

Chapter 170 Help Me

To create a sense of mystery, the Cruz family didn't reveal exactly what was going to be appreciated.

When the banquet officially began, Florence stood up with her glass and knocked on it with a piece of cutlery to grab everyone's attention.

The guests stopped all they were doing and turned to look at her.

Just then, a group of servers came in with several trays carrying bottles of wine.

"Everyone, on behalf of the Cruz family, I welcome you to the wine-tasting banquet!" Florence said with a smile, finally unveiling the purpose of the banquet.

Then, the servants began to pour out the wine for each and every one. White and red wines were poured into the appropriate glasses and the entire hall was filled with an interesting mix of aromas.

The guests began to taste the wines in their glasses and some were already nodding in approval.

Lorraine took a little sip of the expensive wine in her glass, but it fell quite below her expectations. She couldn't help but feel a little disappointed.

The wine was good, but she just was not interested in wine tasting.

Wesley, on the contrary, seemed to like it. He was drinking glass after glass of the wines.

"It tastes good!"

His wild manner of drinking began to attract the attention of other guests.

Those who also liked the wine felt he was unable to control himself, but the ones who didn't like it felt he was vulgar and rude.

But the most surprising person at the banquet was Marina.

Every time she was served a glass of wine, she could tell its variety, name, history, and even the stories behind it with only one sip.

For a moment, her wine tasting talent attracted everyone's attention.

"Who is that person? She's so knowledgeable!"

"She seems to be Marco's sister. I think her name is Marina."

"No wonder. She's from a great family; that's why she has such wonderful taste!"

As the guests praised her and said a lot of nice things

about her, Marina became a little proud and kept showing off her skills.

"This is Piper-Heidsieck, made in 1907. It's the most expensive champagne in the world. It was retrieved from a sinking ship during the First World War. It's a precious wine with historical significance."

"This red wine is Romanee Conti made in 1945. It's produced in La Romanee Conti in France. It's the most precious wine all over the world. It's said that only three grape vines can produce a bottle of it."

With each bottle, she kept dishing out accurate information.

Even Florence was surprised and even began to change her view of Marina.

But Loraine was very much confused.

She and Marina had lived together for three years. She knew what kind of person Marina was. How come Marina suddenly developed such a deep understanding of wines?

She had a feeling that something was wrong somewhere.

Like Loraine, Marco also knew his sister very well and he knew the kind of things she was capable of.

He frowned and looked at Marina suspiciously as she kept on doing what she was doing without a care in

the world.

Among everyone present, the most nervous person seemed to be Grady. His face was pale and he was fidgeting uneasily as his hand which was under the table secretly pulled out his phone.

Loraine's phone suddenly rang, signifying an incoming message.

"Loraine, help me! My mother intended to use this banquet to investigate the intelligence and background of all the girls present to choose a bride for me. And I can't reject it. Anyone would be fine, but not Marina! Loraine, please help me. Don't let her win this contest!"

After reading the message, Loraine looked up at Grady in astonishment.

She saw Grady staring at her with his puppy eyes as if he believed that she could control the situation and turn it in his favor.

Loraine was in a dilemma.

She did feel sorry for Grady, whose mother was going to force him to accept a girl that he might not want, but then, Loraine didn't want to get involved in his marriage. Now that she knew the true purpose of the banquet, she felt it was even more difficult to wade in.

Noticing the secret communication between Loraine and Grady, Marco frowned in dissatisfaction.

He reached under the table, grabbed Loraine's hand, and gently tickled her palm with his fingertip. Then he whispered in her ear in a hoarse voice, "Focus."

His breath hit Loraine's sensitive ear, and she felt shy. In an instant, her ears turned red.

She turned to look at him. But Marco was already looking straight ahead as if nothing had happened.

But he was still holding Loraine's hand tightly.

Feeling the heat in her cheeks, Loraine felt embarrassed and annoyed.

She couldn't push away this shameless man since they were in a public place with so many people around. The only thing she could do was to squint at Marco angrily.

Eventually, Marco stopped teasing her after a while and let go of her hand.

He had gotten what he wanted: all her attention had to be on him and no one else.

Chapter 171 Wine Tasting

Grady was anxious as Loraine was sidetracked by Marco.

Grady didn't receive Loraine's response, leaving him with no choice but to watch her nervously.

On the other hand, Marina was dissatisfied when Grady's attention was on Loraine.

People's praises made her regain her confidence, and once again, her nature was exposed.

She glared defiantly at Loraine before setting her glass down and clearing her throat. "Thank you for your praises. It is just a piece of cake to me. I am a Bryant. That gave me the opportunity to learn many things since I was a child. So, I've never been exposed to the vulgarity of the outside world. Naturally, I am more knowledgeable than others."

Despite appearing modest, these words were actually satirical.

Laura immediately echoed, "Exactly. My daughter has had a careful upbringing since she was a child. She stands out among others."

Laura looked at Loraine after saying that, obviously mocking her.

The mother and daughter critiqued the situation, which was immediately apparent to everyone in attendance. They were trying to say Loraine went missing when she was a child and she was vulgar.

People at the banquet started gossiping and secretly looking up and down at Loraine.

There was an abrupt bang.

Wesley sneered as he slammed the glass on the table and glared at Marina and Laura.

"It is 21st century! Why are there some people praising themselves as nobility? A true noble person won't openly or secretly mock others. Despite being narrow-minded, they still believe themselves to be noble. That's outrageous!"

Marina flushed with embarrassed. "Who the hell are you?"

"Enough!" Marco said coldly. "Marina, do you still remember what you promised me?"

As soon as he said that, Marina lost her haughtiness, and she was speechless.

Laura still wanted to stand up for her daughter, but she was frightened when Marco gave her an indifferent glance, and she froze.

"I won't repeat myself. Behave yourself!"

Marco's warning entirely destroyed the mother and daughter's desire to cause trouble.

The two gritted their teeth in resentment, but they were powerless.

As soon as Florence noticed the uncomfortable atmosphere, she came out to liven it.

"Well, let's continue to savor the wines. We must not waste the fine wines."

With their eyes constantly on Loraine, people picked up their glasses and carried on with their drinking.

Loraine had no desire to become involved in the matters involving the Cruz family. However, Marina kept provoking her. So, she had to fight back.

She secretly sent a message to Grady.

On the other hand, Grady finally received a response from Loraine after waiting for so long.

After reading the message, he was initially taken aback. After that, he called a servant and whispered to him.

The aroma of wine quickly filled the room as another bottle was opened.

The waiter approached and poured each of them a glass of wine. Seeing this, Marina couldn't wait to take a sip of the wine. She was ecstatic and broke the ice

by revealing the wine's name.

"This bottle contains the wine from Chateau Lafitte in 1869. The fragrance of the wine was featured by flowers and fruits, mellow and soft. The wine has always been known as the queen of the wine."

In an effort to outshine Loraine, Marina confidently raised her head.

However, Loraine cut in abruptly, "No, it's not from Chateau Lafitte, but from Chateau Mouton!"

Shocked, Marina replied, "You are wrong! This is the red wine from Chateau Lafitte. Loraine, don't make a fool of yourself if you don't know wines."

Loraine picked up the glass and gave it a leisurely shake. She took a sip and tasted it cautiously after the red wine's taste was released. After that, she used her tongue to stir the wine. Then, she threw up the wine gracefully in a special vomiting bucket next to her and drank some water to rinse her mouth.

She did it with grace and composure. In an instant, her distinct etiquette overshadowed Marina's.

Florence, who was knowledgeable and born into a real noble family, couldn't find anything inappropriate with Loraine's actions.

As the audience watched her with admiration, Loraine said calmly, "The primary ingredient used to make this wine was premium Cabernet Sauvignon. The

maturating process takes a while, and cassia has a potent scent. The taste is first sweet, then spicy. Compared to the wine from Chateau Lafitte, it has a much more enticing and vibrant flavor reminiscent of eucalyptus and ginger."

Everyone took a sip of the wine carefully after Loraine explained that. It tasted exactly as she had described.

After some minutes, everyone nodded in agreement.

"This wine... It's not from Chateau Lafitte!"

