

Mighty Mom 176

Chapter 176 Toying With the Safe

The man's joyful voice boomed through the phone once more. "Don't worry about the safe and sleep well. It won't be gone. Even if it is, I'll send you a new one!" "Go back to bed!" After that, Camila hung up angrily. Soon, she saw the few workers pushing the safe on a cart into the studio. They were shouting out directions at each other while finding the right place to put down the safe. "Where should we place this item?"

How am I supposed to know? Taking a deep breath, she stepped into the studio and made space in her office for the safe. Just now, when she saw the glaring money tree, she was at a loss, finding it both frustrating and funny. The instant Kate arrived, she saw the delivery men yelling and moving the gargantuan item into the studio, which was really funny in her eyes. "Is that what your senior got you?"

Camila nodded. "Yeah. He had a patient who was working in the diamond business, so he got the money tree ordered and delivered. The price tag of this tree is probably equivalent to the annual pay of the craftsman." Kate smiled. "Wow, you're his true love then!" She received a stare from Camila. "Stop that nonsense. He's my senior." Moving on, Kate rubbed her chin and started thinking. "Tsk, tsk, why don't you leave someone here at night to guard the safe? I plan to come over at night to break the glass and steal a few diamonds." Smiling, Camila egged her on, "Yeah, you should try it." "What?" "I thought you wanted to break the glass?" "What? Do you think I can't?" As she spoke, she knocked on the safe, and the next second, an alarm immediately blared and attracted the attention of those outside the studio, who walked over to check out the situation. Camila was shocked too because she only wanted Kate to give it a try without expecting the loud alarm noise. She hurriedly looked around for the remote control and finally managed to turn the alarm off after entering the password. Everyone surrounded the two and discussed the security alarm with great interest. As for Kate, she was patting her chest in shock. "My god, that was terrifying. It looks like it's not easy to steal that tree."

Landon happened to walk up and overheard her remark. He could not help but make fun of her. "Are you stupid? There's a reason they placed the money tree at the most conspicuous place. How would they let you steal it that easily?" Kate looked up at Landon and wanted to tell him that it was none of his business. However, she saw Melanie locking arms with Landon. When her eyes met Melanie's, she decided not to retort and instead chose to ignore him. It was Landon who was unused to Kate's behavior as he joked, "Looks like you're more behaved today. You indeed have a guilty conscience."

Furious, Kate could not stop herself from barking back at him, "Get lost, Landon Hunter! I'm only overlooking your comments out of respect for your girlfriend. Don't cross the line!" "Tsk, tsk!" He clicked his tongue disapprovingly and turned around to take a look at Melanie. Then, he pinched Melanie's chin and remarked, "You command people's respect."

Melanie shunned his advance in embarrassment, "Quit fooling around. There are people around us." Kate stared blankly at the lovey-dovey couple and frantically shifted her gaze away to the money tree, acting as if she was casually admiring it. Noticing Kate's discomfort, Camila stood out and announced, "It's about time. Let's go out now." A few people responded to her. They left the studio and prepared for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. At 9.58 a.m., the ceremony officially started. Since there was a firecracker ban in Summer City, some merry music was played in the background as a replacement. In the middle of the music, Camila took the microphone and gave a short speech. "I would like to express

my thanks to everyone who has taken time off to attend this ceremony at my studio. Here, I'd like to welcome everyone warmly and sincerely thank my team. Camila Brooklyn's studio has just opened, but we have an established design team, ensuring that each of our outfits is unique so that every woman who wears our products could shine in their unique and irreplaceable charms. Do look forward to more products and support us in the future. Today, we will provide a 12% discount as a welcome gift to all guests. You can pre-order any item you like and even discuss your ideas with us. We guarantee you a satisfactory shopping experience. Thank you!"

Chapter 177 The Business Rival Across the Street

After the speech, Camila bowed deeply at the audience beneath the stage, hence winning a round of applause. Next, some hostesses led the VIP guests to their respective spots on the stage with Camila at the center. Silas and Brian stood beside her to the left and right. Beside them stood Marcus and Landon. With trays in their hands, the hostesses handed over golden scissors to everyone on stage, and the ribbon-cutting began. The bow on the ribbon fell onto the tray from the ribbon-cutting, at which the audience applauded, marking the end of the brief ceremony.

Afterward, Kate and Landon helped to clean up, and the studio staff busied themselves with greeting the customers. Be it attending out of courtesy or love of fashion, the guests and customers packed the studio. They chatted or tried on clothes. In general, the atmosphere was good, and business was booming. The hotel was not very far away. Therefore, Camila decided to head over at 11 in the morning. With only half an hour left before her departure, she decided to sell as many items as possible. Out of her expectations, she heard someone shouting her name. "Miss Camila!" Sophia jogged over to her. "We ran out of clothes!" Camila frowned in confusion. "What do you mean?" Helpless but proud, Sophia announced, "The 68 pieces we prepared for the opening day were sold out."

Shocked by the good news, Camila gulped and checked with her staff again, "Not one left?" Sophia nodded hard. "Yeah. Just now, the stars themselves ordered around 19 pieces. Some other customers who showed up as fans were waiting for this exact moment. When you announced the 12% discount, they ordered more for their friends. Anyway, we're out of products now." Camila found it hard to believe. Was this someone else's doing under the table? "How about this? If the customers are still interested, we'll leave them our contact. Or you could jot down their preferred item style and have them wait for a few days while we restock. The 12% discount still applies." Smiling, Sophia replied, "Alright. I'll head in now." Camila beamed at her staff. She had anticipated that her products would sell out, but she did not expect it to be snatched up in a matter of moments. It felt good to be validated. On the other side, Lyla was still fixated on the merriment across the street. She observed the money tree being delivered and Camila coolly giving a short speech for the ceremony. She was basically putting herself under torture. Even though she knew she would feel awful for watching the ceremony, she still decided to stare on. Time passed when she was staring. At the end of the day, she noticed that Camila's studio was empty and the doors shut, looking deserted as if it was not open for business yet. If not for the flower baskets at the entrance, Lyla would have thought so too.

Why was no one in the studio?

Lyla kept staring at her rival across the street until afternoon, but no one returned. She looked at Sarah. "What does that mean? Are they closed for the day, not taking any business?"

Sarah furrowed her brows in suspicion. "No way. The first day usually sees more customers. How could they not sell anything on the first day?" After that, she glanced at Lyla and suggested, "Miss Lyla, maybe they are sold out." "Sold out? That's impossible! Their studio sells high fashion. One item is at least worth a hundred thousand or even millions. How do they sell out?" Sarah could not find a plausible

answer. "Should I go over and peek? I should be able to see something through their windows." At first, Lyla was reluctant to send Sarah over out of her pride. If she kept her eyes on her rival without a good reason, it might show that she was unconfident. On the other hand, she was dying to know what happened to the studio. After some hesitation, she nodded. "Just be careful. You need to pretend that you're strolling around." Sarah agreed and went out. Lyla remained in her studio and perched in front of the windows to observe Camila's studio. She saw Sarah running across the street after looking around, leaning into the windows to peek into that studio and running back hastily after the inspection. Soon, she heard the door creaking open and Sarah's panting. "Miss Lyla, t-their studio..."

Chapter 178 Celebratory Drinks

Before Sarah could finish her words, Lyla was already annoyed at her actions. "Why did you run? Didn't I ask you to stroll over and take a casual look? You looked like you were going to steal something. What if they returned and bumped into you?" Sarah waved her hands. "They won't be back." Confused, Lyla blurted out, "What?" Her hands clasped on her knees, Sarah panted for some time before she resumed talking. "They are sold out. Not one item was left."

The news shocked Lyla, and her eyes widened. "What did you say? They are really sold out?" Nodding, she was shocked by the sight as well. Even though it was her guess to begin with, she never took it seriously because the possibility of selling out on the first day was close to nil. She recalled the opening day of Lyla's studio when they had sold about five items. Back then, Lyla even thought that it was a decent result. How could Camila's studio sell out within half an hour? Lyla stumbled onto the sofa. Although the billboard ads across the city were indeed good marketing for Camila, the speed at which the items sold out was mind-boggling. "How many items did they prepare?" She asked numbly. Sarah answered, "They had at least twenty items on their mannequins, but the total amount of products is definitely more than whatever is on the mannequins. Anyway, there's nothing left on the mannequins." Lyla's soulless eyes wandered over to the studio across the street. She recalled that she had prepared about forty pieces of work for her studio opening. Judging by Camila's grand opening, Camila must have had more than twenty pieces in stock. Camila showed no mercy.

At the hotel, the banquet was nearing an end. As the host, Camila had to go around and toast the guests. Although she was a good drinker, two hours of toasting the individuals made her tipsy. Her footsteps were unsteady, whereupon she lost her coordination and almost toppled over. Thankfully, someone grabbed her at that moment. In a moment of panic, she turned around to look at her lifesaver before breaking into a smile. "Silas?" Silas was frustrated. "I know you're a heavyweight, but you can't go on like this. It's fine to down a glass at each table, but you can't toast every single guest!" Her cheeks flushed and her gaze hazy; she squinted her eyes into a crescent shape with a smile. "I'm happy!" He took her arm and pampered her, saying, "I know you're happy today. Leave the rest to me. Please take a seat." She fired back, "No. I can't be unfair. There's only one table left. I can do it!" "What if I toast them on behalf of you? Is that fine?" Silas wanted to reach a compromise. Camila blinked her eyes at him in the middle of a daze and shook her head. "No." Silas frowned. "Why not? I'm one of the stakeholders." Why did she have to keep him at arm's length? Camila knitted her brows in response and sternly reasoned, "You will have to drive later."

Upon hearing that, Silas was defeated. "That's not a problem. I'll have Xavier pick us up later." She nodded in approval. "Well, that works." He found it frustrating and funny that she was reluctant to take his advice. Leading her to the final table, he noticed that the guests were all close acquaintances. Due to their close relationships, everyone could tell that Silas was ready to toast on behalf of Camila. Therefore, those who did not plan to drink insisted on toasting Camila for fun. The first one to joke

around was Marcus. Stealing a look at Silas, he raised his glass at Camila with a smile. "Camila, you're the boss because it's your opening day. I'll toast you. I'm not going to repeat the cliché well wishes because I know that your business will do well. I shall wish you good companionship and happiness." She beamed at him. "Thanks, Marcus." The next second, she lifted her glass in an attempt to down the alcohol. Seeing that, Silas grabbed her glass and explained, "Camila had too much to drink. I'll take this for her." Marcus smiled slyly. "Hey, that's against the rules! I know that you hold stakes in the studio business, but you're different from Camila. You can drink on her behalf, but you'll have to do double!"

Chapter 179 Your Cousin

Once Marcus noticed that Silas was smitten with Camila, he instantly saw Silas in a more affable light instead of fearing him. After all, Marcus was a cousin of Camila! Of course, Silas was aware of the dynamics of the relationship and behaved well in front of Marcus. After all, he was pursuing Marcus' cousin. Therefore, he obediently agreed, "Okay!" Then, he instantly downed the alcohol in Camila's glass and poured himself another, smiling and declaring, "Marcus, my fellow cousin, thank you for showing up." Next, he raised his glass at Marcus courteously. Following that, Marcus stood up with a smile. "You're too gracious. I wish nothing but the best for the studio business."

Everyone at the table cheered them on with gossiping expressions. Kate was especially agitated at the scene, to which Landon gave a side-eye. "You idiot. They're only toasting, but why are you getting all excited?" She glared at him. "I just love it. It's none of your business." Melanie's eyes quietly moved between Landon and Kate as her lips curled up in mockery. Then, she gently took a sip of the drink in front of her. However, Brian's expression fell, and he wondered if Silas and Camila were together. Isn't he afraid of burdening her? Staring at Silas, Brian's gaze sharpened. "You're addressing Marcus as a cousin of yours, huh? Do you have another identity aside from a stakeholder of the studio?" Camila tried hard to think with her numb brain as she looked at Silas in confusion. Yeah! Why did he claim that Marcus is one of his cousins? Silas stared Brian down as he calmly explained, "I'm a friend of Camila's, and Marcus is her cousin, so I see him as a cousin of mine too. Is it wrong for me to address Marcus the way Camila addresses him?" Brian scoffed, "Did Marcus allow you to do so? For those in the dark, they might think that you have a special relationship with Camila!" Sensing that the joke was getting out of hand by the two men, Marcus hurriedly stood up to mediate, "It's alright. He can see me as a cousin. I'm older than most of you here. If you don't mind, you can see me as your elder cousin too. I'd be more than happy to see that." Silas shot a dark look at Brian for some time before slowly commenting, "Marcus himself has no issue with it. You should quit fussing about it!" Brian returned a sharp look at him without any intention to back down. "Marcus didn't put it out, but you have to be sensible. Do you know how much trouble you'll bring to them after you refer to Marcus as your cousin?"

Silas knew what Brian was worried about. He was aware that he lived in a perilous world, but he selfishly wanted Camila for himself. He couldn't stand the sight of Camila with any other man, even if she were only hanging out with her brother. "I wonder what right do you have to question me."

The temper of the two men was flaring up, and dangerous looks lurked in their eyes. It was so tense that they might break into a bloody fight the next moment. Everyone at the table held their breath and stared at the two men.

Even though Camila's response was slowing down, she could tell that the atmosphere had worsened. With a smile, she held Silas back. "Come on, guys. It's just a way of addressing Marcus. It's nothing much. I even call Silas's grandfather my grandpa. You guys, don't make an issue out of nothing. If I get vindictive, both of you will be in trouble." As she was speaking, she filled Silas's glass with alcohol, followed by Brian's glass. "Drink up! Thanks for showing up to support me and provide me the hotel

event venue. Later, please remember to give me a discount. My business just started, and I haven't broken even!"

Taking a deep breath, Brian looked away from Silas and smiled. "You haven't broken even? I thought your clothes were sold out today? Big Boss Brooklyn, are you pretending to be poor?"

She replied with a somber expression, "Yeah, I'm penniless. I haven't received my rent payment yet."

Brian played along with her, "How grateful! I should have become your studio's stakeholder too." She smiled back at him. "I feel regretful too for not opening a florist shop."

Chapter 180 Provocation

The familiar joke managed to amuse the guests and made everyone laugh, thereby lightening up the atmosphere. "Come on, everyone! Let's have a toast!" Camila raised her glass, but Silas snatched her glass again and stared at Brian to imply something. "There is no use regretting things that were meant to happen. Anyway, Camila has drunk more than enough, so I'll drink on her behalf."

Nonetheless, Brian only stayed still and glared at Silas who wasn't bothered at all as he continued what he had been doing. No one else dared to mess with Silas anymore as they finished the ceremony without a hitch. Soon, Silas approached a waiter and ordered some tea for Oliver. "Here. You should feel better after drinking this."

Meanwhile, Camila took a peek at those sitting around the table, feeling a little embarrassed as she didn't know how to turn them down. Therefore, she decided to drink the tea without much hesitation. On the other hand, Kate noticed Melanie leaning forward to Landon, seemingly whispering something to him. In the next moment, she was seen leaning even closer to the man with a bashful look on her face, thus Kate couldn't help but think they were flirting with each other.

Instantly, Kate was overwhelmed by depression, so she decided to walk away to the restroom to have some solitude. However, it wasn't long until Melanie came in as well. Deep down, Kate didn't really like this lady, not only because she was Landon's

girlfriend, but also she knew they wouldn't get along with each other well. After all, it was easy for two women with clashing natures to fly into a rage as soon as either of them said the wrong word.

Nonetheless, Melanie was deemed to be a honey-tongued lady who was good at winning a man's heart by flirting. On the other hand, Kate was the total opposite as she was impulsive and ill-tempered. She would even get physical at times when she found herself at odds with someone. Therefore, it was understandable why Melanie's meek nature would be the preferred type by men to her headstrong character. "Are you alright, Katie?" Melanie caringly asked when she saw Kate standing near the basin top. "I'm fine." Kate shook her head. "You don't look so good. I guess you must've probably drunk a little more than you can handle," Melanie worriedly replied with a pair of furrowed brows. "It's no big deal. My cheeks flush every time I drink," said Kate who was deliberately touching her face.

In a caring manner, Melanie gave her a piece of advice, "You need to stop drinking then. Men aren't going to like how you look right now." Her words made Kate knit her eyebrows. "What does that have to do with drinking? Look at Camila. Men like her even though she drinks. As the saying goes, beauty is in the eye of the beholder, so everyone is entitled to his own feelings and opinions."

Frustrated, Kate turned around and headed toward the exit, but soon heard Melanie sniggering. "I don't know how the others feel, but I do know how Landon feels." Kate didn't want to listen to her nonsense, but it seemed that she wasn't in control of her own legs as she stopped in her tracks and looked back in curiosity.

At this time, Melanie was seen fixing her makeup with lipstick in front of the mirror for a while. After

that, she placed her lipstick back into her purse and turned around slowly, winking at her in mischief. "I'm his cup of tea, the type that he likes. We usually do it three to four times every night until I beg him to stop. His performance in bed is the best I've ever seen." Melanie added with a smile, "Landon told me he is not interested in any other woman because only I can turn him on. So, don't you think he is crazy over me?"

Melanie's words made Kate's blood boil with anger as she was now certain that this was an attempt to provoke her. With a glacial expression, she said, "I don't know whether he likes you, but I do know that you're disgusting and shameless."