

Chapter 149 What Do You Think Of Me

Gabrielle was bound to choose Bryce over Austin.

After all, she had always liked Bryce.

It was true that this man had regularly caused trouble in Gabrielle's life for his benefit, but Gabrielle continued to trust him and keep a special place in her heart for him.

Even if they couldn't be together.

As for Austin, Gabrielle and him were just good friends.

"It seems that both the men are important to you." Westley felt quite upset when he noticed that Gabrielle was pondering over this question for quite some time.

Why was she thinking so long and hard about them?

"Yes, one is my brother, and the other is my senior. Of course they're important to

me, in one way or another," she replied straightforwardly, making Westley further slump into despair.

If Westley was going to be immature and get mad over this, Gabrielle was going to let him do so. She herself had a her own temper and she was frustrated with only always pleasing Westley. He was the one causing trouble here, not her.

"Then I..."

"Westley, you climbed too fast to get to the top. It's beautiful here! No wonder you came up so fast with Gabby." Before Westley could finish his words, Holly's cheerful voice chimed in behind them.

Gabby?

Gabrielle was speechless with regards to the way Holly was speaking. She wondered what the need was for Holly to so intimately call her Gabby.

"Yes, the scenery is really splendid here. Westley was in a hurry to show it to me, so he dragged me right up—see, even my wrist is red from his grip." Gabrielle dramatically rubbed her wrist.

Westley looked at her wrist and saw the bright red color on it, wondering why Gabrielle didn't tell him earlier and only waited until then to show it to everyone.

"Are you okay, Gabby?" Austin came over and looked at the red indents on her wrist. Her skin was fair so this made the marks more obvious and visible, even from a distance.

Austin's face darkened seriously as he expressed concern towards Gabrielle.

Why was Westley so brash and unkind to her? 'He doesn't care about her, but I do,' Austin thought.

Austin gently reached for Gabrielle's wrist to look at the marks more closely. "Gabby, let me have a look..."

"No, thanks, Brother Austin. My hand is fine. It's just a little red but it's not painful. Westley was careful and controlled himself when grabbed my hand, even though he was climbing at a quick speed." Gabrielle withdrew her hand immediately.

It was not the right time to argue with

Westley. After all, Miley had followed them up, too. If she saw Austin holding her hand, she would misunderstand the situation.

She didn't want Miley to think there was anything going on between her and Austin. Austin was Miley's grandson. It would be bad for everyone, including Austin, if she misunderstood.

"Gabby, are you really okay?" It was sweet that Austin was concerned about Gabrielle, but that was not the right time to express it—not when so many sensitive parties were present. If he was going to continue on this trajectory, it would make the situation very messy.

Austin didn't want to embarrass Gabrielle.

"Brother Austin, I'm really fine." Gabrielle tried to hide her wrist. ¹

"Gabrielle, you seem to be on really good terms with Mr. Morris. We had initially just come here to climb a mountain, but we didn't expect to have such a show of public affection and admiration. Do tell us what's going on. We'd love to know about the hurry that you climbed this

mountain with." Mia rushed to Gabrielle in order to keep the momentum of the gossip going.

Today, Mia had been proven wrong about Westley. She had always been told that Westley was unapproachable and indifferent towards other people around him, but now Mia had seen a different side to him, where he had been kind and caring towards Gabrielle. She was happily surprised by this.

"What is there to say? We just came up the mountain to enjoy the beautiful scenery." Gabrielle slapped off Mia's finger, wondering what she was going to do.

"Humph! I sense a little more than that! No one blushes this much when just enjoying scenery," Mia provoked her.

Mia observed everyone around her as she analyzed their relationships with each other.

Holly liked Westley, and Austin liked Gabrielle. But Gabrielle was married to Westley.

Obviously, Holly didn't seem to be giving

up. She was shooting her best shot with Westley.

As Gabrielle's good friend, Mia felt a sense of duty to protect and conserve the marriage between Gabrielle and Westley. She couldn't let Holly succeed, because that would deeply upset the balance between them.

"We just came here to enjoy the view. I'm not sure what you're trying to insinuate." Gabrielle glared at Mia, but Mia just giggled in response.

"I'm not trying to insinuate anything. We've all come here to enjoy the scenery, but I guess we're not there yet since we're only halfway through. Let's continue to the top of the mountain to enjoy the full view." Mia patted Gabrielle's arm and pointed to the top of the mountain.

"Okay, let's go and have a look." Gabrielle didn't feel like being around Westley anymore, so she gladly took Mia's hand and began to carry on up the mountain with her without another look towards Westley.

Mia immediately realized that the couple

seemed to have quarreled about something.

'What a silly girl! Why would she quarrel in front of Holly like this—it will only give her the upper hand!'

Holly had been waiting for this opportunity from the very beginning, prying on the couple hoping to see where they would slip up and find that crack to squeeze in to.

"Mr. Morris, come with us!" Mia called out to Westley, hoping he would join their duo rather than go off with Holly.

"No, Mia, let's just go." Gabrielle knew what Mia was cooking up, but she didn't want to bring it out in the open or acknowledge it. ①

"I think this is enough for me today. I'll just wait for you youngsters to come back because you can climb more. I'm too old to continue." Miley smiled and then walked off to the pavilion to sit down.

"You start climbing. I'll finish this important phone call and follow you. Mia, don't cause any trouble, and be careful

when you climb, please. Don't get all overconfident and try to climb in any dangerous areas that you shouldn't be, okay?" Micheal told his sister.

Mia was a rebel. If he didn't keep her in check, she would definitely cause some trouble.

"Oh, Brother, you think I am such a naughty troublemaker, don't you?"

"What do you think?"

"Why don't you just lock me up and put me away?" Mia muttered under her breath, feeling annoyed. There was no need for her brother to be so patronizing to her in public and stop her from a little enjoyment.

"Well you can be confined after you go back to school. Actually, the school hasn't even decided to accept you, yet," Micheal immediately replied.

All of a sudden, Mia seemed to get anxious and the color drained from her face. "Brother, I'm just kidding. Don't take it seriously."

Mia was really scared that her brother

would take it seriously, because that would lead to the previous times she had experienced confinement. And if that happened again... she was sure she would go crazy.



Chapter 150 Your Duty To Take Care Of Her

Gabrielle wasn't interested in hiking. But since Mia kept dragging her up, she had no choice but to climb.

As they continued to go upwards, Mia's excitement grew.

"Do you enjoy hiking, Mia?" Gabrielle asked as she took a break and looked down at the scenic view.

The whole Antawood could be seen from their position. It had been a long time since Gabrielle came here and looked at the city from afar. A lot of things had changed in Antawood since then.

"Hiking puts me in a positive mood. Aside from exercising your legs, you can also enjoy great scenery. That's why I love climbing mountains," Mia merrily replied.

"Is that so?" However, Gabrielle dismissed the outstanding remark about hiking.

The smile on Mia's face faded as she stared at her friend. "Are you feeling fine? You seem absent-minded. Please remember that I'm the one you're hiking with, not Mr. Morris!"

"Stop being ridiculous!" Gabrielle ignored Mia and began walking upwards again.

Although it seemed like a joke, Mia was still correct. Gabrielle still had feelings for Westley.

When Westley forcefully carried her recently, she felt ecstatic for that brief moment.

Unfortunately, not only did he not accompany her hiking, but he also told her something mean. As such, she was so annoyed.

"Don't do ahead without me, Gabrielle. Stop moving too fast. You won't have enough energy to go down the mountain later," Mia reminded Gabrielle when she noticed how fast the latter was climbing.

Hiking wasn't similar to sprinting. It was better if Gabrielle conserved her energy. Otherwise, she would be exhausted

before she reached the top of the mountain.

"I'm fine. Pick up the pace," Gabrielle told Mia while turning around. Then, Gabrielle saw that Westley and Holly were just behind them. Suddenly, Holly slipped and threw herself into Westley's arms. It was unclear whether the accident was fake or not. Nonetheless, he embraced her so that she wouldn't hit the ground.

Meanwhile, Gabrielle saw what happened. She kept quiet and walked faster instead. ②

As such, she never saw that Westley immediately distanced himself from Holly.

"Are you fine, Holly?"

After he pushed Holly away from him, Westley glanced at Gabrielle, who kept walking upwards. When he saw how quickly she was walking, a frown painted his face as anxiety crept into his heart. ⑤

'Doesn't she realize that she shouldn't climb that fast? We're not in a competition. Soon enough, her feet will

ache.' 1

"I'm not hurt. Thank you for catching me, Westley. Otherwise, I might have fallen down the mountain," Holly thanked him in a soft tone as her jewel-like eyes stared at him.

However, he had no use for her gratitude. "Holly, do you realize what's going to happen if you fall on the mountain? Please be more careful. I won't take responsibility if you get into an accident."

A shameful expression painted Holly's face when she heard his remark. She felt confused about what he meant. Was he blaming her for being clumsy, or did he realize that she purposely fell into his arms?

Nonetheless, his words humiliated her and made her feel uncomfortable.

"Do you think that I'm a clumsy person, Westley?" With teary eyes, she stared at him.

Her appearance was enough to make anyone who saw her pull her into his arms. She looked like someone who

deserved comfort.

But Westley wasn't like an average man. As such, her charming demeanor didn't work on him.

"Holly, there's no need to worry about what other people think about you. All you have to know is what kind of person you are." His tone was cold and dismissive.

Although Holly was a confident woman, she ignored her dignity just to be closer to Westley. Unfortunately, it was for naught as he didn't reciprocate her feelings.

When she remembered that Westley grabbed Gabrielle's wrist and hiked in front of a large crowd, Holly became enraged out of jealousy.

How could a woman like Gabrielle not only get to hike with Westley but only be held by him? Meanwhile, he felt disgusted with Holly for falling into in arm.

'Gabrielle is just an adopted daughter of the Jones family. Why is Westley so interested in her?' Holly believed that

she was better than Gabrielle in any way.

"Westley, you can tell me if there's a part of me that you don't like. I'm willing to change for you." Holly maintained her humble attitude while talking to Westley.

Most men thought of her as a proud princess. However, she was willing to swallow her pride just to attract Westley.

Unfortunately, despite her kind and humble attitude, he paid no attention to her.

"Holly, there's no need to change yourself for me." A cold expression painted his face.

Immediately, she felt as if her heart broke into a million pieces. Her chest was so tight that she was having trouble breathing.

Meanwhile, Westley approached Austin, who was also climbing.

"Hey. Why are you just walking there?" Whenever Miley wasn't there, Austin remained unfriendly towards Westley. They had a strained relationship in the past. Moreover, their relationship grew

worse because of Gabrielle. After all, Austin thought of Westley as a rival in love.

As such, he couldn't afford to be friendly towards a competitor.

"You should take care of Holly. She's not feeling well." Westley shoved Holly towards Austin. ③

"What? Why me?" Austin never wanted to spend time with Holly. Instead, he wanted to be with Gabrielle and catch up to her.

'Westley is such a jerk. Instead of dealing with his affairs, he made me his scapegoat,' he cursed in his head.

"You're the one who invited Holly here. As such, you should take care of her. It's your responsibility if anything happens to her. The Edwards family will definitely be angry at you if their princess has an accident during this hiking," Westley coldly replied. ①

Austin widened his eyes.

"There seems to be a misunderstanding, Westley. I never invited Holly. We just

happened to arrive at the same time," he tried to explain the truth.

As such, he shouldn't be the one to accompany her during the duration of the hike.

"Nonetheless, Holly still came with you. As such, you need to take care of her," Westley replied as if he was talking about a business deal.

Meanwhile, Holly felt offended while watching the two men point fingers about who to accompany her.

"There's no need for any of you to take care of me. I can handle hiking alone."