

## Chapter 181 Do You Want Me To Attend

Gabrielle was so embarrassed that she wanted to jump into the river. Her mind was overthinking, and her face was already bright red.

"Gabrielle, your face is flushed red. Are you okay? Is your fever back?" Westley grew worried when he noticed how red her face was. It looked almost the same as yesterday when she had a high fever.

However, Gabrielle immediately shook her head. "No, I'm fine. It's just because I am basking in the sun."

Although it wasn't because of a fever, she didn't dare admit her reason for blushing. Otherwise, Westley would definitely laugh at her.

It was too embarrassing for her to say out loud.

"Gabrielle, can you pass the net to me? I have a fish on the hook," Remy yelled as he overlooked the awkward situation between the couple.

When she heard what Remy said, Gabrielle turned and took the net. Then, she ran towards him and escaped the embarrassing situation.

"Dr. Remy, that's fantastic. You also caught a fish." She managed to force a smile and look as if nothing happened.

"I appreciate that. However, I pale in comparison to Mr. Morris, who caught a large fish." Finally, Remy took the net from her hand. The carp Westley caught was still in it. It was as large as a man's palm. For a wild fish, it was among the large ones.

On the other hand, Remy's fish was relatively small by comparison.

When they put the two fish together, the difference in sizes became more apparent.

"Gabrielle, stay under the shade of that tree," Westley shouted as he pointed to a nearby tree.

However, Gabrielle was reluctant. She wasn't planning on staying there for a long time. After a quick look at the fishing activity, she planned to go back

home immediately. After all, her grandmother-in-law prepared a bowl of scallion noodles for her.

"I can't stay for long since I haven't eaten breakfast yet. Grandma is cooking noodles at home. Since it should be ready now, I have to go back and eat," Gabrielle explained as she had no plans of staying under the tree. The scallion noodles were so appealing to her. She grew hungrier just at the thought of it.

"Well, we're almost done fishing anyway. We should go back to the farmhouse." Westley took his fishing rod and stepped away from the river bank.

Meanwhile, Remy had just thrown his bait into the water. As such, Westley's action confused him. Why were they going back so early when they were still enjoying fishing? ②

"Do you want to return now, Westley? We still have a lot of time."

"You can all stay here if you want. However, I'll go back now." Although he didn't force Remy to come with him, Westley insisted on leaving.

Surprised, Remy thought, "This guy is

very dedicated." ②

Nonetheless, he already realized why Westley was so eager to returning so early. Since Gabrielle hadn't ad breakfast yet, he had to return with her.

"I didn't come here to ask you to return. I just want to see what you guys are doing." Gabrielle felt guilty. It wasn't her intention to have someone go back with her. ①

It seemed that her appearance had shifted their focus away from fishing. Therefore, she regretted coming to the river bank.

"Those fish aren't for selling in the market. We already have enough to feed all of us. If Remy still wants to fish, he can do it alone." Westley finished putting his fishing rod back into the box.

"I'm exhausted, so I'll return to the farmhouse and rest a bit. In the afternoon, I need to arrive at Antawood." Micheal held the container of his fishing rod and was ready to leave.

When he noticed that Westley and Micheal had already put their fishing rods away, Remy decided that he also

needed to leave. As such, he took back his fishing rod and started packing.

On their way home, the three men led the way while Gabrielle and Mia followed them. An uneasy feeling crept into Gabrielle's chest.

"Mia, if I hadn't followed you guys, are they going to fish until noon?" Gabrielle asked Mia in a low voice so that the others wouldn't hear them.

"That's not true. We already have enough fish for lunch. Even if you didn't come here, we would return soon. Don't blame yourself. However, Mr. Morris is really gallant for doing it for you." Mia thought Westley's words were sincere.

The moment Gabrielle said that she had to go back for breakfast, he immediately drew back his fishing rod. Only a few men could show such dedication.

Embarrassed, Gabrielle blushed and playfully pushed Mia. "Don't overthink. He won't do such a thing for a girl like me."

Suddenly, Gabrielle's phone rang again. Austin was calling her. She forgot to answer his call earlier because of her

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excitement about catching a fish.

"Excuse me, Mia. I have a phone call."  
Gabrielle glanced at Mia, and the latter moved forward, leaving her alone.

After stopping, Gabrielle slid her fingers and answered the call.

"I'm sorry for not answering your last call, Aus."

"Don't worry about it. What are you doing, Gabrielle? Are you busy?"

Austin asked in a soft voice. He was on his desk, looking at a photo on his face. It was a picture Mia posted on her Wechat moment a few minutes ago.

The picture had a man and a woman happily fishing by the river bank. The woman stood beside the man while holding a net. Meanwhile, the man was holding the fishing rod with one hand and the net with the other hand. Together, they were trying to catch the fish.

Although the figures' faces weren't in the picture, Austin immediately recognized the subjects at a glance. Gabrielle and Westley were the ones in the photo.

They seemed to have a harmonious relationship.

"I was fishing just a few minutes ago. However, I am now heading back to the cabin. How about you, Aus? How are you doing? Is everything fine?" There was a hint of worry in her tone.

"Everything's okay," he answered callously.

It was because of what Westley did, but Austin didn't think it was a big deal. Westley was very narrow-minded. He even did something harmful to the Foster Group just to send Austin away.

Actually, it also felt like a warning to Austin. Westley might do something unexpected if he didn't listen to Westley, who was very ruthless.

As such, Austin realized how threatening Westley was. ②

"Is that so? Well, I know you can handle whatever it is." A sigh of relief escaped Gabrielle's breath.

Austin wasn't the CEO of the Foster Group. However, he was capable enough to maintain a powerful position in the

company. He handled several of the company's affairs.

"When are you coming back to Antawood, Gabrielle?" Austin finally closed the Wechat moments. The intimate photo was making him feel uncomfortable.

"I should return in the afternoon. Since my grandfather's birthday is coming up, I have to buy him a gift. After his birthday, I'll go back to work on the studio." Her schedule seemed perfectly arranged.

"Jason won't care about it. If you're not feeling well, you can rest for a few more days. Moreover, I also received an invitation to Grandpa's party. I will see you there," he promised in a sincere voice.

"Is that true?" Suddenly, her lips curved into a smile. Gabrielle never enjoyed social gatherings. As such, it was great to have someone she knew at the party. After all, she couldn't be absent at her grandfather's birthday.

"Do you want me to attend, Gabrielle?"



## Chapter 182 Holly's Disappearance

Gabrielle was stunned by Austin's unexpected question. As she was still thinking of how to answer him, all of a sudden, she heard someone's footsteps. She looked up and saw Westley walking towards them from the end of the path.

'Why did he come back? Could he have forgotten something by the river?' she thought to herself.

"Are you listening to me, Gabrielle?" When Austin noticed that she didn't answer his question, he had to ask her.

"Yeah... Yes, I am listening," she replied quickly as she came back to her senses. She didn't like herself very much right now. As long as she stood in front of her cold husband, she would become abnormal and begin to act strangely. She wasn't like this before, but as it were, right now, she felt that this was totally out of her control. 5

'Could it be that it is the same Westley,

who is turning me on like this?' she thought again.

"So, do you want me there?" Austin asked her.

"Of course, yes, Aus. You know that grandpa enjoys crowds. He is always fond of holding his birthday party in a grand style every year. Besides, he was the one who sent you the invitation card which means that he wants you to be there. So yes, I want to see you there for sure," she explained to him in detail.

His heart sank when he heard this. He didn't know what else he could say after he heard her answer.

"Oh, I see."

"I have to hang up now, Aus. I have something else to do right now." When she saw that her husband was getting closer to where she was, she hung up the phone in a hurry and tried to put on a calm look. Until he got close to her, she didn't even notice that she had a stiff expression on her face.

"Why are you back, Westley? Is there anything you forgot by the river?" she asked with concern.

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"No," Westley replied as he stood still in front of her.

"Why then did you come back?"

"Well, I dropped something on the road," he said all of a sudden. ②

At this point, she didn't understand what he was talking about and she looked at him with so much worry on her face. "Well, if you dropped something on the road, you had better go find it now. Why don't you tell me what it is so that I can help you with it? We would be able to find it quickly that way."

When he heard what she had said, he was amused by her silliness. 'Why is she behaving so stupidly? Or is she pretending to be innocent to seek my sympathy?' he thought.

"Let's go. Don't you know there are so many wild dogs in the countryside? Be more careful when you are alone," Westley said to her calmly.

"Wild dogs?" she asked in amazement. Gabrielle didn't quite catch it. What did the wild dogs in the countryside have anything to do with what he dropped?

"Will the thing you dropped be taken away by wild dogs?" she asked him with a hint of curiosity in her eyes.

"Yes, it will. By the way, why didn't you keep up with us?" he asked casually. He didn't want to talk about dogs with her anymore. Now he was sure that this wife of his was a silly woman.

"Well, I was busy answering a call on my phone."

She just blurted out. She had never thought that he would come back for her.

She wouldn't even think about the possibility of him doing so. After all, she was nothing to him. So what reason did he have to come back for her?

"Who called you?"

"It's... It's my mother, she called to tell me about my grandfather's birthday party. By the way, would you like to go to his birthday party?" She had used her mother as a perfect excuse because she was afraid that he would be unhappy if he knew that it was Austin that had called her.

"Do you want me to go?" Westley asked as he stared at her thoroughly.

She looked at him as though she was in a daze. Some minutes ago, Austin had asked her if she wanted him to go, now her husband was also asking her the same question.

'When did my opinion become so important to these people?' she asked herself in surprise. As she thought about this, she felt flattered. ②

"Of course I want you to go. But I thought you didn't want our relationship to be made public, or have you changed your mind?" She made it clear.

He was the one who didn't want members of the public to know about his married life. It was also up to him to decide if he wanted to go to her grandfather's birthday party or not. She would always respect his decision no matter what the outcome was.

"Do you want our relationship to be made public, Gabrielle?" Westley asked her this question all of a sudden.

At that moment, she was confused. She

didn't know how to answer such a question. She thought for a while and wondered if he was just trying to test her attitude on purpose with such a question.

'This must be his plan,' she thought as she shook her head in an imperceptible nod.

For this reason, she decided that she would not fall into his trap.

"Of course not, Westley. We both know that our marriage is fake anyway. It would not be good for both of us if it is made public." As she said this, she felt satisfied with her answer; it was perfect just the way she had imagined it in her head. ③

He had warned her times without number ever since they got married that their marriage couldn't be made public and if she decided otherwise right now, she knew that he wouldn't go easy on her.

"Is that what you truly want?" he questioned her again as his eyes darkened and he looked at her coldly. ④

"Of course, it is. Isn't that what you've

always wanted? You were the one who said from the beginning that our relationship must be confidential. Or am I wrong?" she inquired as she looked at his cold face in confusion.

'Have I said something wrong?' she pondered deeply.

"No, you are not wrong. Let's go." As soon as he said this, he walked forward quickly. ①

In Gabrielle's opinion, this man was very inexplicable.

"Are you mad at me, Westley?" she asked as she hurried to catch up with him.

"Is that how low you think of me, Gabrielle? Am I that kind of person who gets angry all the time in your heart?" He cast a cold glance at her as he said this. ①

"No! Not at all. That wasn't what I meant."

Westley quickened his pace again, and she caught up with him in a hurry. "Can you please walk more slowly? Don't you know that you have long legs?"

As he looked straight in front of him and listened to her complaints, he felt much better all of a sudden.

Yes, that's true. He had long legs! ①

Meanwhile, Gabrielle had short legs. Besides, he was taller than she was.

By the time the two of them got back to the farmhouse, they saw that everyone looked gloomy.

"What happened?" Westley asked as he scanned everyone's face one by one.

"Was Holly with you, Gabrielle?" Miley asked her.

As Gabrielle looked around, she realized that Holly wasn't in their midst. This only meant one thing: she was missing and this made everybody very anxious.

"Grandma, she wasn't with me. Her legs are injured. I wouldn't have allowed her to go out with me. Could she be missing?" Gabrielle asked Miley uneasily.

"She's gone and she didn't tell me or any other person where she was going. Her cell phone is still in the living room. I even thought that she went out with you,



but Mia and the others told me that you went to the river alone." As Miley spoke, there was a little anxiety in her voice.

No matter what, Holly was the daughter of the Edwards family. If something happened to Holly in her farmhouse, Miley would be too ashamed to face the Edwards family.

"Just stay calm, grandma. You know that Holly's legs are injured, so she wouldn't have gone too far. We didn't see her on our way back. Maybe she went up the mountain or to the town to buy something. We'll go and find her now. She's an adult and I'm sure that she'll be fine wherever she is," Gabrielle tried to comfort the old lady to stop her from worrying too much.

"It's not always like that. Many beautiful women in society have been kidnapped and were never found again. Some were given to the poor in faraway lands as wives or sold to illegal organizations who use their bodies or sell their organs to those who need them. Trafficking humans, especially ladies is now a very lucrative business," Mia blurted out. She had started her nonsense talk again.



"Mia, don't say that! You're scaring everybody." Gabrielle was frightened by her words.

