Chapter 151 The Return of the King

At the sound of applause, Cody stoop up with a warm smile that put everyone at ease. "Thank you! Thank you for your support!"

He waved his hand, indicating everyone to settle down. He cleared his throat before he began to speak in a solemn voice. "What happened to Rupert was tragic and heartbreaking. But now is not the time for tears. There's something more important to be done. Benton Group is the fruit of my father's painstaking efforts. However, he's now seriously ill. We also don't know whether Rupert is alive or dead. Now, it's only right that I should bear this responsibility."

A reporter then asked sharply, "Are you authorized by Bruce Benton to take over as Benton Group's next CEO?"

After all, Benton Group was founded by Bruce. As the chairman, he had the right to determine who would be the next president.

Without his word, Cody wouldn't be the rightful heir to the position.

Cody smiled and replied, "Of course! It was also my father's idea."

"So why didn't Mr. Benton come to today's press conference?" the reporter asked.

Cody's eyes sparkled mischievously. "Due to Rupert's accident, my father suffered from a heart attack. That is why he can't attend today's event. He's given me full authority to deal with Benton Group's affairs."

Watching Cody deliver his speech triumphantly on stage, Annabel gave a sarcastic grin.

It appeared he couldn't wait to see Rupert die. Unfortunately, his wishful thinking would be in vain.

She looked down at her phone but there was still no message from

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🎁 +120 Points at most

Rupert.

He had gone to rescue Bruce. There couldn't have been any accidents, right?

As Cody went on with his drawn-out, hypocritical speech, Annabel took off her sunglasses to wink at Finley.

Finley nodded back at her in acknowledgement before stepping on to the stage. He gave Cody an ice cold glare and said, "You can't be the next CEO!"

Finley's sudden objection drew all eyes in the room on him.

He was, after all, Rupert's personal assistant.

"What do you mean?" one of the reporters asked.

Finley answered nonchalantly, "I literally meant what I said."

Cody's face fell as soon as Finley interrupted him halfway through his speech.

What provoked him to change his mind so suddenly?

"Mr. Rupert Benson is simply missing. There's still hope of finding him. Why are you so eager to replace him?" Finley stared at Cody.

Forcing a smile, Cody walked to Finley, patted him on the shoulder, and said, "I know you're sad about Rupert's accident. In fact, I'm just as heartbroken. I've watched Rupert grow up and treated him like my own son. But now, we have to face reality. After his accident, many did their best during the search and rescue mission. But what did we find? Nothing! We still don't know if he's dead or alive!"

"Since we haven't yet confirmed whether he is alive or dead, this means there's still hope of finding him alive. Why are you in such a rush to replace him?" Finley sneered.

Cody frowned before he winked at the security guard next to him.

Immediately, the security guard walked forward. "Please leave!"

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But Finley simply ignored the guard and continued to lock his piercing eyes on Cody. "What? Are you guilty of something?"

"What nonsense are you talking about?" Cody demanded.

Finley raised his voice. "Am I talking nonsense? If you could take over Benton Group with authorization granted by Bruce Benton, then why would you need to bribe me?"

He withdrew a check from his pocket and shook it in front of everyone. "It has your signature on it."

There was still no news from Rupert, so Finley needed to buy more time.

The reporters began to whisper after hearing the accusation.

"It seems there's something fishy going on!"

"Is Cody really authorized by Bruce? If he was, why would he bribe Finley?"

"Finley, stop talking nonsense or else I'll teach you a lesson!" Cody glared furiously. How could he let Finley ruin his plan at such a crucial moment?

"You know everything I said was the truth. Cody, you'd better stop!" Finley said, emphasizing every word.

Cody waved his hand and ordered the security guards, "What are you waiting for? Get him out of here!"

The two security guards looked at each other before stepping forward to pull Finley out of the venue.

Cody cleared his throat before continuing, "Let's continue the press conference, everyone. I hereby declare that, moving forward, I am officially Benton Group's CEO!"

At that exact moment, a brisk, sharp voice came from the door. "I'm sorry to disappoint you, Cody Hinks!" 🤨

It was Rupert!

Annabel felt a wave of relief wash over her.

Finally, Rupert arrived. He must have saved Bruce.

"Rupert Benton! It's Rupert Benton!"

"Mr. Benton is alright! He's back!"

Rupert's sudden appearance caused quite a stir. All the attendees looked on at the dazzling man in shock.

Under the meeting room light, Rupert appeared to be emanating a golden glow and exuded an intimidating aura. Step by step, he made his way closer to the stage.

He looked at Annabel sitting in the corner and smiled.

She made a victorious gesture.

"Rupert... You're alive?" Cody looked at Rupert in disbelief as the latter continued to walk to him. His expression changed.

Rupert was still alive!

Didn't he crash into the sea? There had been no news from the search and rescue teams. How could he still be alive? Not only that, he was at the press conference too!

Cody had planned everything, but he didn't expect Rupert to appear safe and sound.

He had planned for so long and was so close to succeeding. How could all his efforts be in vain?

Rupert gazed at Cody nonchalantly and asked, "Aren't you happy to see me?"

"How could this be? Rupert, I'm relieved you're back." Cody suppressed his slowly building rage before patting Rupert on the shoulder. "I sent a lot of people to look for you after you went missing. I'm thrilled to know you're fine."

"In that case, this press conference can end now," Rupert said calmly as he looked around the room.

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