"O-okay... then let me... let me call my family first, then I'll come join you..." Gabrielle felt defeated and decided to call Westley to tell him that she would be gone for a bit longer. She wanted to tell him not to come so he wouldn't startle her schoolmates.

"Okay, but you'll hang out with us, won't you?"

"Go on, call them."

The girls were giving her an expectant stare. Gabrielle had no choice but to take out her phone and send Westley a message.

She informed him that her schoolmates were barbecuing in the resort and that she would stay for a while before going back. It would be better for him not to appear there.

Westley was a big shot in Antawood and he was well-known, especially among the female students at Alorith University.

The Morris Group had invested in several projects in Alorith University, so everyone knew about the Morris Group and admired their CEO, Westley. Every time he visited the university, the students would go bananas.

If he suddenly showed up at the square, it would be a riot.

"Gabrielle, are you done yet?"

"Oh, are you not going to call them?"

"I already texted them. Let's go." Gabrielle put her phone away and walked straight ahead.

Jax was surprised to see her striding towards the barbecue grill.

He thought she wasn't going to party with them since she was on vacation with her husband.

"Gabrielle, you don't have to force yourself, you know," Jax murmured.

He was happy that Gabrielle was here, but he didn't want her to feel uncomfortable.

"What are you talking about, Jax? Gabrielle agreed to hang out with us. Are you telling her to leave?" one of the girls complained.

"Jax, you dog. If you just wanted to keep Gabrielle all to yourself, just say so."

"Gabrielle has to party with us tonight. We haven't had the chance to have a drink with her in four years. You wait for your turn." The girl came over and held Gabrielle's arm again.

She really wasn't going to let Gabrielle leave. When Jax was about to say something, Gabrielle cut in.

"Yes, we couldn't hang out back then. Let's go for a drink."

"Are you sure, Gabrielle?" Of course, Jax wondered if her husband would mind that she decided to spend time with them on such short notice.

He knew a man wouldn't like his wife to drink with other men.

"Of course. Just a drink will be fine." But Gabrielle wasn't so sure. After all, Westley had not replied to her text yet. He must still be working.

"That's great, then." Jax breathed a sigh of relief.

"You seem really worried about Gabrielle, Jax. But honestly, you should queue up in line. Since she never drank with any of us before, a lot of people would like to have a toast with her." The girl laughed.

Out of nowhere, Gabrielle felt a chill run down her spine. She wondered if it was because of the cold night breeze.

Why was it chilly?

Thinking of Westley, Gabrielle hoped he wouldn't get angry. She would have to pacify him otherwise.

"Gabrielle is a lightweight, so show her some mercy, okay?" Jax reminded them, sounding serious.

The girls here today were all good at drinking. Even the worst drinker among them could drink more wine than Gabrielle.

"Oh please, we haven't even started yet. Chill out, Jax."

"Of course, he's worried. He likes her a lot."

Gabrielle just ignored their teasing and kept quiet. She just wanted to have a drink and get this over with so she could go back to Westley.

The only thing she cared about was her husband and no one else.

"Everyone, look who's here!" The girl casually held Gabrielle's shoulder and led her to the crowd.

There were about twenty people here, and they all turned to her direction.

Gabrielle may not be familiar with them, but they all knew her.

She was very popular at Alorith University for her coldness and beauty. She was also extremely talented, having won numerous design competitions.

Yet, she was humble and kept a low profile.

Girls like her were very popular with boys and they would always talk about her nonstop.

However, no one ever got to date her in college. Austin was always around her, and then, there was Jax. No one dared to compete with them.