

Chapter 210 Defending Westley

Gabrielle and Lance were still in the Prario Restaurant. As soon as she hung up the phone, she saw that her cousin was staring at her curiously. She wondered if there was some dirt on her face because she had eaten too much.

"Lance, is there anything on my face? Why are you looking at me like that?" Gabrielle looked a little uneasy.

"Nothing. I'm just surprised that you and Austin are still on good terms." Lance knew the existence of Austin in his cousin's life.

Austin was Gabrielle's schoolmate. He was not her senior in the same department, but he was in the same club with her and treated her very well. On countless occasions when Lance went to the Alorith University to see Gabrielle, he had seen them together. He knew that Austin was very concerned about Gabrielle and took good care of her.

Lance was a man and he liked Gabrielle, so he knew what was on Austin's mind.

He knew that Austin had a crush on her and liked her very much.

After all, Gabrielle was a very beautiful girl and she also had a good temper which could make men fall in love with her at first sight. ③

So it was very normal for Austin to like her. After all, many boys in the Alorith University had a crush on Gabrielle. ③

It was Austin who helped Gabrielle get her internship in Jason's jewelry design studio. Ultimately, this made her feel closer and even more grateful to him.

Jealousy and unhappiness ruled Lance's heart when he found out what Austin did for Gabrielle. He felt that the Carter family could also consider setting up a jewelry company in the future and then invite Gabrielle to work full-time in the design department. ①

But then, there was nothing to worry about because Lance knew that his cousin wasn't in love with Austin in any way. There was only one person in her heart, and that was Bryce, whom Lance

hated so much. ①

Bryce had always treated Gabrielle in an unfriendly way, but in Gabrielle's heart, he would always be the first one, and no one could surpass him.

"You just have a very beautiful face," Lance said with a smile.

He didn't want Gabrielle to know his feelings right now. The plan he had in mind was to confess his love to her when she graduated from college and the Jones family began to look for a husband for her. After all, he knew that the Jones family wouldn't allow Gabrielle to stay in their family as a daughter-in-law.

The reason why the Jones family had adopted Gabrielle was that they wanted to have a daughter who could help the Jones family unite with another family by marriage in the future, not for the sake of raising a child bride for their son, Bryce. ②

"Are you serious? You just want to make me shy." With a broad smile on her face, Gabrielle blushed and felt embarrassed to accept the praise from Lance.

"Don't be shy. You have always been

beautiful. Didn't you become the campus belle as soon as you entered the Alorith University? You know that I'm saying the truth. I'm not the only one just talking about it," Lance said seriously as he looked at her delicate white face.

He felt that such a tender girl should be pampered instead of being hurt and bullied by people.

In his opinion, both Westley and Bryce had bullied and hurt Gabrielle.

"You're the only one talking about it. You know that the campus belle is just a joke. Well, let's just eat first. I have to accompany my mom to the mall to buy a birthday gift for Grandpa later in the afternoon." Gabrielle had promised Wendy that she would choose a birthday gift for Kylo. Now that she had come back to Antawood from the countryside, she could go with Wendy in the afternoon.

"Okay, that's good. Speaking of Grandpa's birthday, will Westley be attending the birthday party also?" Lance asked curiously.

Since Westley was Gabrielle's nominal husband, he might also go to the

birthday party.

But then, Lance didn't want Westley's attendance at the party.

"Honestly, I don't know yet. Maybe he will. The Morris family has received an invitation from Grandpa. I'm sure that Miley will be there. You know that Grandpa enjoys crowds," Gabrielle said to him. She just said what was on her mind.

She had done her part by informing Westley about it. As for whether he would be there or not, she was clueless at that time. Westley was always moody and no one knew whether he would decide out of the blues.

"Well, as for me, I don't think Westley would be there. After all, your marriage with him hasn't been made public yet and just a few people in the Carter family also know about your marriage. It would be better if he doesn't go, or else, there would be trouble." Lance said this on purpose because he didn't want Westley to be there. 2

He knew that once Westley attended Kylo's birthday party, it was as good as announcing their marriage and this was

not a good thing for Gabrielle.

"Lance, let's not talk about him for now. If at all he wants to be there, I guess he will go as the CEO of the Morris Group." At the mention of Westley's name, Gabrielle felt a bit confused and didn't want to continue talking about him. ①

"Okay, then. That's good," Lance said softly.

"Lance, it seems to me that you don't like Westley at all. Am I right?" Gabrielle could tell by just looking at his gestures when he talked about Westley.

"No. I just think he shouldn't make your relationship public now. It will be bad for you both when you finally divorce in the future." Lance looked concerned about her.

"Divorce?" Gabrielle asked and then paused.

'Yes, this is true. I'm going to divorce Westley. For this reason, the fewer people know about our marriage, the better,' she thought to herself.

Perhaps no one would dare to marry Westley's ex-wife.

"What's the matter? Don't you want a divorce any longer?" Lance asked as he looked at her nervously. ²

"No, Lance. Let's just eat first. We'll talk about this again when we bring Nellie and Bryce back," Gabrielle said to him as she looked at the bowl of food in front of her. She felt dizzy at the mention of divorce. ³

Lance didn't say anything else. He knew what he was supposed to do. As long as he could quicken his efforts in getting Bryce back to China as soon as possible, Gabrielle could divorce Westley.

Now that he was sure that they were going to get divorced, he knew that there was nothing to worry about anymore.

Gabrielle, who didn't know what was going on in Lance's mind, just ate her food quietly.

After they were done with their lunch, the two of them left the restaurant. As they were leaving, Lance insisted on driving her to the mall.

Gabrielle had no choice but to get in his car, feeling a little uneasy.

"Lance, if you are busy, you don't have to drive me there. I can just take a taxi and get there quickly," she said to him after she had hesitated for a while.

"Sincerely speaking, I don't think it's better to take a taxi when I can drive you there myself. There are many bad taxi drivers these days. You know that you're a very beautiful young girl, and it's dangerous for you to take a taxi alone." As far as he was concerned, he was willing to give her a ride anywhere she was going.

Gabrielle was so amused by his words. "Lance, it's not as exaggerated as you are making it seem. This is a modern society and it is ruled by law. There are more good people than bad people."

"You're just saying this because you haven't met any bad guy. Westley can allow you to take a taxi on your own, but I won't allow that because I'll be so worried about you." Lance still felt some resentment towards Westley because of this.

"It's not that he didn't want to give me a ride, but his grandmother was also in the car. He had to drive her home first," she

said as she tried to explain what had happened. Besides, she didn't want him to drive her here anyway.

"Let's just forget about it," he said with a wave of the hand. 'How can I feel comfortable when she's busy defending him so much?' Lance wondered. 5

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Lance drove his car to the shopping mall in silence. As soon as they arrived at the mall, Gabrielle got out of the car in a hurry and waved Lance goodbye.

"Thank you for driving me here, Lance. Bye. Drive safe!"

Gabrielle smiled as she waved her hand and was about to leave.

"Wait for me, I'll wait with you. After all, it would be impolite of me not to greet my aunt. I'll leave once I see her," Lance said as he tried to get off the car.

He just wanted to spend more time with her and he was just looking for an excuse to do so.

"Come on, Lance. You know that you don't have to. Besides, you can't park the car here for a long time. You will get a parking ticket later. You should be focused on finding out where my brother and Nellie are as soon as possible. That's the most important thing right now," Gabrielle reminded him seriously.

Lance. It doesn't matter whether I get divorced or not, I just want to continue designing jewelry. That's all I want to focus on," Gabrielle answered his question seriously.

At that moment, Lance knew what was going on in her mind. Her biggest dream was to become a well-known jewelry designer. It seemed that the Carter Group could branch out into this field. Since he already knew that Gabrielle had such a dream, he would do his best to help her achieve what she wanted.

"Well, I'll take my leave now. Have a good time with your mother. I'll inform you as soon as I get any more information concerning Bryce and Nellie." Without hesitating any longer, Lance started the car and left.

As she saw his car leave, Gabrielle breathed a sigh of relief. She turned and went into the cafe on the top floor of the shopping mall and called Wendy.

"Mom, I'm at the Bio Mall. Didn't you ask me to go shopping with you today to buy a birthday gift for Grandpa? Well, if you're available this afternoon, you can come right away. I'll be waiting for you

here," Gabrielle said to her mom on the phone.

As she sat at a table by the window, she felt better when she saw the pounding traffic and the pulsating crowds downstairs.

"Okay, I'll be on my way to the mall now. Just wait for a few minutes." Wendy couldn't contain her joy. It wasn't just because Gabrielle was accompanying her to buy a birthday gift, but because Westley was going to be there on that day.

She believed that as long as Gabrielle's husband was around for Kylo's birthday party, the marriage between him and Gabrielle would be made public.

And whether they liked it or not, once their marriage became public, everyone would know that the Morris family and the Jones family were now relatives because of their marriage. For this reason, no one in Antawood would dare to be rude to the Jones family.

After she hung up the phone, Gabrielle sat there quietly, waiting for her mother. Just then, she met an unexpected guest.

"Finally, I get to meet you, Gabrielle"
With a ferocious look on her face, Estelle stood in front of Gabrielle with one hand on her waist.

As soon as Gabrielle saw who it was, she cast a cold glance at her. "Ms. Johnson, I don't think there's anything between us that makes you so happy to see me."

"Happy to see you? You must be mistaken, Gabrielle. Don't flatter yourself too much. Well, that's by the way. Let me ask you something. Several projects of the Johnson Group were originally finalized, but as I speak to you now, they are stuck. Could this be as a result of something you are doing behind the scenes?" Estelle asked.

Knowing that several projects of the Johnson Group were hampered, the first thought that came to Gabrielle's mind was that Westley was behind all this. By the way, it was Estelle's friends who had beaten her and Sloane. They were severely injured that they were taken to the hospital, and to make matters worse, Sloane was still not awake yet. As far as Gabrielle knew, it was only Westley that could erect obstacles so easily to hinder these projects.

But she would never let this woman called Estelle know about it.

"Ms. Johnson, do you think I'm the one or do you think that the Jones family can block your projects? Why don't you have a rethink about this? It's possible that the Johnson family has already offended a lot of people and someone else did this on purpose to punish you," Gabrielle said with a sneer on her face.

"The Johnson family doesn't have so many enemies, Gabrielle. It was you and Westley, who set me up the last time. Are you..."

Gabrielle's face darkened as she heard this and allowed the cold glance on her face to fall in Estelle. "Well, maybe it was because Benny felt guilty about what you did and he decided to do something for Sloane and so he took action against the Johnson Group. After all, he is capable of doing that, isn't he?"

As soon as Estelle heard Benny's name, her face turned pale instantly. "How can that even be possible? Benny would never do such a thing to me. Besides, how would he deal with the Johnson Group for the sake of Sloane? He loves

me..."

"There's one thing you need to be clear about, Estelle. Sloane is Benny's sister who has lived with him for more than a decade now. They have ties of kinship. But what about you and him? You both are just sex partners!" Gabrielle said coldly to her.

When Estelle heard the word "sex partners", her face became as white as a sheet.

'But Benny and I love each other. How could this woman say such harsh words to me?' she wondered.

"You are such a shameless woman, Gabrielle. How could you say such a thing to me? You know very well that Benny and I both love each other." At this point, Estelle was doing her best to deny what Gabrielle just said. How could she say that the two of them were just sex partners?

They weren't sex mates at all and this was because Benny had never touched her ever since they had been together. ④

He never took the initiative to contact her first. Estelle was the one who kept

making efforts to keep in touch with him.

"Really? Do you both love each other? This is very ironic. Benny hasn't visited you ever since the accident happened to Sloane, has he? If you say he cares about you, how come he hasn't come to see you all this while?" What Gabrielle was saying was just a pure guess. 4

As far as she knew, she was unable to feel how they loved each other ever since she had seen them together. Gabrielle felt like they were just pretending to be together, just like she and Westley. Perhaps the only difference was that Estelle loved Benny so much.

"You're not making any sense, Gabrielle! Benny..."

"Just so you know, Benny tried to see Sloane on several occasions, but he was kicked out. He doesn't deserve to see her. After all, you were the one who hurt her. If I find out that he conspired with you, he would also be held responsible for all of this," Gabrielle said indifferently.

As soon as Estelle heard this, a flush went over her white face and she stared at Gabrielle with so much resentment.

"You don't have to be so mean, Gabrielle. What conspiracy are you talking about? My friends are still in jail." Estelle was very angry right now. 4

"You should have been in..."

Before Gabrielle could finish what she wanted to say, Estelle picked up the coffee cup and was about to throw the content on Gabrielle's face but Gabrielle swiftly moved aside and blocked the coffee with her hand. As a result of this, the coffee poured all over Estelle.

The light yellow dress that she wore got stained instantly and it was as if several brown flowers blossomed on her dress which was very obvious for all to see.

"Gabrielle!" Estelle gnashed her teeth in anger as she stared at Gabrielle. It looked as if she wanted to snuff life out of her.

"This cup of coffee is on me, Ms. Johnson. If you want to have coffee next time, just let me know. It's such a waste to spill it on your dress like this." Immediately Gabrielle said this, she took her bag and left. 4

As far as she was concerned, the most important thing was to look for Bryce and Westley's runaway bride and bring them back from wherever they were hiding in Thailand.

"I know. I will send more people to look for them and once they are found, I will make sure that they are forcefully brought back home. After that, I will send Nellie back to Westley and make sure that you and Westley get divorced as quickly as possible. Just think about what you can do after the divorce." Although Lance had good intentions, he was indirectly giving her a difficult problem.

She was still clueless as to what she was doing to do immediately after the divorce.

What Lance was talking about was something that wasn't going to happen anytime soon and for this reason, she didn't want to think too much about it. The two who had eloped hadn't been found and she and Westley weren't divorced yet. It was still too far to think about the plans after the divorce.

"I haven't thought about it that much,

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Gabrielle left Estelle after the coffee incident and went to the first floor using the elevator. At that moment, she thought about the situation of the Johnson Group that Estelle told her about. She felt that it was only Westley, who could hinder the projects of the Johnson Group.

Although Gabrielle had told Estelle that Benny could also do so, she felt that he wouldn't just stand in the way for the sake of Sloane. Gabrielle decided to stop assuming and called Westley.

When she called him at first, he didn't answer the phone but after a while, he picked up the call. "What's the matter? Didn't you have a good meal with your dear cousin?" Westley said with a sneer.

His malicious voice made her feel very uncomfortable.

"I met Estelle some minutes ago, Westley," Gabrielle said calmly.

"Really? Do you need to share the encounter you had with me?" Westley already knew why Gabrielle called him to tell him about Estelle.

When Sloane and Gabrielle were severely beaten by Estelle's friends, he had deliberately asked someone to mess with one or two projects of the Johnson Group to teach Estelle a bitter lesson. Besides, Sloane was still in a coma. All he was trying to do was to keep both Estelle and the Johnson family occupied with other matters.

However, after he was done with his arrangements, he found out that someone else was also planning the same thing. He asked Alvin to find out who it was and they discovered that it was Benny.

'What does Benny mean by doing all this now? Is he feeling guilty because of what happened to Sloane? He is probably going this so that he could make up for what Estelle and her friends did to his sister,' Westley thought.

But as far as Westley was concerned, it was Benny's business and whatever he did had nothing to do with Westley and

for this reason, he wouldn't let Gabrielle know. But right now, he didn't expect that she would meet Estelle.

"I just want you to be sincere with me. Are you the one who got the Johnson family into trouble?" Gabrielle asked straightforwardly.

"Well, honestly speaking, I made some arrangements. But whatever issues they're facing is not all because of what I did. What I did was just because of you, but someone else was also behind the scenes doing something for Sloane. Do you understand?" Westley said in a relaxed tone.

Gabrielle was smart enough to understand what he said. 'This means I nailed it, didn't I? Benny also has a part to play in this, ' she thought with a smile.

"This means that I should thank you for all you have done for me. I'm very grateful." Although Gabrielle expressed her gratitude to him, it was not sincere at all.

"You know that I don't want verbal gratitude, Gabrielle. What I want is your action," Westley said to her. He was

indirectly making a request. 3

"My action? Do you want me to invite you to dinner?" she asked. This was the only thing that Gabrielle could think of right now. 1

By the way, it was as if there was no other way for them to properly thank each other.

"Come on, you should know that there are so many people who want to invite me to dinner. You are good at cooking, aren't you? You can cook for me tonight," Westley demanded.

Right now, Gabrielle was in a dilemma. "Are you sure you want me to cook for you, Westley?"

"Why not? Or are you trying to poison me?" he asked bluntly.

Gabrielle took a deep breath when she heard his question. "I won't be so blind and stupid to do that. Besides, I don't want to go to jail yet. I'm just asking because I'm afraid that you won't be able to eat the food I cook."

Westley had been living an extravagant life ever since he was a child and there

were always delicacies on his table. The dishes she cooked were just to fill the stomach and she felt that Westley would refuse whatever she cooked.

"Well, I wouldn't know until you've cooked it. Just cook for me tonight. I'll be expecting. Bye."

It was obvious that he was in a much better mood than before.

"Wait a minute. Before you hang up, I want to ask you for a favor. Can you please help me find out who the other person is? I just want to know."

Right now, she was as curious as a cat. She wanted to know if her guess was right. She wanted to know if it was Benny, who had also messed up with the projects of the Johnson family.

'If Benny is the one who did it, what point is he trying to prove? Sloane is still in a coma and it would be very useless even if he destroyed the Johnson family,' Gabrielle thought to herself.

"Why do you think I'll want to do that? Why should I investigate that just for your curiosity? Is that how you think of me, Gabrielle?"

Westley said as he raised his voice and pretended to be angry.

"Okay. What if I make you another meal?" she asked tentatively.

"Humph... Well, I can tell you who the other person is if you make me dinner for a week," he requested.

'Cook dinner for him for a week?' she thought wide-eyed.

All of a sudden, Gabrielle's face darkened. 'When did Westley develop such a thick skin?' she wondered.

"If you don't agree, then just forget about it." When Westley saw that his wife was hesitating to give him a reply, he quickly gave her an ultimatum.

"Okay, fine. I agree. I'm just afraid that the food I'll cook will not be up to your taste." She had to say yes to him and also wished in her heart that she could bite him to pieces at that moment.

"I've told you before to let Sophie teach you if you can't cook. You get along well with her, don't you?"

As he said this, he couldn't help but feel

a little jealous. He felt that everyone who had met Gabrielle liked her very much. 'What is so charming about her for heaven's sake?' he wondered. ②

"All right. But are we going back to Half Moon Bay today?"

she asked him in a low voice.

She and Sophie used to live together in Half Moon Bay. But now that they were back to Antawood, she didn't know if she should go back to the Vineyard Villa or not.

"It's up to you, Gabrielle," he said indifferently.

"To be sincere, I want to live in Half Moon Bay, but if you don't want to, I can go back to the Vineyard Villa." Gabrielle kindly spoke with him.

After she had lived in Half Moon Bay for some time, she liked the place. Moreover, she had a sense of achievement after she and Sophie rearranged the deserted garden.

And now, since she had stayed with Miley for some time in the countryside, she was more confident about building

the place into a very beautiful garden.

"I already said it's up to you, Gabrielle. You can live wherever you want." Westley still didn't understand why she couldn't live in the Vineyard Villa where she had everything at her beck and call. She chose to live in Half Moon Bay, which was a very desolate place. Well, he would allow her to do whatever she wanted as long as she enjoyed it. ①

"Okay, then. You'll go to Half Moon Bay tonight and I'll make dinner for you. For now, I'm going to accompany Mom to buy a birthday gift for Grandpa. I'll go back early once I'm done with that." Immediately she was done speaking, she took a deep breath, and felt very happy.

When Westley heard her breathe deeply over the phone, he felt funny. He didn't know why it had to be Half Moon Bay, but he was okay with whatever she wanted. ①

"All right, then. Make sure you prepare the dinner well. Bye." When he finished speaking, he hung up the phone.

After that, Westley raised the corners of his mouth in a smile and asked Alvin to come in.

"Mr. Morris, what's the matter?" Alvin asked as soon as he walked into the office. He saw a faint smile on Westley's face and knew that his boss was happy. 'Maybe something good happened to him,' he thought with an imperceptible shake of the head.

"Cancel all the social engagements for tonight," 1

Westley said bluntly without batting an eyelid.

"Ah, but Mr. Morris, you just came back. I have already booked an appointment with..."

"Are you the boss or I'm the boss? Oh, you're trying to say that my words don't matter anymore, right? Just pretend that I didn't come back today," Westley said as he gave Alvin a sharp look. 1

This made him scared and he quickly agreed to what Westley said. "You are the boss. Can I ask what you want to do tonight? So that I can make another arrangement."

"Don't worry about it. I can deal with it on my own. By the way, don't make any

plans in the evenings of next week. All the meetings should be scheduled during the daytime. If any social engagements cannot be postponed, you can deal with them on my behalf," he said calmly.

'My boss is about to lose his temper. What else can I say in refutation?' Alvin wondered.

But how would he not attend any social engagements for a full week? Alvin knew that this was not Westley's way of doing things. Under normal circumstances, he always had a full schedule of work and was either working overtime or busy socializing at night.

'How come he has changed all of a sudden?

Is he now addicted to the regimen instead of being a workaholic?' Alvin pondered deeply. 2

"Do you understand what I just said?" Westley asked when he saw that Alvin was looking at him in disbelief as if he was a monster. This made Westley a little unhappy.

"I understand. I'll arrange everything right away," Alvin muttered and decided

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not to waste more time about it. He left Westley's office quickly.



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