

# Coolest Girl in Town Chapter 86

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The atmosphere was awkward, so Danny quickly broke the ice. "What did you get for Alexander, Ashlyn?"

Ashlyn felt embarrassed, but she stayed calm. "I hand picked this, Alexander. Please take it." She thought he'd say something, but he still didn't.

Jack and Danny glanced at each other. The old Jack would have stood up for Ashlyn, but tonight, he turned his head away and pretended that he saw nothing. Danny looked around to see if anyone could be of help. When he saw Elise, he quickly went up to her. "Boss, are you here to give Alexander your present?"

Elise was surprised Danny came to her. She was planning on giving Alexander the gift after the banquet, but since Danny already brought it up, she simply said, "Yes." Then, she took the present out. "Here, Alexander. Happy birthday."

Alexander looked at her, then at her present. For some reason, he wanted to know what her gift was, but he had to stay calm and collected. "Danny, take the gift."

Danny quickly took Elise's gift. He paused for a moment, then he took Ashlyn's as well.

Ashlyn heaved a sigh of relief after her gift was taken. Unbeknownst to her, Alexander never wanted to take her gift.

Jack asked curiously, "What did you get him, Elise? Can we open it?" *That does not seem cheap at all. Wow, she really does care about Alex.*

However, before Elise could answer, Ashlyn said, "I got Alex a watch from Longines. Latest model, and it's a limited edition too. Only three pieces are available worldwide."

Danny praised, "Wow, that's a nice gift. You must have spent a lot of money on it."

Jack snorted. "I'm asking Elise, not you."

Ashlyn's smile froze. The old Jack wouldn't talk to her that way, but after what happened, she could feel his contempt toward her. However, she didn't flip out. "I just think this fits Alexander. That's all, really."

"You're really nice to him, Ashlyn," Danny praised genuinely. But right after that, Alexander took Elise's present and looked at her. "What did you get me?"

Elise was surprised he asked her, but she answered, "A necktie. I don't know if you'll like it though."

Alexander opened it and took a look. *Well, this fits my aesthetics. She knows me well.* "Not bad." It was a curt remark, but coming from Alexander, it meant a lot. He wouldn't even look at most people's gifts, but now he actually opened Elise's to take a look.

Ashlyn now knew Alexander never cared about her gift in the first place, and her face fell.

It was then a servant hurried over. "Mr. Alexander, the ball is starting soon, and Mr. Jonah wants you there."

"I see." Alexander handed the gift box to Jack. "Hold it for me." He went to the hall after that

It was a merry sight in the hall, for it was packed with people. The host was standing in the middle of the stage, hyping the event up. "Thank you for coming to the ball today. We hope you'll have a great night. The ball shall begin soon, but today, we're going to ditch the boring old ways for something fun and exciting."

Everyone was excited to hear that, and they looked at the host, curious about what the new thing was.

"Everyone will be required to wear a mask and draw numbers. Whoever gets the same number will be dance partners for the ball, so your dance partners are completely randomized."

Everyone burst into cheers.

The servants then distributed the masks to the guests. Elise went to take one as well, and she got a fox mask, while her number was fifty-six. *Well, who's the unlucky guy?* Dancing wasn't her forte after all. In fact, it was one of her worst talents. She stood silently among the crowd, a glass of champagne in hand. Everyone got their partners eventually, but her partner still didn't show up, much to her frustration. *Did nobody get my number?*

Just when she was asking herself that, a tall man in a bear mask came up to her, and he was holding a slip that had the number fifty-six on it.

"May I have a dance, milady?" the man said. *Hey, I know that voice anywhere.* "Alexander? Is that you?"

She sounded surprised, but also delighted. Alexander was surprised that he got Elise

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as well, so he chuckled. "Fate wants us together, it seems. Or as some might say, plot device."

Elise wondered why he said that, but she didn't have the time to question him. Alexander had extended his hand, and she held it after a moment of hesitation, letting him lead her to the dance floor.

"I don't know how to dance, though, so be prepared."

Alexander assured her, "It's fine. Just follow my tempo."

The music started playing, and Alexander made the first move. "Follow me. Step to the left. Take three steps back, then step to your right."

Elise followed his instructions and tempo, but less than a minute later, she said, "I'm sorry. I stepped on your foot."

Alexander gave her an encouraging look. "It's fine. Take it slow."

It was embarrassing for Elise, but still she followed his instructions, though guests who danced close to her swore they heard her apologizing a lot.

Every time she said sorry, Alexander just reassured her patiently. "It's fine. You can do it."

His encouragement was starting to work, and she slowly got into the tempo. Eventually, she caught up to him and made no mistakes in her dance.

"Not bad." He gave her genuine praise.

Elise felt embarrassed, but she kept dancing. They were immersed in their tempo, and everyone else didn't matter. Eventually, the guests retreated from the dance floor, leaving them alone on it, dancing to the tune.

When the song finally ended, thunderous applause rang around the hall.

Elise bowed sheepishly, then Alexander took her away from the dance floor.

Once they got out, Alexander praised, "Not bad."

Elise quickly answered, "All thanks to you."

Alexander looked at her and continued, "But that's also because you're a good learner."

She tucked her hair behind her ear shyly. "That's the first time I ever danced to a song from start to finish. Wasn't as hard as I thought it would be."

Alexander agreed. "We can learn if you have the time to."

Just when they were chatting, Matthew came over to them. He had always been trying to dance with Elise. "Elise, you danced nicely."

Elise was surprised Matthew knew it was her despite the mask. Ever since what happened last time, she had been distancing herself from him, but now he suddenly came up to her, not to mention in front of a crowd. "I was just going with the flow. Not too shabby, but not too great either."

Matthew didn't give her any chance to escape because he had already extended his hand. "My fair lady, may I have a dance with you?"

There was love in his eyes, as if he had a lot of things to say to her.

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Elise was in a dilemma. She didn't want to dance with Matthew, but she couldn't find any reasons to refuse. Luckily for her, Alexander stood before her. "According to the rules, everyone's dance partner is decided by the draw." In other words, there was no changing of partners once it was set.

Finally finding an excuse, Elise said, "Sorry, Matthew. We got the same number, so I can't dance with you." *Perfect. Nobody can refute me.*

Matthew smiled and slowly pulled his hand back. "It's fine. Let's leave it until next time then."

Elise nodded. It was then the hall went dark, and everyone gasped. About a minute later, everyone heard the sound of wheels creaking, and someone was singing Happy Birthday

"Happy birthday to you... Happy birthday to you..."

The crowd parted and made way for Danny and Jack. They were pushing a big cake on a cart, heading toward Alexander. Everyone around them also started singing as well.

Once they were done singing Happy Birthday, someone shouted, "Make a wish, birthday boy!"

Everyone looked at Alexander. He put his hands together, closed his eyes, and made a wish. "Together, everyone. Three, two, one... Blow."

Everyone blew out the candles, and the guests clapped.

At the same time, the lights came back on again. Alexander picked up the knife and cut out a slice before handing it to Elise. "Have a taste."

She took it from him and thanked him before popping a small chunk into her mouth. The cream melted in her mouth at once.

"How is it?" Alexander asked.

Elise nodded. "Not bad."

Alexander cut a slice of cake and popped a small chunk into his mouth as well. Immediately, his taste buds were assailed by the sweet scent of the cake, and a handsome smile appeared on his face.

Jonah was delighted to see the both of them standing together.

"Sir, I think Mr. Jonah likes Miss Elise."

Jonah answered cryptically, "Perhaps, but honestly, they do make a good couple. I just hope he'll realize that soon. You did a great job, but something is still missing."

"Sir, you're saying we should—"

Jonah stopped him. "Let's stop while we're ahead. This is a big project, and I want to take it slow. I just hope they'll start going out eventually."

"Don't worry, sir. They'll get it eventually," the butler said. A smile broke out on Jonah's lips, and he went back upstairs. Apparently, he was in a good mood.

The banquet went on until eleven at night. Once the guests made their departure, the villa fell into its usual silence.

Elise's stomach was acting up after she had too much to eat. Even after she had washed it down with water, she still felt bloated, so she went out to have a walk. The night was beautiful, with the moon covering everything in a silvery sheen, and the stars twinkled down upon the earth. Elise sat on the yard's swing alone, enjoying the scenery. But then a while later, she heard the sound of the piano in the distance.

"Who's playing at this hour?" She was surprised, but she listened to it silently. The music was delightful and sad at the same time, as if these two opposites were getting merged together. Curious, she went in the direction of the sound.

It wasn't until she got to the top floor did she realize where the sound was coming from. *The piano room*. She went over and noticed that the door was ajar. Once she stepped in, what she saw was a man sitting before the piano with his back turned to her. His fingers flew across the piano keys, playing the same tune Elise heard earlier. "Not bad," she praised genuinely.

The moment she talked, Alexander stopped and turned around. "It's late. Why are you still here?"

Elise snickered and went closer to him. "Because I heard the music. It's great."

"It's just something I played on a whim. Not anything great," he answered.

Elise didn't think so. "You must have trained for years. That's gotta be around grade

eight."

He arched his eyebrow. "You play too?"

Elise rubbed her nose, slightly nervous. "Not a lot though."

But that intrigued Alexander. "Wanna play a song together?"

Elise didn't refuse his invitation. "Sure," she answered.

Alexander was surprised she agreed so readily, but he freed up half of the bench for her, and she went to sit by his side. Elise put her hands on the keys, and they started playing a tune together. They worked harmoniously and grasped every beat to perfection. Alexander was surprised that Elise was so talented at piano as well. Elise thought the same about him too. *Oh, I found a kindred soul.*

They hastened their tempo a moment later, then they slowed down. The tune was never out of sync for even a single beat. Once they were done playing, Alexander smiled. "Looks like I've underestimated you, Elise. You're a good pianist." He was genuine about that praise.

Elise praised him as well. "You're better than I am. You moved really fluidly. You play this song a lot, don't you?"

It was the truth, but Alexander didn't feel awkward about it. "Not bad. You saw through me."

Elise pulled her hands back from the keys and got up. "Thanks. It's late, so I'll retire for the night."

However, Alexander stopped her. "You know, I like playing the piano with you. Can we have another session together if it's fine with you?"

Elise smiled. "Sure."

Then, she left the room while Alexander saw her off. Once she turned the corner, he looked back at the piano keys and closed his eyes as he recalled how they played the piano together earlier. It was the first time anyone could match his speed and sync up with him so perfectly.

A moment later, he opened his eyes, and for some reason, he got curious about Elise. *How many more secrets does she have?*

