Chapter Three

Scene: Estate Grounds. Man-made lake bridge. Day.

I take in the magnificent view of the man-made lake as we cross the bridge built over it.

(It’s breathtaking…)

Zachary

“This lake was made after the completion of the main mansion fifty years ago.”

Zachary walks by my side.

Zachary

“It is a symbol of the great Seymour patriarch’s undying love for his wife.”

MC

“You sure know a lot about the history of our family.”

Zachary

“We had to learn about it during our time in Butler School.”

Zachary

“Just like you have to learn a lot of protocols to become a full-fledge Lady of the Seymour Family.”

(This whole becoming a Lady thing sure sounds like something not be taken lightly.)

(I wonder what will training be like?)

Zachary

“You see, my lady, as a Seymour you are expected to act a certain way.”

Zachary

“Learning about etiquette and social graces is what separates you from being a commoner.”

Zachary

“There’s been a long-standing tradition of Seymour women who had undergone protocol training before they are presented to society.”

Zachary

“And we, your butlers, will be the ones to evaluate you if you are ready.”

**Choice: What do I say**

1. *“I never imagined becoming a Lady can be so complicated.”*
2. *“In that case, I will do my best.”*

**1.**

MC

“I never imagined becoming a lady can be so complicated.”

Zachary

“With perseverance and a strong will, I am certain you will succeed.”

MC

“I appreciate you believing in me. Thanks, Zachary.”

Recombine with main dialogue

**2.**

MC

“In that case, I will do my best.”

Zachary

“That’s the spirit, my lady. I’m sure you’ll be doing a phenomenal job.”

MC

“I sure hope so. Thank you, Zachary.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**BACK TO MAIN DIALOGUE**

(Zachary seems to be a really nice guy.)

(But he’s such a stickler for rules.)

(Still, I am in love with his British accent.)

(It’s so sexy.)

(I wonder if he’s still single.)

**Premium Choice: What do I do?**

1. *Ask him if he’s still single.*
2. *Forget it. Just ask something else.*

**1.**

MC

“Just out of curiosity, are you still single?”

Zachary becomes utterly flustered and starts to look nervously about as if he wanted to avoid the question.

(Nice going, [namae].)

(Scare away the British guy.)

MC

“Relax, Zachary. You’re not on trial for murder here.”

Zachary

“Oh, uhm…”

Zachary

“Well, yes, I am still single, my lady.”

MC

“I see. I was just trying to get to know you more.”

MC

“Anyway, how does a British guy like you become a butler for a billionaire family?”

Zachary seems to return to normal.

Zachary

“I come from a long line of butlers and my forebears have been serving the Seymours for generations.”

Zachary

“I was born in Cambridge. But I practically grew up here in the estate, where I started training as a butler at an early age.”

MC

“That’s intense.”

MC

“So you’ve practically been a butler your entire life.”

Zachary smiles proudly.

Zachary

“In a manner of speaking, yes. Being a butler has always been my dream. It’s what I do best. I believe it is my calling to serve.”

MC

“No wonder you’re really good at your job.”

MC

“But where is your family?”

Zachary

“My parents are spending their retirement in the Bahamas.”

Zachary

“I miss them actually. I haven’t seen them in 3 years since they moved there.”

(?!?)

MC

“But that’s terrible! Are you not allowed to visit them?”

Zachary

“Well, I’ve been saving my holiday leave so I could retire early.”

MC

“So you haven’t seen them even online?”

Zachary

“A line where?”

(?!?)

MC

“Online. Like on the internet?”

Zachary chuckles.

Zachary

“Oh, that. I’ve heard of that before. I’ve just never used it.”

(Is he for real?)

MC

“So you’ve never used the internet before?”

Zachary

“I’ve never worked with such technological advancements, nor would I know how to operate them.”

MC

“Zachary you live in a mansion, not a cave.”

Zachary

“Well, to be honest, I avoid them. I still prefer to send letters through the post service.”

MC

“Zachary, you don’t just use the internet to send letters these days. You can also use it to make a video call or use it for social media.”

Zachary

“I apologize, my lady, but those are foreign concepts to me.”

MC

“Remind me to make you an online profile one of these days.”

(He’s so innocent and old-fashioned.)

(It’s kind of adorable.)

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**2.**

(Forget it.)

(I don’t want him to think I’m interested in his love life.)

MC

“So, Zachary, how long have been working as a butler?”

Zachary

“I started serving as a butler at age 18, but I’ve been learning about it at a very young age. I practically grew up in this estate.”

MC

“Wow! Talk about dedication. No wonder you are so good at your job.”

Zachary smiles proudly.

Zachary

“Thank you, my lady.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**BACK TO MAIN DIALOGUE**

**Scene: South mansion dining hall. Day.**

When we reached the dining hall, I wasn’t expecting to arrive at a party in full swing.

A quartet is playing on one side of the hall.

Servants walk here and there, carrying trays of danishes and mini-quishes, offering mimosas and champagne.

Socialites and celebrities mingled as they are bombarded with flashes from photographers’ cameras.

(I wasn’t expecting brunch to be this extravagant!)

I turn to my butlers with a perplexed look on my face.

**Choice: What do I say?**

1. *You said you were taking me to brunch. Not a party!*
2. *Are we in the wrong room?*

**1.**

MC

“You said you were taking me to brunch. Not a party!”

Stefan

“Get used to it, Lady [namae]. Everything is a party around here.”

Recombine with main dialogue

**2.**

MC

“Are we in the wrong room?”

Bullet

“No, this is exactly where you need to be.”

MC

“When you said brunch, I was expecting something a bit more private and low-key.”

Bullet

“Casual meals at this estate are quite rare.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**BACK TO MAIN DIALOGUE**

I am distracted for a moment as I spot someone out of the corner of my eye.

(Oh, my god!)

(Is that Jaxon Maddox the rock star?)

(Why is there so many famous people here!)

(And why didn’t I bring my camera phone?)

MC

“Bullet, I need a phone. Can I borrow yours?”

Bullet gives Stefan a hesitant look.

Stefan

“I apologize. But as a Lady you are not permitted to carry or use a mobile phone.”

(?!?)

MC

“That’s absurd. Why would I be restricted to use a phone? What if I need to contact someone or what if my grandmother needs to contact me?”

Stefan

“All incoming communique are coursed through S Group’s communications department, which will then relay the messages to two of your butlers.”

Bullet

“Stefan and I have been issued these encrypted mobile phones. Zachary doesn’t have one because he’s not good with machinery.”

**Choice: What should I say?**

1. *“This is getting ridiculous.”*
2. *“What can I do? It’s the rules, right?”*

**1.**

MC

“This is getting ridiculous.”

MC

“You guys aren’t just making these rules up as you go, are you?”

Bullet

“Believe it or not, little miss, we’re not making this up. We’d be more than happy to furnish you with a copy of the manual for these rules.”

MC

“I’m good. Thanks.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**2.**

MC

“What can I do? It’s the rules, right?”

Stefan

“I can assure you that these rules have been put in place for your own security, Lady [namae].”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**BACK TO MAIN DIALOGUE**

(I guess being an heiress isn’t just about perks and privileges.)

(There are sacrifices to be made as well.)

Zachary

“Your table is ready, my lady.”

I am seated by myself on a table. Stefan and Bullet stand by my side as Zachary serves me the food.

I suddenly feel like an imposter. I didn’t know anyone at the party. I feel like I didn’t belong.

Suddenly one of the photographers announces someone’s arrival.

Photographer

“She’s here!”

The photographers make quite a commotion as they crowd over the newcomer and camera flashes fill the entrance to the dining hall.

Security personnel had to disperse the crowd to let the woman enter the dining area.

(Who is she?)

She sashays down the aisle, as a butler trails behind her.

Clad in an immaculate white outfit, the woman possesses a beauty that is unmatched even by the socialites I see on TV.

She stops at our table.

Stefan takes my hand, helping me to stand up.

Stefan

“Lady [namae], I would like you to meet your cousin, Lady Kendra.”

I didn’t know whether to curtsy or shake her hand so I went for a hug.

MC

“It’s nice to—”

Butler

“Oh, please stop!”

Her butler intercepts before I could even come near her.

Butler

“Keep your distance from the Mistress, please.”

(?!?)

MC

“I am…sorry?”

Zachary

“Lady Kendra, I would like to introduce you to your cousin by Master Errol, Lady [namae] Bennett Seymour.”

Kendra didn’t even give a hint of a smile.

Kendra

“Three butlers and yet no one thought to give her a crash course on social graces.”

Kendra

“What would the Chairman say?”

Kendra drops her purse and I instinctively bend down to pick it up.

The butler takes it from my hand and gives it back to Kendra.

Kendra

“You still got a lot to learn, [namae]. Just so you know, we do things a little different around here.”

(What did I do wrong?)

MC

“I’m sorry, I was just trying to help. And you don’t have blame my butlers.”

MC

“It’s just my second day here, we haven’t even begun with training.”

Kendra turns to Stefan.

Kendra

“Is this whom my grandfather is replacing me with? A ‘Commoner’?”

She looks at me with disdain.

Kendra

“You are not a baker’s granddaughter anymore, [namae].”

Kendra

“You are the granddaughter of a business mogul, a captain of the industry.”

Kendra

“We don’t bend over to pick things up from the floor. That’s what we have butlers for.”

She drops her purse again.

Kendra

“And when you do things you’re not supposed to, you are depriving them of the honor to do their job. Nigel.”

The butler, Nigel, picks up the purse and hands it back to Kendra.

Kendra

“Make no mistake, [namae] Bennett, I will not capitulate to a commoner like you. So you might as well quit now while you still can.”

Kendra

“Or I will make your life here a living hell.”

Kendra turns on her heel and storms off. Nigel follows closely behind as she left the dining hall.

Stefan walks off to the side, obviously pissed at what happened.

(I’ve never been this humiliated in my entire life!)

MC

“Zachary, what was she talking about me replacing her?”

Zachary

“I apologize, my lady. To tell you the truth, Kendra was supposed to succeed Master Brandon as head of the S Group.”

Zachary

“But now that you’re here, you are next in line for the position.”

MC

“And you didn’t think this is an important detail that I should know about? No wonder she’s furious at me.”

Zachary

“I don’t know what to say, my lady. I apologize.”

MC

“I want to get out of here. I just lost my appetite.”

Stefan

“But you can’t leave, my lady. It’s rude to the guests.”

MC

“But I don’t know any of these guests personally. They don’t even know me.”

Stefan

“Stay for an hour and then we leave.”

I shrug, and slump into a chair, annoyed.

I start to hatch a plan.

(I really want to get out of here. But with these three around, there’s simply no escape.)

(Maybe Bullet can help me.)

(He’s somewhat unorthodox in his manner of conducting himself as a butler.)

(He’s noticeably more lax when it comes to following rules unlike the other two.)

(But I could be wrong.)

Premium Choice: What should I do?

1. Bribe Bullet to help me.
2. Sneak out and ditch them.

1.

I try to catch Bullet’s attention discreetly so that the other two who are standing a few steps behind won’t notice.

Bullet comes forward and leans in closer.

Bullet

“Yes, little miss?”

MC

“I need you to get me out of here.”

Bullet

“I’m sorry, no can do. It’s against protocol. My hands are tied.”

MC

“What will it take to make you help me? I mean, I would bribe you if I had the money.”

MC

“But I just remembered that I don’t have cash on me.”

Bullet

“Well, actually, you do. Stefan and I are the custodians of your expense account.”

Bullet

“We can access it through our mobile phones.”

Bullet shows me his phone where he opens an app for my expense account.

Bullet

“You can purchase anything you want and send money to anyone.”

Bullet

“All we need is your thumbprint and it will be approved by S Group accounting department.”

Bullet

“But that doesn’t mean that I am going to help you break the rules.”

MC

“I’ll give you $1000 to get me out of here.”

Bullet

“Put your thumbprint right here. And we’re done.”

Bullet winks at me, and turns to Stefan and Zachary.

Bullet

“I’ll just escort the Lady to the powder room.”

**Scene: A tree-lined pathway encircling the man-made lake. Day.**

MC

“I can’t believe those two fell for that one.”

MC

“They must be looking for me in the powder room by now.”

Bullet chuckles.

Bullet

“You will have to forgive those two, little miss.”

Bullet

“All their life, they’ve lived by the rules, so they expect you to do the same.”

Bullet

“But don’t worry. They’ll come around soon enough.”

MC

“What about you, Bullet. Didn’t you live by the rules growing up? What’s your story?”

Bullet

“Oh, me? I’m fairly new to this butler gig. I was a right place, right time sort of thing when I met Master Brandon.”

Bullet

“I was a bellhop at this hotel he wanted to buy.”

Bullet

“I had the privilege of carrying his bag. I guess he saw something in me, a potential maybe, that he decided to offer me a job.”

MC

“Well, you are a pretty likable person and you are good with people. Maybe that’s what he saw in you.”

Bullet

“Maybe. But did you know I actually turned him down at first?”

Bullet

“And nobody says ‘no’ to the Chairman. So I think he was kind of impressed.”

MC

“I can imagine.”

Bullet

“So he countered with an offer I couldn’t refuse, and here we are. Aren’t I doing an excellent job?”

MC

“Yeah, you just took a bribe from your Lady to break a bunch of rules. I think you’re doing a fantastic job.”

We share a laugh.

It comes so easy, so natural, as though we’ve know each other for a long time.

Being with Bullet makes me feel light. Like this burden has been lifted off my shoulders.

MC

“But seriously, thank you.”

I give his arm a squeeze which feels hard under the touch of my hand, and for a fleeting second I wonder how his body look like underneath all that fabric.

Suddenly, our eyes meet.

It’s only now that I realized how beautiful his eyes are, and in that moment, I am mesmerized, lost in his gaze.

Bullet

“Careful, little miss. You might catch some feelings with the way you’re looking at me.”

Bullet

“And I’d like to keep things professional. I don’t want to lose my job.”

MC

“You are so full of yourself! You’re such a narcissist.”

I playfully punch him on the arm.

Bullet

“Oww! A lady never throws a punch.”

Bullet

“I was just teasing you, okay? I just want to keep things light as possible. I mean, I know how you must feel right now.”

Bullet

“Your whole world was turned upside down yesterday.”

Bullet

“You’ve come from taking over a bakery to being the future head of a multinational corporation. And now Kendra.”

Bullet

“That’s got to be jarring.”

MC

“Well, all this is driving me a little bit crazy, I’ll give you that.”

MC

“It’s a good thing I have these three handsome butlers at my constant beck and call to keep me from going insane.”

Bullet

“You’re right on the money with the handsome part. But us keeping you from going insane? Not so sure.”

**Scene: Main mansion. Day.**

We’re about to enter the elevator to my suite when Stefan and Zachary finally catch up with us.

Stefan

“Bullet!”

Stefan

“You deliberately deviated from protocol. She’s not supposed to leave brunch less than half an hour after arriving.”

Bullet

“I’m sorry, man. She really wanted to get outta there.”

Stefan

“It wasn’t your call to make.”

MC

“Stefan, calm down. Who made up these rules, anyway?”

MC

“Kendra was there in under 10 minutes. How come she gets to leave and I don’t?”

Zachary

“Because you are a lady-in-training. You have to learn and practice these things.”

MC

“So basically, you’re telling me that I can’t just do whatever I want because I’m not a full-fledged Lady?

MC

“What’s the point of being an heiress then?”

MC

“The way I see it, I am the boss of you three. So isn’t it my job to boss you around and not the other way around?”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**2.**

I decided to sneak my way out and ditch them, so I created a diversion by requesting a bunch of food from the buffet table.

I hightailed it out of there when the coast was clear.

It’s such a long schlep back to the main mansion. Thankfully, I didn’t get lost.

I am about to enter the elevator my suite when all three of my butlers finally catch up to me.

And they’re all pissed, except for Bullet who looks rather amused.

Zachary

“Not so fast, my lady.”

Stefan looks irritated.

Stefan

“You can’t just leave without informing us. And you can’t leave even if you inform us, either. It’s against protocol.”

Zachary

“May I remind you that you must be accompanied by at least one of your butlers at all times?”

Bullet is all smiles.

Bullet

“I’m sorry, little miss, but rules are rules.”

MC

“Well, what took you so long? I’ve been waiting for you guys.”

(It’s time to make these rules work against them.)

MC

“You’re supposed to keep an eye on me, right?”

MC

“So it’s not fault that you were to preoccupied to even notice that I’ve already left brunch.”

MC

“I wasn’t going to wait on you. That’s your job.”

**Recombine with main dialogue**

**BACK TO MAIN DIALOGUE**

Bullet

“Oh, she’s good.”

Stefan

“So you’re taking a page out of Kendra’s book? Good. You’re going to need it, if you want to win against her.”

I suddenly feel bad for treating them like that.

(This is not who I am.)

MC

“Look, I’m sorry, okay? But I really needed to get some air after what happened.”

MC

“I did not choose to be here. It’s only my second day and I’ve already made an enemy.”

Stefan

“Kendra has already made up her mind about you even before the two of you met face to face.”

Stefan

“She doesn’t like the competition. She doesn’t like losing, especially.”

Zachary

“And she pretty much knows that she’s already lost. The only way she can change that is by forcing you to quit.”

MC

“Well, I’m not going to quit. I’m doing this for my grandmother.”

Stefan

“I think what we need here is a truce. We have to start respecting each other and working together as a team.”

Bullet

“I think we can all agree that we don’t want to disappoint the Chairman as well?”

MC

“That’s right. I made a promise to my grandfather and I intend to keep that promise.”

Zachary

“We have one goal, and that is for you to become a lady.”

MC

“You are right, Zachary. From now on, I’ll try to be mindful of my actions. After all, my failure will reflect poorly on you as my mentors. And I don’t want that.”

(I want to get this right. I have to prove myself, not just to my grandfather, but to these guys as well.)

Bullet

“Thank you, little miss. Well, now that we’ve reached an understanding. I think this calls for celebratory drinks at the suite?”

MC

“Sounds good to me.”

**Scene: MC’s suite. Day.**

As the elevator doors to my suite parted, a wave of shock washes over me as I take in the horrible surprise that is waiting for us.

*Read more to find out!*