

Chapter 58

Olivia reached out to the wine bottle. "You're right. I should raise a glass to them."

Almost instantly, Keith and Everly stopped her and warned her sternly, "No. You can't drink."

She looked at Everly pleadingly. "I'll only take a sip. It's fine."

Everly let go of Olivia's hands when she read the determination in her friends' eyes.

Olivia poured herself a glass of red wine and made her way to the couple while Keith looked on with hesitation. With a smile, she said, "Mr. Miller, Ms. Carlton, I wish you a happy marriage. I'll drink this toast whether you like it or not. Please consider this my congratulations in advance. I will not attend your engagement party."

Then, she downed the glass of wine like the guest before her without looking at Ethan and Marina.

Ethan knew she was a lightweight who'd get tipsy from a glass of wine. Marina stood up with her glass and beamed. "Ethan and I will be happy. Thanks for your blessing."

In what seemed to be a competition, she poured herself a full glass of wine and downed it like Olivia.

"Enough!" Two male voices echoed in the room. Ethan and Keith had to put a stop to the madness.

Keith grabbed the half-empty glass from Olivia and told Ethan, "For the sake of her health, I'll drink on her behalf."

Ethan, who had been silent, finally broke into an amused smile. "Who are you to her? What right do you have to drink on her behalf?"

The guests at the table thought that was Ethan's pet peeve, hence the hostility. They shot awkward looks at Keith, who calmly replied, "That's none of your business, Mr. Miller."

Ethan finally looked at Keith, who was standing over him. Despite being seated, Ethan seemed authoritative with his quiet and serious attitude. His emotionless glance exerted pressure on whomever he lay his eyes on.

The guests watched on as Ethan chuckled and lifted a glass of wine. He said, amused, "Finally, someone with a spine from the Rogers Family."

Everyone was left confused because Ethan's chilling smile contradicted his compliment. He followed up

with, "I wonder if you'll survive this winter."

He finally made his threat clear. Ethan was as ruthless and fickle as the rumors painted him. He was a man who'd be outraged at the sight of Keith drinking on behalf of a lady and would resort to bankrupting Keith's family.

As one of the scions in Aldenvine, Keith was widely seen as a respected heir and doctor. Only Ethan had the power to step over him due to the Millers' influence.

The Millers were the top elites in this city, but Ethan kept a low-profile. He rarely made a move against anyone, but if he ever did, he made sure to destroy his target.

Calvin took Ethan's threat seriously and quickly jumped in to mediate. "Mr. Miller, please calm down. Dr. Rogers was only being nice to Olivia."

Rubbing the wine glass with his fingertips, Ethan snickered. "Keith Rogers, who are you to drink on her behalf? You have a chance to return to your seat. If you do, I'll let this slip."

Chapter 59

Marina stared at Ethan's side profile throughout the confrontation. Ethan did not like publicizing his relationship with Olivia, especially after the divorce. However, she noted that Ethan was triggered by Keith's act of drinking on Olivia's behalf. 1

She turned her resentful gaze to Olivia when she realized divorce was not enough. It turned out that Olivia still had a place in Ethan's heart.

Meanwhile, Keith was stuck in an awkward situation. A heavy silence hung in the air; none of the guests dared to make a move that might provoke Ethan.

Keith knew that Ethan wanted to force him to give up on Olivia. Any man would have buckled under Ethan's threat, but little did Ethan know that Keith had fallen too hard for Olivia. It was love at first sight.

She was a wholly different person when they were younger. But he was too occupied with college and studying abroad to make the relationship happen.

When he returned to the country, he learned that she had quit school to get married. He was dismayed at the shell of the person she had become, like a tree withering from neglect.

He waited a long time until her divorce. He was always grateful for the time he spent with her, no matter how short.

For the first time, the rule-abiding man followed his heart and gave his all for love. Keith, ignoring the threat, stared determinedly at Ethan.

"It's not your place to comment on that. You do know that your fiancée is right beside you, don't you? You should focus on her. No matter what Olivia's decision is, I will protect her well. I won't hurt her the way her ex-husband did." 1

With that, he downed the contents in Olivia's glass and slammed it on the table. He took her hand and muttered, "It's getting late, so I'll send Olivia home. I shall excuse myself since you'll be talking business."

Everly almost clapped at Keith's coolness. Yet Olivia seemed troubled.

She knew that Keith was adding fuel to the fire, and if she went with him, Ethan would destroy the Rogers Family. She planned to stay, but he hauled her away.

Worried, she looked at him. "Keith, you ..."

He gave her a gentle look and placed a finger on his lips. She left with him without glancing at Ethan's expression. She could still picture his displeasure.

Panicked, she lectured Keith, "You shouldn't have gone against him openly. He's a tough nut. Remember? You were lucky to have escaped the car crash unhurt. Keith, you knew my predicament. I can't possibly love—"

He took her other hand and glanced at her tenderly. "Olivia, I know. But I'm an adult. I know what I'm doing. Ethan can be volatile, but he's not tyrannical. If he's angry at me, he will come at me, but he will leave my family out of it. I thought through the consequences before I asked you out."

Frowning, she wanted to explain that Ethan was different from what everyone thought of him. At least, in the past, Ethan would go mad if anyone laid a finger on her.

Once, a senior at school cornered her in an alley and confessed to her. After she rejected him, he started getting handsy around her.

The next day, she heard that the senior had drunkenly fallen off a building in a freak accident and died horribly.

The deceased's family blamed it on Olivia, making a scene at the school and slapping her across the face. Soon, their residence went up in flames a few days later, and the entire family perished.

She had thought it was a terrible coincidence until she found Ethan scattering white powder in his garden. She went up to take a better look and was shocked to learn that those were ashes. 1

The family of that senior was not only dead but reduced to ashes.

That was the true face of Ethan, the epitome of tyranny.

