


## Chapter 153 I Love Him

"Why?" Rory's expression darkened. "Isn't your engagement to Rupert just a contract? You told me yourself that you didn't like him and that you'd break off the engagement soon. Is he forcing you to stay?" 

Seeing that Rory was getting so worked up, Annabel shook her head helplessly. "Do you think that someone can force me to do anything?"


"Then why won't you..." Rory's voice trailed off as realization set in. Melancholy and heartbrokenness filled his eyes.

Indeed, according to Annabel's personality, no one could force her, including Rupert.

So the only reason why Annabel would stay engaged to Rupert was that...

Annabel pursed her lips and gave Rory the answer point-blank. "Because I've fallen in love with Rupert. So I agreed to his pursuit."

"No!" Hearing that, Rory was filled with anguish.

Annabel had said that the engagement was just arranged by their grandfathers. She wasn't supposed to have feelings for Rupert. How could she fall in love with him now? 

"While we were in France, I got to know Rupert all over again," Annabel explained. "After our plane crashed into the sea, Rupert saved me regardless of his own safety. I want to spend the rest of my life with someone like that."

"Annabel, that's not love!" Rory put his hands on her shoulders, trying to speak some sense into her. "You're just moved by his act of selflessness. That's not love! I can do what Rupert did for you. Why won't you choose me?"


"Rory, don't do that," Annabel said gloomily, pushing him away. "We're not meant for each other."

Rory felt utterly heartbroken. "Annabel, don't you know that Rupert loves Candy?"

Candy...

Annabel's heart sank at the mention of that name.


In a cold voice, she said, "To Rupert, Candy is the past. I'm the one he loves now."

"Annabel, don't lie to yourself. What if Candy shows up again? Are you sure he'll choose you over her?" 


Rory's words were like a knife stabbing at her heart, making her wince in pain.

This matter had plagued her for a long time now.

But she had made up her mind. The moment she decided to be with Rupert, she decided to fight for his love.

"I'll make him choose me. I won't let him choose anyone else, including Candy." 

As she said this, Annabel nodded firmly, as though to reassure herself.

"I hope you won't regret your choice one day," Rory said slowly. 

In the distance, Heather and Bella were walking to the Benton Group building.

During the days Rupert was missing, Heather was heartbroken and didn't eat well. She was afraid that Rupert wouldn't come back alive.

Luckily, Rupert was safe and sound.

As soon as she heard the news about the press conference at Benton Group, Heather rushed to the company, knowing that Rupert had come back.

To her surprise, she saw two people acting intimately at the entrance of the building. It was none other than Annabel and Rory.

"Bella, what are those two doing?" Heather stopped and turned to look at Bella in a gossipy way.

Bella's expression darkened. "That fucking bitch! She's seducing Rory!"

Bella wanted to rush up and push Annabel away from Rory, but Heather stopped her. "What are you doing?"

Of course, Heather was hoping that Rory and Annabel would get together. That way, Annabel would break up with Rupert, and she'd have the chance to swoop in and take Rupert for herself.

And even if Annabel didn't break things off with Rupert, the latter couldn't stand dating someone who was seeing another man at the same time.

Bella glared at Annabel with unmasked hatred and watched her get in Rory's car.

"What? Are you still in love with Rory?" Seeing the indignant look on Bella's face, Heather chuckled mischievously. "It's a piece of cake, really. Just get rid of Annabel."

"Oh, my God! Heather, you're right!" Bella nodded enthusiastically. She had already killed Annabel a thousand times over in her mind. <sup>3</sup>

Just then, a tall and handsome man strode out of the Benton Group building.

"Rupert!" Heather greeted him excitedly.

It was such a relief to finally see the man she had missed so much. Her eyes were filled with love and affection as she waved at him.

Rupert frowned. "Heather?"

"Rupert, you're back! I'm so glad you're okay." Heather's eyes welled up with tears. "I was worried sick. Thank God you're fine!"

Rupert nodded to her politely, but his eyes were cold. "Thank you for your concern."

"So, Rupert, how are you and Annabel?" Heather asked in a seemingly

nonchalant fashion. "When I arrived just now, I saw Annabel and Rory hugging at the gate of the Benton Group building. And then Annabel got in Rory's car."

What on earth was Annabel thinking? She had already promised to be with him, yet she turned around and threw herself into Rory's arms the second he showed up. ①

Rupert's expression darkened.

Heather continued to add fuel to the flames. "They looked like a loving couple just now. Rupert, did you two break up? After all, it's just an arranged marriage. It's okay for Annabel to be with Rory." ①

"Heather, I thought I made myself clear. I don't want to hear any gossip about Annabel." Rupert glanced at Heather coldly, his tone dripping with indifference.

He was seething, but he would never allow anyone to speak ill of Annabel.

Unwilling to give up, Heather asked stubbornly, "Rupert, why are you so good to her? She doesn't deserve it at all!"

"That's none of your business." Rupert's tone took a bone-chilling turn, sending shivers down the spines of those who heard it. ②

After saying that, he turned around and left without giving Heather the chance to respond.

Watching him leave, Heather felt like a victim of injustice. "Rupert, you will regret it sooner or later!" she shouted indignantly.


Meanwhile, Annabel sat in Rory's car quietly as they made their way to Star Entertainment. Neither she nor Rory said a word. The atmosphere was a little awkward.

Although Annabel had been busy with Benton Group these past few days, she had still paid attention to Star Entertainment.

Rory had taken back many of its businesses abroad, and he had invested in several famous movies in succession, which caused a great sensation in the entertainment circle.



"You did well while I was gone," Annabel praised sincerely, breaking the silence.

Rory was very talented in this respect. Otherwise, Annabel wouldn't have invested in Star Entertainment. 

Rory smiled bitterly. "It doesn't matter how well I did. You still won't choose me."