

Reborn Through Fire By Kazuya Higan

Chapter 501 – 510

Chapter 501 | Alone Have Two Roles

‘Did something bad happen? After all, Jensen has always kept his poise and he’s never revealed such an anxious expression,’ thought Kisa.

Jensen spoke before Kisa had a chance to inquire, “Sorry, I don’t think I can accompany you to see Mr. Tanner.”

Kisa was startled.

“What happened?”

“Mia got into a car accident.”

Kisa froze before asking hurriedly, “How’d that happen? Is it serious? Is she hurt?”

Jensen shook his head, “The hospital called me. I don’t know the specifics yet, so I’ll need to head over to the hospital.”

“Alright, you go ahead then. Please keep me in the loop about Ms. Fallon’s condition.”

Jensen nodded and said, “Mr. Tanner is really nice; you can ask him anything. You don’t have to be scared.”

“Mhm, hurry to the hospital now.”

Kisa felt anxious as she watched Jensen leave.

‘How did Mia get into a car accident out of nowhere? I hope she’s alright,’ thought Kisa.

Kisa and Mr. Tanner agreed to meet at a bistro.

It was only half past two when Kisa arrived at the place. She was not sure if Mr. Tanner was already there.

She went to the venue they had booked— a private room on the second floor.

As expected, Mr. Tanner had yet to arrive. There was not a single person in the room.

Even though Jensen had given Kisa Mr. Tanner's contact information, it felt inappropriate for her to ask Mr. Tanner where he was at the moment.

She paced around the entrance of the private room. Moments later, she went in and sat down to wait.

The private room was huge. It did not look like Kisa and Jensen were Mr. Tanner's only guests.

Kisa frowned and thought, 'It'll be hard to ask Mr. Tanner about such personal affairs if there are too many people later.'

Suddenly, she heard footsteps behind the door.

Kisa panicked and hurriedly stood up.

She initially intended to politely greet the person who was coming in. However, the moment she saw the people who entered the room, she felt her words get stuck in her throat. No matter how hard she tried, she could not manage to speak.

Kisa was frozen to her spot. She stared dumbfoundedly at the three persons who had

entered.

The three were no other than Gilbert, Davian, and Sharon.

Gilbert glanced at Kisa's face briefly. His gaze was cold as if he did not know Kisa.

Meanwhile, Davian was so surprised to see her that he went, "Eh?".

Sharon also had a look of shock. However, her shocked expression brimmed with contempt and disdain.

“Oh? Kisa, what’re you doing here?”

Kisa suppressed the mixture of emotions she was feeling and slowly sat down. She did not answer Sharon.

Sharon twitched her lips and sneered condescendingly, “Did you come to the wrong place, Kisa? We’re here to discuss a contract. It’s inappropriate for someone unrelated like you to

be here.”

Kisa leaned into the chair before turning to Sharon with a smile, “How’d you know if I’m not here to discuss the contract?”

‘Since Mr. Tanner had invited Gilbert and Sharon, our meal today must mean business. And since Mr. Tanner had invited Gilbert and me, this means that said business has something to do with the both of us,’ thought Kisa.

Davian glanced back and forth between the two. Then he turned to Kisa curiously, “Madam

eh? No—Ms... Ms. Becker, were you also invited by Mr. Tanner?”

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Kisa nodded coolly.

“Then why’d you show up alone? Did something come up for Jensen, so he had to leave ahead of time?” Davian asked again.

Kisa looked at him sternly, “I’m the CEO of J & K Film Group and also an actor under the company; I alone have two roles. Is there a problem with me coming here alone?”

Chapter 502 No Longer Finds You Interesting

Davian scratched his head awkwardly.

‘Since when did the Madam become this sharp-tongued? If I’d known earlier, I would’ve kept my mouth shut,’ he thought.

Meanwhile, Sharon took this as an opportunity to mock Kisa.

She sneered, “Aren’t you and Jensen joined at the hip? Why didn’t he attend such an important luncheon with you? Was he fine with you coming alone?”

Kisa could not help but think of Mia when she heard Sharon’s words.

‘Jensen hasn’t called me yet. I wonder how Mia is,’ thought Kisa.

Seeing how Kisa had a look of worry and tightly scrunched brows, Sharon felt smug.

She continued sneering at Kisa, “Do you see how much of a wreck you look like right now? Don’t tell me Jensen’s with another woman right now. Tsk. It’s so pitiful that he dumped you here all by yourself. And I actually thought Jensen was so in love with you; it turns out that wasn’t the case after all.”

Kisa lowered her gaze and let Sharon continue mocking her.

However, Kisa’s silence only led to Sharon mocking her even harder.

“Let’s see, you and Jensen have been together for a couple of months now. Tsk. He must be tired of you and no longer finds you interesting. I pity you; Jensen no longer has your back. I’ll wait and see how much longer you can remain popular and how far J & K Film Group can go.”

“That’s enough!”

Just as Sharon finished speaking, Gilbert—who had been silent all the while—promptly said in a cold tone.

Sharon was not happy. She tugged Gilbert’s arm, “Gilbert, why are you still defending this woman at this point? Don’t forget that you almost died because of her twice. What’s more, the injury on your chest hasn’t even fully recovered. Did you forget all about the pain?”

Gilbert retracted his arm coolly.

He stared at Sharon with a straight face. Then, he said in a calm voice that was excruciatingly suffocating.

“You’ve been blabbering a lot lately. You better keep your mouth shut when Mr. Tanner gets here later. If Mr. Tanner hadn’t requested you, I would never have used you again this time.”

Kisa was startled.

‘Mr. Tanner had requested Sharon? Sharon’s reputation has been bad lately. Even the drama she’s starring in -Goddess of My Adoration— has gained a bad reputation. Why would Mr. Tanner ask for Sharon when she’s someone who has a bad reputation from head to toe? However, the situation can be viewed from a different perspective. Sharon is still popular even though she has a bad reputation right now; there are many stories about her on entertainment news portals. As the saying goes, any publicity is good publicity,’ thought Kisa.

After Gilbert had warned Sharon, she stopped blabbering.

Davian snorted beside her, “You ruined yourself with your mouth. This time around, Mr. Tanner is trying to make you famous, so you better seize this opportunity.”

Sharon gritted her teeth and glared at him. However, she did not dare to retort.

At three o’clock sharp, sounds of footsteps came behind the door.

Judging from the noisy footsteps outside, Kisa had a feeling that there were several people outside.

Right after she had the thought, four middle-aged men walked in. It was just as she thought.

The four men were around the same age. They donned suits and ties and looked like good people.

One of the men had an aura that stood out from the rest.

However, it was not because he was particularly good-looking but his exceptionally piercing gaze. He was like a goshawk soaring in the sky, constantly hunting for its prey.

Gilbert slowly stood up.

Seeing this, Kisa hurriedly followed suit.

Chapter 503 A Woman I Almost Forgot About

“Haha! Sorry for making you all wait.”

The man with an outstanding aura said to Kisa and Gilbert with a smile.

Gilbert responded coolly, “No worries. We just arrived too.”

“That’s good, that’s good. Have a seat.

The man said to Gilbert and Kisa.

Kisa observed the four men in silence. She could not figure out which one of them was Mr. Tanner.

‘I didn’t expect Mr. Tanner to invite that many people. Otherwise, I would’ve looked at his photos before the luncheon. Then, I wouldn’t feel as lost right now,’ thought Kisa.

After everyone sat down, the man introduced the three men beside him to Kisa and Gilbert with a smile.

“Mr. Kooper, Ms. Becker, these are my business partners: Mr. Park, Mr. Webb, and Mr. Gates. They’ll also be investing in the drama we plan to shoot.”

After hearing the man's introduction, Kisa was certain that he was Adrien Tanner, also known as Mr. Tanner.

However, Jensen had always been the one to discuss their business affairs with Adrien.

That was why Kisa felt really lost when Adrien started talking about the upcoming drama they planned to film. She had no clue what was happening.

Kisa could only remain silent for fear of saying the wrong thing.

Soon after everyone arrived, the waiters brought their food to the table.

Gilbert raised his wine glass and smiled at Adrien, "Mr. Tanner, to our first meeting. Cheers!

Adrien looked like he was in his fifties, so he was more senior than Gilbert in terms of age.

'It's no wonder Gilbert is being so polite and respectful toward Adrien. However, it's shocking to know that it's also Gilbert's first-time meeting Adrien,' thought Kisa.

Adrien smiled and raised his glass, "I've heard a lot about the CEO, Mr. Kooper. After seeing you in person today, I have to say, you're definitely a rare young talent."

"You flatter me, Mr. Tanner," Gilbert smiled politely.

Just as Gilbert was about to drink from his wine glass, Davian stopped him in panic.

Davian said to Adrien apologetically, "My apologies. Mr. Kooper got injured a couple of days ago and has yet to recover. As his assistant, I'll do wn this glass in his stead."

Adrien smiled, "Sure. His health is more important."

“Oh?” Mr. Gates suddenly gasped. He asked in astonishment, “Mr. Kooper, you’re a man with great power—you’re a magnate. Who could hurt you?”

“It’s no other than that ungrateful woman,” Sharon responded without missing a beat.

Gilbert threw her an icy glance.

Sharon tensed up in fear and did not dare to utter another word.

Regardless, what is done is done; Sharon’s statement had piqued the men’s interests, particularly Mr. Gates.

Mr. Gates asked curiously, “Mr. Kooper, you could get any woman with your qualities. What kind of woman would act this ungrateful and hurt you?”

Mr. Park and Mr. Webb nodded curiously.

“Yeah. We’d really like to meet that woman.”

Adrien swirled his wine glass and smiled lightly. His dark gaze was seemingly gazing at Kisa.

Meanwhile, Kisa lowered her gaze and remained silent to minimize her presence as much as possible.

Gilbert did not get angry with the few men pressing for answers.

He kept a nonchalant expression.

He smiled lightly at the men, “She’s a woman I almost forgot about, so she’s not worth mentioning.”

“Almost forgot about?”

“Uh…”

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Seeing how the few men were about to ask more questions, Davian tried to change the subject. He quickly

raised his glass and smiled at them, "I'd like to raise a toast to Mr. Park, Mr. Webb, and Mr. Gates."

Chapter 504 I Won't Remarry For The Rest Of My Life

It was obvious Davian was trying to change the topic, so the three men did not continue to press on further.

Meanwhile, Kisa kept her gaze down and was in deep thought.

She kept a calm and unchanging expression as if the woman Gilbert said he almost forgot about was not her.

Then, Mr. Webb noticed her.

"You're... Ms. Becker from J & K Film Group, right?" he said as he raised his glass at her.

Kisa hurriedly lifted her glass to meet his, "Hello, I'm Kisa Becker."

"I've heard of you, Ms. Becker. You've achieved so much at such a young age; you're living proof that women are as good as men."

"You're too kind, Mr. Webb."

Seeing how Mr. Webb had downed his entire glass, Kisa had no choice but to also down her glass, which was seven-tenth full, out of courtesy.

The waiter filled her glass up again in no time.

Suddenly, Mr. Gates furrowed his brows and asked, "Oh? I remember you being Mr. Kooper's ex-wife."

Kisa smiled coolly and nodded, "That's right."

The title "Mr. Kooper's ex-wife" had seemed to become another title of hers.

However, the word "ex-wife" promptly reminded Kisa that she and Gilbert had not finished going through the procedure for divorce.

That means she and Gilbert were not officially divorced at all.

‘Nowadays, this man is acting like he wants nothing to do with me, so I don’t know what he thinks of our divorce. As long as he doesn’t bring it up, I won’t be bothered to do so either. I won’t remarry for the rest of my life; that’s why the divorce or not doesn’t matter to me,’ thought Kisa.

Suddenly, Mr. Gates asked, “Then, do you know who the ungrateful woman who injured Mr. Kooper is?”

Kisa pursed her lips and smiled nonchalantly, “I don’t.”

Sharon, who was sitting beside her, had a scornful look. She was so furious that she was about to speak. However, Davian threw her a glare.

Mr. Gates was disappointed, “So you don’t know either.”

Kisa smiled politely and did not speak.

Just then, Mr. Park raised his glass at her, “Ms. Becker, I’d also like to make a toast to hope we’ll have a pleasant cooperation.”

you: I

Kisa had no idea how Jensen usually spoke to them, so she smiled and nodded, “Me too.”

Then, she downed the entire glass once more.

After having three rounds, they started talking business.

Adrien smiled at Kisa, “I’ve seen The Legend of Luna. You give off a one-of-a-kind aura; it’s down-to-earth and resilient, so I think you’re a good fit for the upcoming drama’s female lead.”

“Thank you, Mr. Tanner.”

“I’ve talked to your manager, Jensen, about this drama before. He’s seen the and

thinks it's good, so he agreed to let you play the female lead in this drama. Has he mentioned it to you before?"

Kisa nodded, "He's briefly mentioned it to me. He was supposed to accompany me today to discuss what would happen next. However, something came up for him so he couldn't make it."

"It's alright; we can continue from where we left off."

After Sharon heard about Kisa acting as the drama's female lead, she could no longer sit still.

She smiled at Adrien in an attempt to butter him up, "Mr. Tanner, if she's going to be the female lead of the drama, then how about me? Didn't you explicitly ask for me?"

Adrien glanced at her and smiled warmly, "You're a good fit for the gorgeous second female lead."

"What? You're asking me to be the second female lead, a background role to complement her?"

Sharon instantly pointed at Kisa and yelled defiantly.

Chapter 505 Merely His Playmate, Not His Lover

Adrien did not get angry at Sharon's reaction. He merely smiled coolly, "The topic about you and Ms. Becker has been all the rage. If the two of you could work on this drama together, it'll be widely discussed, and its popularity will be off the charts."

"But why's she the female lead while I'm the second female lead? I'm an international superstar, so I'm at a level much higher than her. What were you all thinking when you made such arrangements?"

Sharon had probably never played as a second female lead before.

'The second female lead is something people like Ariella long for, but Sharon is acting as if it's a form of humiliation,' thought Kisa.

Mr. Park and Mr. Webb looked a little unhappy.

However, Adrien kept his calm and gentle smile. He stared at Sharon, "It's because you're fit to be the second female lead."

"I won't do it if I'm the second female lead. I won't do it at all."

Sharon said arrogantly. Then, she turned to Gilbert with a wronged expression.

Meanwhile, Gilbert leaned on the chair and smiled slightly. He did not speak.

After seeing Sharon's attitude, Mr. Webb instantly snorted contemptuously, "Mr. Tanner was the one who wanted to give you this opportunity. Did you really think that we wanted to cast you? If you don't want it, so be it. Nobody cares."

"That's right. Do you see how awful your reputation is? Yet you're acting so proud!"

"You!" Sharon snarled.

She shook Gilbert's arm, "Gilbert, they're asking me to play as the second female lead. But I'm an international superstar! The viewers would laugh at me if I became Kisa's supporting actor. Besides, this would also affect GK Pictures's reputation. Gilbert? Say something."

Finally, Gilbert slowly sat up straight,

He turned to Sharon, "You must still be in denial. Right now, you have a terrible reputation and are not popular. Do you really think you're still the international superstar you used to be?"

Sharon paled, "Gilbert, you... What do you mean?"

"If Mr. Tanner hadn't asked for you specifically, I wouldn't have brought you here in the first place."

Gilbert's words were like a big slap in Sharon's face; he did not sugar-coat his words for her.

Meanwhile, Mr. Park and the rest smiled at her disdainfully.

Gilbert responded coolly, "Since Mr. Tanner has given you this opportunity, it shows that he sees potential in you. If you think you're too good for it, I can get someone else to be the drama's second female lead instead. As for you, it's not possible for you to be popular again in your current lifetime. GK Pictures won't be wasting any more resources on you."

"Hahaha... I heard that Ms. Case and Mr. Kooper were childhood playmates. It seems like you're not one who's foolish enough to get hung up on nostalgia."

"Stop talking nonsense. If Mr. Kooper was always hung up on nostalgia, would GK Pictures be this great and successful?"

"You're right, you're right. Moreover, Ms. Becker here is also merely his playmate, not his lover,"

Mr. Park and everyone else joked with a smile.

Sharon's face turned red with rage.

She had never imagined Gilbert would embarrass her in front of everyone here.

She could genuinely feel that Gilbert had completely changed after he had gotten injured this time.

He was now even more cruel and heartless.

"Ms. Case, even Mr. Kooper has spoken. So what do you think? Will you accept the role of the second female lead or not?"

Mr. Gates peered at Sharon with a calm and collected expression.

Sharon tightened her fists by her sides as her face reddened to a crimson shade.

Mr. Webb let out a silent laugh, “Ms. Case must’ve gotten used to being an international superstar, so the second female lead role is not good enough for her. Mr. Tanner, why don’t we get someone else to be the second female lead?”

Adrien took a sip of wine and turned to Sharon sharply,

“Think it through; you only have one chance!”

Sharon gritted her teeth. She felt defiant, yet she did not dare to flat-out reject the offer.

Meanwhile, Kisa remained silent as she watched drama happen in front of her.

Since she had not eaten much today, the few glasses of wine that she took were making her stomach hurt.

She quietly ate some of the food while everyone was focused on Sharon.

‘After I have some food, I won’t feel that awful when I drink later,’ thought Kisa.

When Mr. Webb noticed Kisa eating, he hurriedly smiled and asked, “Are you hungry, Ms.

Becker?”

Chapter 506 Treating Her as a Complete Stranger

The moment Mr. Webb asked Kisa that question, everyone looked at her.

Of course, except for Gilbert.

‘Since that day, Gilbert has been treating me as a complete stranger,’ Kisa sneered

inwardly. ‘Even so, the enmity between the two of us will be settled one by one when the time comes.’

Kisa slowly put down her cutlery and smiled at Mr. Webb. "My apologies. I was too busy in the afternoon and had no chance to eat. Sorry about that."

"Ah, you young people always forget to take care of yourself. You'll come to regret it when you get older. Do eat on time and sleep early."

Kisa nodded. "Thank you for your concern, Mr. Webb."

These few middle-aged men were very different from other wealthy businessmen around the m.

They were not only decent people. Even the way they spoke sounded like a genial elder, making one feel warm and relaxed when hearing them talk.

Sharon was already aggrieved, and when she saw those people being concerned about Kisa, a surge of jealousy roused within her.

She then mockingly said, "You didn't because you were busy. It's because your appetite has been ruined ever since Gilbert ignored you."

Kisa really could not understand what Sharon was thinking. 'She really would use anything and everything to mock me. Why won't she think that mocking me at this place will only bring shame to her.'

Kisa looked down before smiling as she asked, "I'm curious. Why don't you take up the role of a writer instead of an actress with that rich imagination of yours."

"You!"

"You still haven't answered Mr. Tanner's question. Are you going to accept the role of the second female lead or not?" Kisa purposely smiled at her to piss her off.

Sure enough, the moment "the second female lead" was mentioned, Sharon's face darkened.

Kisa continued to smile, "If you don't want to accept it, let Mr. Tanner know so he can look for another person to fill the role and not waste everyone's time."

"Yeah, it's not like we need you for that role."

"Yeah, a more enchanting, high-class woman would be a far better fit for the role than you,"

said Mr. Park and Mr. Gates.

At this moment, Mr. Webb turned to Adrien and said, "Mr. Tanner, since there's still time before the start of the filming, we can look for another person for the second female lead if push comes to shove."

Sharon panicked when she heard that.

Yet, she could not bring to lower herself to say that she wanted the role.

She hurriedly looked at Gilbert, hoping he would help secure this role for her.

Yet, Gilbert only leaned back lazily on the chair and did not show any intentions of speaking.

She anxiously grabbed her skirt.

She then saw Adrien sigh a little as the latter wanted to say something.

She hurriedly said, "I'll...I'll accept the role of the second female lead."

"Hah, and I thought a superstar like you would not deign to take the second female lead role." Mr. Webb chuckled.

Sharon

was so mad she gritted her teeth, but she pretended not to care as she said, "I'm free during that time anyway. I can take that role for some fun. Also, wasn't Mr. Tanner the one interested in me taking the role at first? I can't be doing him wrong, right?"

Kisa then smiled and teased Sharon, "Wow, it seems like we are asking a lot of you for this role."

"Ah, well, Mr. Tanner is interested in me after all."

"If it is too much to ask of you, forget it then. We can find someone else." Mr. Park suddenly said to Sharon in a serious tone.

Sharon suddenly choked on her words. "I... I..."

Chapter 507 It Doesn't Look Like It's Written by a Woman

"Yeah, we would never force anyone to do anything against their will." Mr. Gates followed

1. up.

Sharon's face reddened as she tried to suppress her rage. Her smile was more unsightly than her crying face. "No, no, not at all, not at all."

At this moment, her pride and arrogance as an international superstar were shattered.

And the reason for all these humiliations she had suffered was because of Kisa.

Sharon turned her gaze toward Kisa with menace. It was as if she wanted to rip the latter to shreds.

Kisa ignored her menacing gaze and raised her glass to Adrien. "Thank you for allowing me to take the role of the female lead. Cheers."

Adrien smiled as he raised his glass in return.

He was like an elder as he smiled warmly at her.

"I've already spoken about the details of this show with Jensen. What comes next is the signing of the contract. If both of you and Mr. Kooper have no issues regarding that, we can proceed to sign the contract in a moment."

Kisa smiled and nodded, "No issues on my end."

Adrien then looked at Gilbert.

“No issues on my end either,” Gilbert softly said.

“Good, let’s sign the agreement then.”

Adrien said and motioned for Mr. Webb to distribute the contracts.

Gilbert deftly signed his name onto the signature line.

Mr. Park quipped in surprise, “I thought that Mr. Kooper here would not have agreed to this. After all, this is asking the top talent in GK Pictures to play a second female lead. No matter how you cut it, it is a smudge on GK’s good name.”

“Yeah, I thought he would’ve demanded something at the very least. It seems like Mr. Gilbert is actually much more reasonable than the rumors have it.”

Gilbert smiled slightly but did not speak. He only put the cap back onto the pen and motioned for Davian to hand the signed contract to Adrien.

Davian pursed his lips. He felt that the reason Gilbert would agree to this cooperation and let Sharon take the role of the second female lead was that he found out that Kisa was playing the main female lead.

When he brought the matter up to Gilbert a few days ago, the latter rejected it without even thinking about it.

It was only when he accidentally said that Kisa might be playing the heroine in the show that Gilbert said he would think about it.

Therefore, Gilbert must have lowered himself to agree to this collaboration because of Kisa, Davian he dared not ask.

Kisa was still going through the contract carefully.

Mr. Webb could not help but laugh. “Ms. Becker, you are so cautious. Just look at Mr. Kooper. He just signed the contract without even looking at it.”

Kisa looked up and smiled, “My apologies. The discussion for this collaboration was previously done by my manager, so I don’t know a lot of the details. That’s why I want to read through the contract terms.”

Mr. Webb was about to say something when Adrien interjected, “No matter, signing a contract is a serious matter. You ought to go through it thoroughly.”

Kisa smiled and liked Mr. Tanner more and more.

With this simple banter between them right now, she would not be so nervous when she got the opportunity to speak to him one-on-one.

Kisa went through the more important parts of the contract, and once she was certain there were no problems, she signed her name onto the document. She got her handwriting from her mother, whose handwriting was beautiful. Her signature was neat yet vigorous and did not look like it was written by a woman.

When Adrien saw her signature, he was stunned for a moment.

It was only when Mr. Webb’s voice rang out beside him that he snapped back to his senses.

Chapter 508 | Saved You Back Then

“Woah, I didn’t think that Ms. Becker your handwriting to be that pretty. Yours looks pretty good beside Mr. Webb’s own writing.”

Mr. Park asked curiously, “Ms. Becker, have you taken calligraphy classes before?”

Kisa shook her head and smiled, “I follow my mom’s handwriting. Her handwriting is even better than mine.”

Adrien looked at her handwriting, and an inexplicable trace of emotion appeared in his aged eyes.

Gilbert looked silently at the man, feeling that the person's gaze looked a little familiar. 'This Adrien Tanner is unlike others. If I've met him before, I will definitely have an impression of him.'

But no matter how Gilbert tried to recall, he could *not* remember if he had actually met Adrien before.

Nevertheless, the more he looked at those eyes, the more familiar he felt.

Seemingly noticing Gilbert's gaze, Adrien put Kisa's signed contract away and smiled.

"With that, the collaboration is a go. May our collaboration be fruitful."

As he said that, Adrien raised his glass to everyone else.

Gilbert originally wanted to raise a glass as well, but Davian shoved a glass of water into his hand instead. When Kisa saw that, she could not help but smirk a little.

After the contract signing, everyone drank a little more before parting ways.

Seeing that Adrien and the others were about to leave, Kisa hurriedly stopped him.

The purpose of her coming here was to inquire about the events back then, and she could not relax until she had gotten to the bottom of it, *no matter what*.

"Mr. Tanner, are you... busy after this?"

Adrien smiled. "No, I'm not."

Kisa clenched her fist as she said, "I still have some questions to ask you regarding this collaboration. Could you stay back for a bit and answer a few questions?"

"Of course!" Adrien said with a warm smile.

As he said that, he bade the other three to leave first.

Mr. Webb and the others did not say much and left after bidding both her and Gilbert farewell.

The moment they left, only Kisa, Adrien, Gilbert, and the others were left in the room.

Sharon sat on her seat with a contemptuous look on her face.

But as Adrien was here, she dared not say anything.

Davian gave Kisa an awkward smile as he asked, "Are there any problems with the collaboration? Does it have anything to do with GK?"

"No, there's nothing to do with you lot. You may leave," Kisa replied indifferently.

Davian grumbled with it. 'Ma'am is getting more and more heartless.'

Sharon spat, "Why? Can we not listen to what you've to say to Mr. Tanner? What right do you have to ask us to leave? We're not leaving."

Just as she said that Gilbert got up and walked outside.

Davian immediately followed behind and did not forget to so spit venom at Sharon, whose eyes were bulging out, "If you want to stay here, be our guest. Both Mr. Gilbert and I will go back first."

Sharon was so furious she gnashed her teeth. She glared at Kisa before hurriedly chasing after Gilbert.

Finally, only Adrien and Kisa were left in the room.

Adrien sat back in his seat and looked at her gently, "Just ask whatever question you have." Kisa's fingers bit into her palm as she looked at him.

"I don't know what Jensen told you about the fire in prison five years ago, but he told me that you were the one who rescued me from the inferno."

Adrien was not surprised at all when he heard Kisa asking about that fire five years ago, as if he had guessed that this was the reason she held him back.

Adrien leaned back against the chair and smiled at her. "Yes. I was the one who saved you back then."

"Why? The fire was big back then. Why did you risk your life to save me?"

Chapter 509 There Must Be Some Misunderstanding

"It's because of your mother."

Kisa shuddered. Her voice trembled a little. "My mother? You know my mother?"

Adrien nodded, "I not only knew your mother. I was also a very close friend as well."

"Really? But... as far as I can remember, mom doesn't seem to have any friends. Until her death, she had only mentioned a single person's name."

Adrien's hands on his knees trembled slightly.

He did not ask who the person's name was, but instead, he took out his wallet.

Kisa looked at him blankly, not knowing what he was doing.

She only saw him opening his wallet and pulling a small photo out of it.

The small photo was very worn as if someone had been rubbing against it to reminisce something.

He handed the photo over to Kisa. "Have a look at this."

Kisa took the small photo with some suspicion, only to immediately recognize her mother in it.

It was a photo of her mother with another man. That man was not Adrien, and she had never seen him before. She raised her hand and gently caressed her mother's smiling image.

Kisa's mother in the photo was not much different than how Kisa remembered her to be. There was the familiar gentleness between her eyes.

When Kisa saw that, her heart tightened, and she felt weepy.

"The person in the photo... is David Kooper."

"What?"

Kisa looked up at Adrien in shock. "He's David Kooper?"

Adrien smiled. "Hmm? You know him as well?"

Kisa hurriedly shook her head. "No, I don't. I have never met him before. But he is Gilbert's uncle, so I've heard about him before."

She did not mention her mother's diary.

After all, she was still not familiar with Adrien, and she dared not tell everything about her to him.

"Ah, is that so?" Adrien let out a somewhat strange smile.

Kisa looked at him in surprise. "Why do you have this picture? You're..."

"Good friends."

Adrien took out a cigarette, and just as he was about to light it up, he thought of something and asked her, "May I?"

Kisa nodded. "Go ahead."

Adrien lit the cigarette and took a deep puff as he smiled and said, "David and I were best buddies, and I knew your mother through him. After that, we became good friends that would talk about everything."

"I witnessed the love between David and your mother, and I thought that they would be together in the end. Alas, their love was buried by Mrs. Kooper Sr.'s own hands."

"Mrs. Kooper Sr.? What... What did she do?"

Kisa remembered that Madalyn had once claimed herself to be the biggest driving force to match both David and Kisa's mother together. 'But why did Adrien say that their love was buried by Mrs. Kooper Sr.'s own hands? What's going on?' She had more and more questions.

Kisa looked at the middle-aged man whose eyes were still as sharp as ever.

Adrien took a few puffs before saying, "Back then, both David and your mother fell in love, and David even told me that he was finally going to marry the love of his life. Yet, before he could propose to your mother, he was sent by Mrs. Kooper Sr. overseas and lost contact with your mother.

"By the time he found a way to get in touch with her, your mother had already married someone else." When Adrien said that, a slight look of sadness and indignation appeared on his face.

No one knew if he was feeling angry for David.

'But there must be some misunderstanding. Mom did not marry Christopher Case willingly. I must clarify that with David.' Kisa looked up at the man sitting opposite her and asked, "Where is David Kooper now?"

Chapter 510 Some Said He Was Dead

Adrien shook his head and said, "David disappeared later. More precisely, he disappeared after he found your mom married someone else. No one knows where he went. Some said he was dead, while others said he holed up in places where people didn't know him. Even Jensen didn't know where his dad was."

Kisa pursed her lips. 'Indeed, Jensen seldom mentioned his dad. He must have lost contact with his dad after his dad was sent abroad.'

"I just left Calthon because of my family's business after David was sent abroad. Things changed when I came back a few years later. I pay some attention to you because you are the daughter of an old friend, and I have been watching you all the time since I knew you were in prison.

“That day was a coincidence. I had dinner with my friends on New Year’s Eve. I happened to pass by the prison when I returned, and I heard the prison was on fire. My heart skipped a beat as I remembered you were still in prison.

“Mostly everyone in prison was evacuated when I rushed over. But you were the only missing one. I didn’t think much of it at the time. I just rushed in after putting on a wet quilt.

Kisa stayed silent and listened quietly to him narrate what happened back then.

“I still remember you fell on the ground and were bleeding badly. I took the risk to save you at the time, but I couldn’t save your child after all. When that child came out of your womb... was stillborn.”

The word “stillborn” totally defeated all of Kisa’s strength. She covered her mouth and sobbed immediately.

Adrien glanced at her. Suddenly, he took out a few photos from his wallet.

“I took these photos back then. You were unconscious at the time. After all, as the child’s mom, you have to see what your child looks like. But your will to survive was weak after you woke up. So, I’m scared to show it to you. I still keep these photos to this day. I thought to let you see your child with your own eyes if there’s a chance.”

Kisa reached out to the photos tremblingly.

Those photos were all of a baby with dark purple skin. Although these photos were old, they were taken clearly.

The appearance of the child overlapped with the one in her memory. ‘At that time, I saw my baby was lifeless with dark purple skin when I woke up in a daze. It was exactly like this photo.’

Kisa sobbed and touched the baby in the photo. “Maybe it would be better if I died with my child at that moment.”

Adrien shook his head and sighed, "You're wrong. It will only hurt those who love you if you die with your child. Your child won't survive after all."

"Those who love me?" Kisa laughed ironically. 'At that time, no one in this world loved me.'

She wiped the tears from her face and said to Adrien, "My will *to* live was really weak at that moment. You took great pains to make me live strong. I appreciate *you* sincerely."

Adrien smiled meaningfully, "It's really... painstaking."

Kisa could not understand the meaning of his words. She turned to him and asked, "Was there any rumor when you rescued me? Or did you investigate the fire secretly afterward?"

Given the length of time that had passed since the fire, it would be challenging to investigate that fire and locate the key witnesses. However, if someone had looked into the incident at that time on purpose, they might uncover some information.