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Chapter 341 Ronan Had Changed

I felt even more upset as I listened to the sad, depressing love songs. Since when did Ronan listen to those songs too? A man like him should listen to more catchy songs.

Ronan had changed a lot. He started to feel like a stranger to me.

Moreover, that was not a good thing to see.

Ronan's expression turned a little awkward as soon as he sensed the change in atmosphere. He turned off the music immediately.

I turned around to look at him with a serious expression. "Ronan, I hope that you're still the same as in the past. I don't like the way you're behaving right now."

I liked Ronan better back when he was carefree. Although he was more steady and mature now, he did not look as cheerful as before.

Caught by surprise, Ronan froze momentarily before turning around to look at me. His eyes were brimming with complicated emotions.

After some time, Ronan asked frankly, "Anna, will you fall in love with me if Michael doesn't exist?"

He slowed down his car as he waited for my response.

In fact, he had asked me the same question back then. However, I managed to avoid answering him. I had never thought that he was still curious about the answer.

Ronan was a good man. I enjoyed having him around because he could make me feel younger and happier. Although he looked like an irresponsible man, he was wise and rational. Otherwise, he would not be able to manage such a grand hospital on his own.

In fact, if Michael was not here, I might really be attracted by Ronan. I liked his young and lively aura, and I was relaxed when I was with him. When he was around, I would forget about the hustles of life.

Ronan and I looked at each other for a moment without saying anything. Finally, I gave him the answer he wished to hear. "If Michael doesn't exist, I might fall for you."

I was serious about my response. Perhaps, that's also a way to make him give up on me.

Ronan did not expect me to say that. He froze with his eyes widened, not gaining his senses for some time.

A moment later, a smile appeared on his handsome-looking face. But then, I also noticed the tears in his eyes.

Although he managed to stop his tears from falling, his eyes turned red at that moment.

I stared at his eyes for a long time. I could not bring myself to see how sad he was, so I really wished that he could fall in love with someone else right then. Perhaps in that way, he would stop feeling so heartbroken.

"Don't worry. I won't cling to you after hearing your answer. I treat you as a friend and nothing more. I'll make sure not to trouble you by protecting you silently." Ronan shifted his attention back onto the car as if nothing had happened.

I got even more upset upon hearing that. Ronan says that he'll protect me silently, but I'll never get to return anything to him.

I glanced at his face quietly, feeling overwhelmed with mixed feelings.

Just as we arrived at Michael's mansion, I received a call from Michael. He had called me because he could not find me at home.

Michael was very attached to me recently. He could almost tell my whereabouts throughout the day.

I told Michael that I had gone to the hospital for a checkup in the call. After informing him that I was almost home, he finally relaxed. Not long after, we arrived at the entrance of the mansion.

As soon as Ronan stopped his car, I saw Michael in front of the house. He was wearing a black suit, which made him look even taller.

He strode over and pulled the front passenger door open for me. Then, he gave me a hand to support me as I got out of the car.

"Why didn't you inform me of your schedule earlier? You're now pregnant, but you still don't know how to take good care of yourself!" Michael said with a reprimanding tone. Although he was angry, I could sense the concern in his words.

However, he had been ignoring Ronan throughout the process. Meanwhile, Ronan's expression had turned grim. "Why are you so worried? Didn't you see that Ronan had sent me home personally? That's his hospital. He'll treat me like a VIP there, so there's nothing to be worried about."

Although Michael and Ronan had very different personalities, they had a close relationship. However, the atmosphere between them had changed recently, and I felt that I might be the reason.

Michael glanced at Ronan upon hearing that. A complicated look flashed across his dark eyes. A moment later, he said calmly, "You're my wife. Although Ronan is my cousin, don't you think it's rather inappropriate for him to accompany you during your pregnancy checkup?"

I could not discern any emotions from his voice, but I understood the intention in his words.

Of course, Ronan understood what he was trying to say too. I turned to look at Ronan with an unnatural expression. How can Michael say something like that in front of Ronan?

"Michael, you've misunderstood. I bumped into Ronan earlier."

It was evident Michael was targeting Ronan. I felt a little angry upon hearing what he said. After all, I was already feeling guilty toward Ronan.

Michael was unhappy because I had defended Ronan. He shot me a glance as a hint of anger appeared in his eyes. However, he did not say anything in return. His grip on my hand tightened.

"Well. It's getting late. We should go back and rest." Then, he turned around and walked into the mansion while grabbing my hand.

Ronan had remained silent all along. However, I could tell he was displeased by looking at his furrowed brows.

Suddenly, Michael stopped in his track and said, "By the way, you should join us for dinner, Ronan."

I was surprised by that, as I thought he would ignore Ronan.

"Sure," Ronan answered after a moment of silence.

I sat beside Michael around the dining table while Ronan sat opposite him. The housekeeper started to prepare a lot of scrumptious and nutritious food since I was pregnant. Michael had been feeding me well throughout the period.

The atmosphere in the dining room was a little strange. For some reason, I felt a little uncomfortable.

I lowered my head and ate silently. Suddenly, Ronan picked up a piece of meat and put it on my plate.

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My heart dropped as I looked at Ronan in shock. Is he trying to serve me food in front of Michael? Isn't he aware that I'm Michael's wife now?

"Have some ribs. You're too skinny for a pregnant woman." However, Michael smiled as he dropped a slice of meat on my plate before Ronan managed to do so.

Ronan's hand froze. Then, he put that piece of meat back on his plate. He must be upset to see that.

Suddenly, I realized that Michael did that on purpose. It seemed like he was bothered by the fact that Ronan had sent me home.

I glanced at Ronan and Michael without saying anything. Then, I continued eating my food.

The atmosphere was tense throughout the dinner. As soon as Ronan finished his food, he found an excuse and left. He knew that Michael was trying to assert dominance in front of him.

Michael sat down on the couch with a satisfied smirk after Ronan left. I got a little furious upon seeing his expression.

"Why did you do that during the dinner?" I asked him with a glare. I was aware that I had hurt Ronan. Therefore, I got even more displeased upon seeing how Michael targeted him.

"I want to show him that you're my woman so that he won't get confused." Michael snorted as his face darkened.

"Isn't it obvious that I'm with you? Do you think Ronan doesn't know that?" I looked at Michael helplessly. Although I was not pleased to see him do that, I was not mad at him. I knew he cared about me. Otherwise, he would never have acted so childishly.

"Are you feeling sad because of him?" After a brief moment of silence, Michael turned and glared at me, sounding interrogative as he said that.

"No. I just think that you might ruin the relationship between both of you." I was at a loss for words. Since when did I ever feel sad because of Ronan? I just don't want to be the reason that destroys their relationship.

"No one is more important than you." Michael's expression softened upon hearing that. However, there was still a hint of dissatisfaction in his eyes.

I stared at him, feeling moved. Michael would often say something that moved me after we were together. I was rather happy to hear that, as he was never a sweet-talker.

I flashed a smile in response. My foul mood earlier lightened up several notches upon hearing Michael's words.

"How was the check-up today? Is the baby okay?" Michael shifted his gaze onto my belly.

I was already almost three months pregnant, and my baby bump became more visible than before. I could not help but feel excited as I thought of meeting my baby soon. "Everything's good. The baby's growing well."

"Go take a bath now. We haven't been doing that in a while. We should relax ourselves today."

I thought Michael was going to ask more about the baby. However, he had changed the topic fast, and his words had rendered me speechless.

I was stunned for a moment. As soon as I regained my senses, I finally realized what Michael was trying to say. Is that the only thing in his mind?

"Although the baby is healthy, I should still avoid intense activities. So, I think we should control ourselves until the baby is born." I forced a smile.

Although I did not hate making out with Michael, I was worried that we might injure the baby during the process.

"I remember the doctor said that we're allowed to do that when the pregnancy is between three to six months. That means the baby will be fine, right? These three months are going to be precious. We shouldn't waste them." Michael did not take my words seriously. The corners of his lips curled into a seductive smile as he walked toward me.

My heart tightened as I saw him approach. I knew what he was going to do. Oh my God! He's acting up again.

"S-Stay away from me. We really can't do that tonight." I looked at Michael warily.

However, he continued to ignore everything I said. The next second, he grabbed my wrist and pulled me into his arms.

My heart dropped as I smelled the faint scent of cologne that lingered in his chest. It was clean and refreshing.

"You can't say no. You're my wife, so you should satisfy my desires. Do you really want to sit and watch me suffer?" Michael leaned closer to whisper.

His low and sexy voice sounded in my ears. It was so seductive that I felt a tickle. I could not express what I was feeling right then.

"Didn't we just do that two days ago?" I looked at him reluctantly. How is his sex drive so high? It has only been two days!

"How about we leave that in the past and focus on what we should be doing tonight?" Michael smirked before pinning me onto the bed. His buff, solid body pressed above mine, and I could not even struggle. However, he tried to avoid his stomach from my belly since he was afraid to harm the baby too.

I knew he would never give up until he got what he wanted tonight.

Feeling helpless, I let out a sigh. Before knowing Michael, I thought he was a decent man who showed no interest in sex. However, I knew that he was nothing like that after we were together.

"Hurry up." I had to admit that I enjoyed doing that with him. However, I would always feel exhausted the next day. Therefore, I was worried that it might affect my baby.

"Are you that eager?" Michael sneered as he said that with a teasing tone. A hint of satisfaction flashed across his eyes.

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I felt speechless as I stared at him. Wow, what a narcissistic man. I don't think I was praising him, though. I'm also helpless with his long-lasting duration.

"Feel free to think this way."

Twitching my lips, I wanted to deny it initially. However, when Michael's personality crossed my mind, I knew he would give me a taste of it should I deny him. After some inner struggle, I decided not to refute.

"Okay, I'll try," Michael said next to my ears in a seductive voice.

Then, he lifted my dress with his large hand.

Feeling shy, I turned my head aside because my heart would beat uncontrollably quickly each time I faced Michael's intense gaze. Despite having been together with Michael for such a long time, I still felt shy every time. I had no idea what happened to my past thick-skinned self.

It was another night of passion. Although Michael promised verbally to end it quickly, there wasn't much difference compared to before. I suspected that he had just been appeasing me.

Feeling contented when it ended, Michael hugged me in his arms while caressing my face. While I enjoyed the pleasure earlier, I still glared at him in annoyance.

"Didn't you say you will end quickly? Why did it still take such a long time?" I looked at Michael miserably and full of dissatisfaction. I wouldn't believe any word said by him from now onward.

"The feeling is tremendously incredible when we're having sex. How would I be willing to end our experience promptly? I even wanted it to be longer."

Michael removed a few strands of hair from my forehead as he looked at me with his eyes full of affection, but the things he said were brazen.

"Michael, can you be less shameless? You did not keep your word!" I scowled at Michael while pretending to be angry and ignored him. His face was thicker than the wall.

"Unfortunately, no. If you want to, we can do it once more. Anyhow, I feel that I'm full of energy. Maybe I can last longer compared to earlier."

With a teasing look, he fixed his gaze on my breasts. His eyes were burning with desire yet again.

I didn't know if Michael was then joking or if he was serious. Panicked by his words, I immediately pulled up the blanket and wrapped my body tightly with it. Once was enough, but he wanted a second time. I wouldn't let him get his way. Moreover, I was exhausted.

Seeing my response, Michael did not continue forcing me. He hugged me and closed his eyes. I felt relieved and fell asleep soon enough.

My relationship with Michael had been relatively stable all this while. I felt like I was the world's happiest woman to be pampered by him.

I had no idea how Michael managed to cause Emma a five year jail sentence. She was the daughter of the Jones family. So, her outcome as a criminal was totally out of my expectations. Furthermore, the Jones family's company reputation got tarnished due to Emma's jail sentence, and soon after, they declared bankruptcy. Michael made all these happen. Once Michael intervened, the opposite party would have no chance of overturning the situation.

I felt lucky yet terrified at the same time by his capabilities. The reason was due to knowing that the Michael that I knew was only on the surface. There were still loads of areas that I did not understand about him.

Sometimes, I would also be frightened by his mercilessness toward his rivals.

The days passed by, and my stomach grew gradually larger. Finally, we were holding our wedding ceremony once again. Learning from the previous experience, he came to pick me up personally. There were also bodyguards everywhere at the wedding venue so that no accidents would happen.

My pregnancy bump was then noticeable, and although it affected the beauty of wearing the wedding dress, I did not mind any of that. What I cared about was, from that day onward, everyone would know that I was Michael's wife.

Both of us had not only gotten our marriage certificate, but we were also husband and wife by law who were carrying out our wedding ceremony.

The moment Michael and I exchanged rings, I felt like he had bound me to him, and it was not only me as a person but also my heart.

Michael's slim body looked even taller and suaver in the white coat he wore. Moreover, the faint smile never left his handsome face. I was the only person in his eyes since we met.

Michael sent someone to bring my parents to our wedding. They had always been indifferent toward me unless it was related to Steven. As long as I was not doing anything against Steven, they would still show me some care.

As my parents witnessed my marriage, Mom's face held a smile of blessing. On the other hand, Josephine had always disapproved of Michael's relationship with me. However, since we had taken our marriage certificate, it was pointless for her to object anymore. Hence, she could only choose to attend the wedding. Otherwise, no one could imagine what kind of rumors and gossip the public might spread.

After exchanging our rings, the emcee requested us to kiss affectionately. I looked at Michael's attractive face. Even though we had kissed countless times, I still felt awkward to kiss in front of a crowd.

I stared at Michael's handsome face as he walked and stood in front of me. Looking into my eyes, he said with an earnest expression on his face, "I told you that we will be having a wedding ceremony, and I made it happen."

My heart fluttered. I knew how much effort he had put in for our wedding. While I did not mention it, it did not mean that I was oblivious to everything and anything. The pressure he had to bear was far more than me.

"My greatest happiness in this lifetime is to be able to get married to you. I have no other wish but to be with you forever." My eyes bore into his as I uttered my deepest and most sincere thought one word at a time. I was not melodramatic because my only genuine hope was to be with him as we grew old together and lived happily with our children.

"We will."

Something in his eyes flickered when he heard what I said. Although he only gave me a two-word reply, it was as if he had made a solemn promise to me.

With his definite answer, my heart skipped a beat. At that moment, my heart was filled with blissfulness. Being with the man who loved me with all his heart was the happiest thing that had happened to me that lifetime.

Staring into his eyes, I remained silent. I knew I could trust his words.

The next second, Michael lifted my face and kissed me tenderly. I closed my eyes to enjoy his kiss at our wedding. When I reminisced about this many years later, I hoped it would still be lovely and memorable.

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The kiss lasted for an extended amount of time. Michael opened his eyes and released me when a round of applause thundered from the audience.

We were the male and female lead of our wedding, and everyone was staring at us. Being under the spotlight then made me feel slightly awkward.

When the ceremony ended, we went to toast with our guests. Most of them were Michael's business partners. The Shaw family had hardly any relatives. However, they were all from the upper-class society.

Among the relatives were Ronan and Elisabeth. Ronan's gaze did not leave my face when I was at their table. I expected that he wouldn't feel comfortable when he saw Michael and I enter the wedding hall, but nothing would change now. Moreover, I knew Michael was my fate.

"Aunt Elisabeth, may I offer you a toast?" Michael walked to Elisabeth's side while his gaze glanced toward Ronan seemingly unintentionally. Then, he raised his wine glass, and they clinked their glasses. "I'm so delighted to be able to attend your wedding finally. I wish you a happy marriage and forever blissfulness." Elisabeth did not notice the unusual vibe among us. She was full of smiles and congratulated us genuinely.

"Thank you, Aunt Elisabeth."

After receiving Elisabeth's blessing, Michael grinned and downed his wine while I could only drink juice as a replacement since I was pregnant.

"Ronan, it's Michael's wedding today. Why are you still sitting down and not giving him your blessings?" Elisabeth frowned and reminded Ronan when she saw that he remained seated.

Hearing what Elisabeth said, I looked at Ronan and saw the loneliness in his eyes as he stared right into mine. He did not utter a single word which made the situation awkward.

"Ronan, what's going on. I'm talking to you." Feeling slightly unhappy with his attitude, Elisabeth nudged and prompted him again.

"Aunt Elisabeth, Ronan doesn't seem to be in a good mood today. Don't worry about the blessings. He is probably feeling upset seeing me getting married already. Once you get home today, you'd need to make some arrangements for him since he's not young anymore." Michael spoke to save Elisabeth from the embarrassment.

Although what he said sounded as if he was trying to ease the tension, I felt that his purpose was to get Elisabeth to arrange blind dates for Ronan.

Is he still angry about my relationship with Ronan?

I glanced at Michael and noticed that he was arching his eyebrows as he looked at me. His intention was apparent. He did not want me to take an extra look at Ronan.

Even though the atmosphere got slightly awkward, I couldn't help but feel amused. It seems that Michael would also feel jealous.

"You're right. It seems like I need to think about this matter."

Elisabeth had not noticed anything abnormal. When she heard Michael's suggestion, it was as if she got enlightened and responded immediately.

Hearing Elisabeth's response, Michael lifted his lips into a smirk then glanced at Ronan. I knew Michael's purpose was to divert Ronan's attention from putting his heart and mind on me.

"I don't need any blind dating. The girl I like is now married to another guy. So, you don't need to carry out this useless stuff."

Michael knew Ronan liked me, but he purposedly mentioned blind dating to Elisabeth. Moreover, Michael was a petty man who was very possessive, and Ronan had known him since they were young. So, he would be clearer than me about Michael's purpose in doing so.

Ronan stood up abruptly. The things he said stunned everyone attending the wedding. I felt worried as Ronan was looking at me. Based on his brash personality, would he announce that I'm the person he likes at Michael and my wedding?

As I looked back at him nervously, I wanted to remind him badly that it was Michael and my wedding at that instant. I knew that my mindset was selfish, but I would still choose to be with Michael even if it meant hurting Ronan.

Moreover, Michael's face had darkened, and I could tell that anger was blazing in his eyes. If Ronan divulged that he liked me at my wedding with Michael, he would definitely lose his temper.

"Ronan, what nonsense is this? Why haven't I heard about this from you? There's a girl that you like?"

Elisabeth sensed that something wasn't right with the situation. Hence, her face fell.

Ronan ignored Elisabeth and continued to fix his gaze on me. Feeling guilty, I looked down. My heart was pounding against my chest rapidly as I did not know how to face him.

His mother was a smart woman. When she saw Ronan's gaze not leaving mine, she came to a sudden realization. After looking at me with a complicated look, she turned to Ronan.

"Ronan, this is Michael's wedding. You can't mess around here when you're drunk," Elisabeth warned Ronan. By then, her gaze was flashing with anger.

Ronan turned to look at Elisabeth, then strode off after giving me another glance.

"Ronan..." Elisabeth shouted his name, but he stormed off without stopping or turning his head back.

I knew he would be in a foul mood. However, I felt relaxed as soon as he left.

"Michael, don't be angry. Ronan drank a little too much. I apologize on his behalf."

She masked her emotion well and filled her face with smiles once again. However, this time, it was more of a forceful smile.

"Don't worry. I'm well aware of Ronan's temper. So, I won't be mad at him. Aunt Elisabeth, enjoy your meal slowly. I'll go and toast with other guests." Michael simply smiled as he knew very well the reason Ronan left.

After that, I accompanied Michael to toast with the other guests for a long time before having the opportunity to rest. Hence, I headed straight to the dressing room after that, feeling exhausted.

My legs were all weak and shaky as I was pregnant, yet I needed to toast with the large number of guests who attended the wedding.

After the make-up artist touched up my make-up, she left for a while because I had to change my dress. I was left all alone in the dressing room.

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Looking in the mirror, I was wearing a white wedding dress and exquisite makeup at the moment. Having my wedding with Michael on that day was still pretty surreal for me.

While I was immersing myself in blissfulness, someone knocked on the dressing room door.

"Come in!" I shouted toward the door in response. Due to the vast number of guests participating in my wedding, I had no idea who that person was.

A few seconds later, a middle-aged woman came into sight. It was Ronan's mother, Elisabeth.

Before my wedding with Michael, I had never met Elisabeth. Sure enough, that day was the first time I met her. Her elegant attire was a sure sign that she was from the upper echelon.

Nevertheless, that was not my matter of concern. What I cared about was why Elisabeth had to appear before me all of a sudden. Based on my intuition, it must be related to Ronan.

"What brings you here, Aunt Elisabeth?" Since I was already married to Michael, I called her Aunt Elisabeth as Michael did earlier as an act of courtesy, regardless of her reason for coming to me.

"I was bored out there, so I decided to have a chat with you. I hope I'm not disturbing you, Anna." Elisabeth walked toward me while uttering those words. Even though she looked cordial on the surface, I knew she must have a specific thing she wanted to talk about with me.

"What are you saying, Aunt Elisabeth? You're my aunt now! If anything, I'm happy that you're here to visit me. Please, have a seat." Despite feeling anxious in my heart, I still demonstrated politeness toward Elisabeth. After all, not only did I already start calling her Aunt Elisabeth, but she was also Ronan's mother.

Upon hearing my words, Elisabeth threw me a smile and sat on the couch opposite me while scrutinizing me.

In all honesty, I was not too fond of her looking at me in such a manner, but I could not say anything in response. Therefore, the only thing I did was lower my head slightly to avoid her gaze.

"You and Ronan know each other. Am I right, Anna? I noticed him staring at you earlier." Elisabeth took the initiative to break the momentary silence. Although I had speculated that she came to see me because of Ronan, her words still caused my heart to churn. The last thing I wanted was for any unpleasant surprises to happen again on my wedding day.

"Yeah. We met a few months ago. We're friends." I had to state the relationship between Ronan and me to Elisabeth clearly to prevent misunderstandings from happening. Having a relationship other than being ordinary friends was utterly impossible with Ronan.

"Friends? Are you both merely friends?" It seemed like Elisabeth had expected me to give such an answer as she had a calm countenance instead of being surprised. That reply she gave was to test me without question.

I could discern what she was indicating as I was not a fool. Anyhow, I still had to give her a serious answer, even though I was unhappy with her suspicion.

"Apart from being friends, he should be my relative since I'm married to Michael," I answered Elisabeth while flashing her a faint smile. There was nothing for me to be guilty about as I knew she was only there to see me because of Ronan's reaction earlier.

"Hmm, but why do I feel like Ronan has a peculiar affection toward you? Can you tell me what type of friendship you have with him, Anna?" Elisabeth looked courteous to the casual eye, but as before, I knew she was testing me.

Being suspected was an awful feeling. More significantly, it was my wedding day with Michael. I thought the subject of every conversation should only go back and forth between Michael and myself, not other unrelated persons.

"Today is my wedding day with Michael, Aunt Elisabeth. Besides, we're madly in love with each other, as you may have noticed. You will give us your blessing sincerely, right?" I tried my best to smile at Elisabeth while looking into her eyes. If she were not Ronan's mother, I would not have been patient for so long. Still, that did not mean I could continue to bear with her constant testing. Albeit recognizing that I was responsible for Ronan's current state, I had already made things unambiguous to him a while back. It was his problem that he could not recover from his broken heart. Regardless of what others might say, I did not think it was my fault at all. One must realize that love is selfish.

As an astute woman, Elisabeth must have detected the anger in my tone. She stiffened her face for a moment before putting on a smile straight away.

"Of course. For me, Michael is like my son. My only wish is for him to have a blissful life during his marriage. I also recognize that you're both genuinely in love with each other. I hope both of you will live happily ever after." Those polite remarks from Elisabeth were pretty brilliant. I did feel a hint of hostility from her tone, but she was acting mannerly on the outside. It would be improper to say something disrespectful to an elder too.

"Thank you for your blessing, Aunt Elisabeth. I'm confident that being together with Michael will bring me nothing but joy," I responded to her amicably and curled my lips into a smile.

Given that I had already produced an unequivocal explanation, it was up to Elisabeth herself to determine the legitimacy of my words.

In response, Elisabeth gazed at my face as though she was trying to figure something out. Consequently, I furrowed my brows as I was not used to being looked at in such a manner. Nonetheless, I refrained from saying anything.

The second she was about to make an utterance, the dressing room door opened. To my delight, it was the charming Michael. His eyes flickered when he saw Elisabeth.

"Why are you here, Aunt Elisabeth?" Michael promptly concealed his true expression from his face and strode toward us while putting on a half-smile.

"I'm here to see your bride. Since I've never met her before, this is the perfect opportunity to get to know her." Once again, Elisabeth spoke civilly. I felt a little speechless by her response because I knew her purpose for seeing me very well.

"What do you think about my bride then, Aunt Elisabeth? Isn't she beautiful?" replied Michael.

He had probably comprehended the reason for Elisabeth's appearance as he was an intelligent man.

"She is, Michael. You have keen eyes indeed." Elisabeth shot me a glance before answering Michael.

"Ronan might bring a gorgeous-looking daughter-in-law to meet you in the future as well."