

## Chapter 285 He Was Different From The Rumor

'A funeral wreath!

Sending him interment flowers on his engagement day?

Mia is the only one who has the courage to say it out loud, and it's daunting.

She really is evil and ferocious!

Gabrielle could not believe the words coming out of Mia's mouth and threw her a look of utter disbelief.

It was without a doubt that Mia's domineering nature was above anyone else's.

The situation led to Cayden and Molly looking irate. There was a grim expression on one's face and the other looked so crimson it was as if blood was going to burst out.

Molly was known to be graceful. She was as gentle as a feather and the way she spoke was like a whisper from the

heavens. Not one word of disapproval and hatred could come out of her mouth. After she heard what Mia said, all she could do was shamefully take Cayden's hand into hers.

A lady as delicate as Molly made Mia's skin crawl. She couldn't stomach the thought of a woman having to rely on others for everything. Mia could only assume that if someone like that was bullied, her first impulse would be to run to men for help with tears in her eyes and a feeble facade.

"Since when have you learned how to say such terrible things, Mia? Do you have time now? Can we talk?" Cayden shook Molly's hand off.

"We have nothing to talk about, Cayden. I don't talk to strangers, let alone assholes. Gabrielle, come on. Let's call it a day," Mia said with a chill in her voice as she held Gabrielle's hand to drag her out and leave.

'Who in their right minds would want to see that jerk and that fucking bitch?' Her mood could not be any more sour.

Shopping suddenly felt unappealing. Mia wanted to leave the damned place

immediately.

Cayden, being the jerk that he was, rushed over to block their way. "Listen to me, Mia. You've blocked me on WhatsApp. I have no means to contact you. Your housekeeper practically dragged me out when I came to visit. Now that I've met you again, can you please..."

Mia cut Cayden off in the middle of his speech and exclaimed, "No! Go to hell, you fucking asshole! What made you think that I would keep you around? You've lost the right to breathe the same air as I do when you became a jerk. Don't get on my nerves. I can't be as gentle to you as Miss Clark. I am able to get physical with people who cross me." Mia looked at Cayden with daggers in her eyes.

They had garnered some onlookers with the scene that they caused. After all, they were extravagantly dressed individuals. Tittle-tattle was to be expected whenever they would argue.

"Mia, you jumped off of a bridge that day because of me..." said Cayden.

"Are you insane? I could have jumped

from a bridge, a mountain, or a building and I still would not have done it for you. You flatter yourself too much." Mia let out a hearty laugh. Her patience was running thin. She was as stubborn as a mule.

"Mia! Let's talk. Please give me a chance. I want to clear up this misunderstanding."

Molly felt even more resentful when she heard what Cayden said. She glanced at him with tearful, piteous eyes. The look on her face could break anyone's heart. "Cayden, you swore to your mom that we'd go shopping today. Don't mind her. The words coming out of Miss Robinson's mouth are too harsh."

Mia can't help but think, 'Too harsh?'

Well, this sham of a woman just wanted to say that my words were too savage.

Damn, I should have been more ruthless to them.'

In Mrs. Murphy's presence, Molly always perceived herself as a delicate and amenable woman. Cayden's mother liked her so much that she wouldn't let anyone else marry her son.

Molly finally got what she wanted. At long last, under the pressure of Cayden's parents, they got engaged.

"Miss Clark, my actions heavily depend on your presence. I am only ever unreasonable with people I do not like. My friends are very loved by me. Gabrielle knows this more than anyone, right?" Mia gave Gabrielle's arm an insanely tight grasp as she asked her.

"Indeed, Mia is endearing and very charming," Gabrielle said in agreement.

"See? I'm tender and warm with friends. Get out of my way!" Cayden received a vicious stare from Mia.

"Miss Robinson, please listen to me. I have something to tell you." Molly couldn't stop herself from standing on the sidelines anymore. She looked as if she was about to have a fight with the other woman.

"Okay, you pretentious bitch, if you have something to say, just tell me."

"The engagement party preparation went by so fast that we didn't have the time to send you an invitation. Rest assured that

we will request your presence at the wedding. Please don't be upset with Cayden. He did nothing wrong." Molly was rambling.

Saying all that was extremely difficult for her.

"You are so gullible. Do you have amnesia? I just said that I am not interested. If I did show up, it would be likely for me to bring 99 funeral wreaths to wish you a happy life. Will you be grateful for my gift?" Mia had this unwavering fierce look on her face.

That was Mia. She was fearless.

Cayden turned rouge. He carelessly grabbed Mia by the arm and dragged her to the exit.

"What the fuck is wrong with you? Cayden!" Mia exclaimed.

"If you don't shut up, I will kiss you!" Cayden's patience had run out.

Mia's rambling gave him a migraine attack. He was known to be a dissolute and amorous bastard. He, however, could do nothing to the stubborn Mia.

It didn't matter how strong-willed Mia made herself out to be. Cayden's words scared her to the bones. He would do anything. After all, he was famous for his lack of morals.

It is not unlikely that he would kiss her in public.

They had kissed in public in the past. They couldn't care less about people seeing them.

This man was her sworn enemy, she couldn't do that now. It isn't right for her to kiss him while Molly was there.

She didn't want a man who had been used by another woman.

"Cayden, you're absolutely insane. Why did you leave your fiancée to drag me out here?" Mia couldn't help but curse at him.

She was determined not to face him but he was able to take her away so easily. How did he manage to do that?

"I said, if you don't stop screaming, I will kiss you. I just need to talk." Cayden went on with pulling her away.

He was aggressive.

"Cayden, don't make me hate you!" Mia said with resentment in her eyes.

"Don't you already hate me?" Cayden knew exactly what Mia thought of him.

Finally, she calmed down and rolled her eyes at him. She let him drag her to the exit.

It was funny how they had to hide in the fire exit just to talk. It was as if they were having an affair.

"Can you let go of my hand now? Make it fast. I don't want any more time with you." Mia threw him a chilling glance.

Cayden hesitated but eventually let go of her hand. "Would you please unblock me?" Cayden asked.

"In your dreams! I have every right to block you and there is no way in hell that you're leaving my blacklist anytime soon," Mia said, rejecting Cayden's request.

He pinned her down against the wall and stared deep into her eyes.

She felt so small and helpless.



People who didn't know Cayden well would say that he was a ladies' man but that was not true. He and Mia grew up together. Being a playboy was just a persona he made up to mask his true emotions. ②

Like Micheal's eyes, his were also deep and untamed.

Naturally, Mia was reminded of her brother whenever she would look into Cayden's eyes. If he hadn't treated her like she was fragile, with Mia's temper, she would have already disabled him.

It was a mystery how the two of them could be together considering how they always fought when they were little.

## Chapter 286 Beaten By Her

Gabrielle and Molly stood there. Watching Cayden drag Mia away so abruptly, Molly felt rage flare in her chest. But she stayed put. She did not try to stop him.

She could not afford to offend Mia or anger Cayden. After all, she had just become Cayden's fiancée. If she made him unhappy in any way, he could change his mind and break off the engagement.

Molly did not want that.

Because she truly wanted to be with Cayden.

"Are you Mia's friend?" Molly glanced at Gabrielle who was anxiously looking at the fire exit where Cayden and Mia went.

Gabrielle was worried about Mia. She wanted to follow her but hesitated. Nothing had happened yet. Maybe Mia was okay, but if she called for help, Gabrielle would definitely storm in and

get her.

Gabrielle was not afraid of beating the hell out of disrespectful men.

When Molly tried to speak to her, Gabrielle felt a little annoyed. Molly met Gabrielle's cold stare, which stunned her. Molly thought, 'This woman looks timid, but her eyes are sharp and frightening. No doubt she's a friend of Mia's. Birds of the same feather do flock together, and this woman and Mia are vicious little birds.'

"Yes, I am. So?" Gabrielle did not have a good attitude toward strangers, especially to the kind of backstabbing bitches like Molly who pretended to be simple but really were venomous snakes underneath.

It must have taken her a laughable amount of effort to steal Cayden from Mia.

Any person with their head screwed on straight knew how remorseless women who pretended to be coy were. Gabrielle sniffed that right out when she laid eyes on Molly. She hated her instantly.

"I just want to remind you that it's your

job to tell Mia that trying to win Cayden back is futile and that she shouldn't waste her time. I'm his fiancée now, so she better behave herself. I know she was his ex-girlfriend, but they're broken up. She should just let him move on." Molly blamed everything on Mia as if it was really her fault.

Gabrielle wanted to laugh at how ridiculous she was being.

Was she blind? Or did she think everyone in the world was blind?

"Behave herself?" Gabrielle sneered at her.

"Yes. Don't you think she should?" Molly was a little irked by Gabrielle's mocking stare.

"I'm sorry, who did you say you were to Cayden?" Gabrielle decided to be patient and tried to reason with Molly.

"I'm his fiancée. We are engaged." Molly specially emphasized that they were engaged.

Of course Gabrielle had heard of it. The day Cayden and Molly got engaged was the day Mia tried to kill herself by

jumping off a bridge. Not many people knew about it, but Gabrielle did.

"Believe me, you don't have to worry about Mia. It's your precious fiancé you need to worry about. Don't take your eyes off him or he will flirt with any woman he finds attractive and cheat on you on the same day. You may be blinded by your affection for Cayden, Molly, but everyone else around you is aware of the truth. Cayden was the one who wanted to talk to Mia and dragged her to the fire exit. They've been in there for almost ten minutes. If Mia doesn't come out soon and unscathed, I will call the police on your man and make him famous in the worst of ways." Gabrielle looked Molly straight in the eye as she threatened her, and she made sure that Molly knew that she was not bluffing.

Molly took one step back, a little frightened by the resolve in Gabrielle's eyes. The woman was even more difficult to deal with than Mia. 5

"My time and patience are running out, Molly. If you don't want your fiancé to be arrested for harassing my friend, I suggest you go in there and yank him out. Otherwise, sirens will be blaring."

Gabrielle took out her phone and dialed 911. She hovered her thumb over the call button.

Molly stared in horror at Gabrielle's determined face. Then, she averted her gaze. "No. I don't want to meddle in Cayden's business. I dare not."

"Then you leave me no choice." Gabrielle stuffed her phone in her pocket and walked toward the fire exit. She believed that Mia could handle herself, so she did not barge in.

Mia had a whole litany of anger and blame to dump on Cayden, but she still tried to convince herself that she did not care anymore. No matter how hard she tried, she had not forgotten about him, and it frustrated her.

When she jumped off that bridge, she was not trying to make a fuss. She was in a world of unspeakable pain, and she thought death was the only way to end it.

When Gabrielle marched over to the fire exit, Molly followed her without hesitation.

"Mia? Are you okay? Just let me know if

you're okay."

Standing outside the fire exit door, Gabrielle called to Mia.

"I'm fine!"

Mia answered through the closed door.

Hearing Mia's response, Gabrielle heaved a sigh of relief.

She turned around and glanced at the nervous Molly behind her.

"If you want to see your fiancé, you can go straight in. Mia said she was fine, but that doesn't mean Cayden is," Gabrielle smirked.

Before Molly could figure out what Gabrielle meant, she heard Cayden's pained cries from the fire exit.

"Mia! Are you insane? Why did you kick me so hard?"

"You deserve it, you bastard! You can't cheat on me and then turn around and touch me!"

Then, the door swung open, and Mia stomped out. She was not surprised to find Gabrielle and Molly standing

outside.

"Let's go, Gabrielle." Mia grabbed Gabrielle's hand and started towing her away. But then, she stopped and turned to Molly.

"You better go check on Cayden, Molly. I just kicked him in his little special place. I think he needs to go to the emergency room. Otherwise, you won't be able to have his babies." After that, Mia and Gabrielle left.

Molly just stood there and tried to make sense of what Mia said.

His little special place?

Just as Molly was about to hurry in to check on Cayden, Cayden walked out. He was limping and clutching his groin, and he had a busted lip.

From there, it was easy to tell what had happened between him and Mia.

Looking at Cayden, Molly felt more insecure than ever. Obviously, there was still a lot of unresolved feelings between her fiancé and that woman.

To make matters worse, Cayden did not



really love her at all. He did not go on dates with her or made an effort to see her. In fact, if his mother had not forced him to go shopping with her today, they would not even be here.

When they entered the shopping mall, they saw Mia, and Cayden did not even hesitate to approach her.

He would not say anything about it, but he was obviously still in love with Mia.

"Cayden, are you okay?" Molly hurried to help Cayden, but he dodged her touch.

"I'm fine. Mia didn't use much force. I'll be okay," Cayden replied calmly.

Mia, Mia. Mia badly injured Cayden, but he still addressed her so intimately. It really pissed Molly off, but she had no choice but to pretend that she was okay. She had been pretending to be a serene, fair lady for more than twenty years. No matter how angry she got, she could not lose her temper. She could only force herself to remain calm despite the pain and discomfort. ②

She was terrified that Cayden would dislike her if she showed him her authentic self. Of course, that was just

another one of the lies she had been telling herself. She knew that Cayden did not like her from the beginning.

"Molly? Cayden? What happened?" A sharp female voice called out not far away from them. 2

## Chapter 287 Her Back Is Bleeding

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Staying happy for long wasn't written for Gabrielle, probably. Because, the moment she turned around to leave with Mia, they both saw the most adverse omen coming down the stairs. They stopped in their tracks, stunned at the person who met their eyes.

Emily also recognized them, clearly not expecting to see them in the shopping mall that day. She could still remember their fight in the restaurant.

To say the least, after recognizing her, Mia wasn't the slightest happy.

'Fuck!' Mia almost snarled. 'Do I really have to meet Emily, turning around the corners?'

Mia eased her expressions a bit, but the cold and killing frown never left her face. Emily was Molly's cousin, and they both were, without a doubt, bitchy and cruel.

"What brings you here, Emily?"

Molly asked in the softest tone she could use.

As if waiting to encounter them, Emily was already standing in front of them, angrily glaring at Gabrielle. "Well, I came here to buy something, Molly. I just saw you, so I thought, why not say hello. How do you know her?" ③

With a nod of her head, Emily gestured towards Gabrielle, inquiring Molly about her.

Emily's resentment wasn't going away easily. She was expelled from university, dropping all the blame on Gabrielle. When she had to go to another university in another city, she was forced to separate from Jax, as they weren't in the same city anymore.

Her grudge against Gabrielle hadn't been satisfied yet. And today was her chance to pay Gabrielle back for all that she'd done.

"I... am not familiar with them. Miss Robinson is your cousin-in-law's..."

"Emily, I'm your cousin-in-law's ex-girlfriend and also your cousin's senior."

Mia stood forward. "Well, I heard that you were expelled from the Alorith University." Mia raised her brows. "We met today after you were expelled, so... Congratulations!" Mia clapped her hands right in front of Emily's face.

If she could, Emily would have torn the world apart on the humiliation Mia was making her feel. She was pissed to her limits, just waiting for the final blow to blast her anger out. To put it together, Mia was visibly testing Emily's limits. After all, who would want to get applauded for being expelled?

"I haven't gotten even with you, Gabrielle. What kind of filthy trick did you play behind my back to get us suspended?" Emily's eyes were blazing with anger.

For sure, Gabrielle knew the reason for Emily's suspension. It was Westley who did it. He was able to fire the dean with a snap of his fingers. So, suspending some students was a piece of cake for him. ③

Westley was a shareholder now in the university, making him the prince charming for the university. He was like an idol to fans, getting surrounded by

them wherever he went. This was Westley's position, the reason his demands were fulfilled within a blink.

Gabrielle tucked her hair behind her ear, pretending to be innocent. "What do you mean by that? Don't you think it's you who should know why you were expelled?" Gabrielle's tone had an unvarying calmness in it as she facilely masked Westley's deeds. Firstly, she wouldn't accept that Westley did it. Secondly, Gabrielle couldn't let others know about her bond with Westley.

'These people don't deserve to know.'

"What are you being ignorant about, huh? How can you possibly think that I can't find any evidence? When..."

A smile appeared on Gabrielle's lips as she cut Emily's sentence. "Talk to me after you find any evidence. Till then, don't even dare to wrong me. I believe Alorith University's decision must be fair and just. They are not so stupid to expel you without a reason." Finally, Gabrielle became serious as she continued, "Instead of arguing with me, you'd better go to the university's office and find the answers you are seeking."

"Oh, to increase your knowledge, Gabrielle, I did go there. And they said that someone asked them to expel us. We weren't told who did it, but I am pretty sure you had a hand behind all of this shit." Emily gritted her teeth while clenching her fists.

Gabrielle was quite bored by Emily's relentless accusations. "I will wait for you to bring the evidence then, Emily. Without it, stop talking nonsense and stop making a scene. Plus, I am just an adopted daughter of the Jones family. How can you possibly expect me to make you get suspended from the university? I hope you have a brain big enough to think about it." It was rare for Gabrielle to argue with others like this, but still, she wanted to keep Emily in her place.

Emily's attitude was making her burn in anger.

"Shut up, whore! No one knows your intentions. And..." A dry chuckle left Emily's lips. "Being a powerless adopted daughter of the Jones family, who knows how many nasty tricks did you learn? Maybe..."

"Stop talking shit, Emily! I dare you to

start rumors about Gabrielle again. Otherwise you'll be shredded by me. I will make sure the last person you'd want to offend in the Antawood... is me." Mia had been silent through their conversation, but the more she heard Emily's remorseless words, the more she burned in rage. If looks could kill, Emily would have been dead by now.

'She freaking has the most contemptible mouth.' Clenching her fists, Mia was ready to strike her knuckles along Emily's high cheekbone.

But Gabrielle held her hand back.

"Mia, we're in a public place." Gabrielle threw a sharp glare at Emily before looking back at Mia. "After all, we can't argue with a mad dog, neither can we bite it back. So, let her be. If you still want to buy a watch, then okay. Otherwise, let's head back." Gabrielle's mood was ruined. She felt emotionally tired, wanting to go back home.

"You're right. Indeed, we can't fight a mad dog. God! She just turned it out as a bad day for us! Yeah, let's head back." Gently tugging at Gabrielle's hand, Mia turned to leave.



When Emily figured out that she was being called a mad dog by the both of them, she couldn't contain the ferocity she had been holding back anymore.

"You called me a mad dog, huh?! Let me show you what it means then." Emily, throwing all the remaining morals that she had at bay, swung her handbag and threw it towards Mia and Gabrielle, whose backs were facing her.

She had a black handbag, inlaid with rivets. It could kill people if she struck them with it repeatedly. It was a freaking weapon.

On top of that, Gabrielle was wearing a long dress with thin knitwear. So, her clothes stood to be too thin to bear the rivets of the bag and save Gabrielle's back.

As soon as the unexpected blow hit Gabrielle's back, she fell forward with the impact. The pain was too much to bear as the blood oozed out and stained her beige knitwear. ①

It wasn't until Gabrielle curled over with pain that Mia understood what just happened. Her colors drained out as she

saw Gabrielle with blood staining her dress. She almost freaked out. 4

"What the fuck, Emily?!"

"Gabrielle is the real bitch. And today is her last day." Emily swung her bag again, but this time, Mia got her senses back. Without delay, Mia reached out her hand to protect Gabrielle. 1

"Mia!"

Suddenly, Cayden came over, knocking Emily to the ground. But to his dismay, the bag still struck Mia's arm. Even her leather jacket couldn't lessen the intensity of the blow. Mia frowned in pain, clenching her arm with the hand of the other arm tightly.

"Mia! Are you okay?"

"I'm fine. I'm fine. Check Gabrielle first. Her back is bleeding. Let's take her to the hospital, quickly." Mia was horrified when she saw the blood, urging Cayden to help her.

The pain was so much that Gabrielle almost fainted with the blow. Still, subconsciously, she reached her hand out and touched her aching back. When

she drew her fingers back, they were covered in bright and red blood, the sight of which was quite terrible.

"Cayden, pick Gabrielle up." Mia was beyond anxious as she asked Cayden to hold Gabrielle.

What Cayden cared about was Mia's arm, but the bleeding back of Gabrielle diverted his attention. After all, Mia was still on her feet, while Gabrielle was not. So, he picked her up and walked outside as quickly as he could.

"Gabrielle, hold on a little longer." Gabrielle's flicking eyelids stressed Mia even more.

"It... hurts, Mia."

"Don't be afraid. We're taking you to the hospital. Cayden, hurry."

"Mia, don't leave my gift." Gabrielle was still holding on when she was sweating due to the pain. ①

Even if it wasn't something costly or precious, Gabrielle didn't want to lose the first-ever gift she bought for Westley. To her, it was more than just valuable.

"Are you nuts, Gabby? You are injured so badly, and you're still worrying about your gift?!" Mia had an urge to rub her temples, but she resisted, taking in a deep breath. "I put the gift into your bag. Now, don't say anything. Hold on. We will reach the hospital soon."

"I'm fine, Mia. It's probably not that bad. It's just a little bit painful." Gabrielle forced a smile to reassure Mia.

But her bleeding back didn't let her keep on lying. The pain made her grimace.

"Stop talking," Mia hushed Gabrielle, watching her face turn pale.

"Okay." And saying a silent okay, Gabrielle passed out in Cayden's arms.