

Chapter 158 Candy's Back

Rupert smiled, thinking about tonight's engagement ceremony and the surprise he had prepared for Annabel.

He clutched the steering wheel steadily and drove towards the Benton Group building in high spirits.

All of a sudden, a woman in a white dress rushed out, right in front of Rupert's car.

Rupert's expression darkened and he quickly slammed his foot on the brakes.

Creak!

The sound of car tires screeching against the gravel ground was deafening.

Even though Rupert had reacted quickly, the car still hit the woman, who then collapsed to the ground.

Frowning tightly, Rupert opened the door, got out of the car, and looked down at the pale-faced woman on the ground.

She looked familiar.

Rubbing his temples, Rupert realized this woman seemed to be the singer from Charming Bar.

He had heard her perform in the bar before.

But why did she suddenly rush out in front of him and hit his car?

Fortunately, she didn't seem to be seriously hurt.

Expressionless, Rupert asked, "Are you okay?"

Candace reached out and grabbed Rupert's foot weakly, her eyes darting

all over the place in a panic. "Sir, please help me!" 

Rupert frowned and shook her grip off. He was about to say something when two tall, burly men walked over.

A bearded man dragged her up from the ground and roared fiercely, "Bitch, you think you can run away?"

In the process, he tore open the collar of Candace's dress, exposing her shoulder.

Out of the corner of his eye, Rupert caught a glimpse of a flower-shaped birthmark on the woman's fair shoulder.

Rupert's eyebrows shot up.

The birthmark was so familiar.

Something stirred deep in his memory. The little girl from his childhood also had a flower-shaped birthmark on her shoulder.

"Candy?" Rupert asked in disbelief. 

Seemingly stunned, Candace grabbed his arm and looked at his handsome face closely. Tears welled up in her eyes as she asked in a hoarse voice, "Ron? Is that you?"

"Ron..."


What a familiar name!

That was what Candy used to call him! 

Was this frail and pitiful girl really Candy?

Those long-forgotten memories suddenly resurfaced in his mind, overwhelming him.

Rupert was too stunned to speak. His mind was in a mess at the moment.

"Bitch, you're lucky Mr. Juarez likes you. So many women line up to sleep with him, yet he chose you." The beard man yanked Candace back to him and slapped her across the face. "Come with me!" 

Candace cradled her stinging cheek with one hand, trembling all over. She looked to Rupert desperately. "Ron! Help me! Please!" ⓘ

Candace's cries for help aroused another deep memory in Rupert's mind.

When Candy fell off the cliff, the last sentence she cried out was, "Ron! Help me! Please!" ⓘ

Without any hesitation, Rupert turned to look at the two men coldly. "What do you want from her?"

His overbearing aura made the ferocious man falter somewhat. "She owes our boss money. She needs to pay him back—"

Before the bearded man even finished speaking, Rupert had already taken out a checkbook from his pocket. He scribbled a figure and then threw it at the thug, shouting, "Now, get lost!"

When the beard man saw the number on the check, his eyes lit up in excitement. He quickly picked up the check from the ground and said, "Okay, okay, we'll be out of your hair."

"Thank you so much, Ron." Candace held Rupert's hand and looked at him with gratitude and excitement, still reeling from their sudden reunion. All sorts of complicated feelings mixed in her heart. Joy, shock, disbelief, et cetera... ⓘ

There seemed to be a thousand things she wanted to say, but she didn't know how to say it.

Rupert felt the warmth from her fingertips. It just felt so surreal. Narrowing his eyes at her, he asked in a cautious tone, "Candy, is that really you?"

"Yes!" Candace nodded without hesitation.

She was really Candy?

She was really Candy!

A gust of cold wind blew against them, billowing through her torn dress. Her body was painfully thin. It was as though she could be blown away with the wind.

Rupert gulped. Countless questions swirled around in his mind, but he didn't know where to start. ①

Where on earth had Candy been all these years? How come he couldn't find her?

"Ron, I've finally found you..." Seeing that Rupert was staring at her, Candace suddenly trembled violently. Then her eyes rolled to the back of her head and she passed out, falling straight into his arms.

"Candy? Candy!" Rupert caught her without thinking. "What's going on?"

The pale-faced woman in his arms, brows tightly knitted, had fainted.

In RD Boutique

As soon as Annabel and Anika arrived, the shop manager personally welcomed them. With a warm smile, she said, "Miss Hewitt, your dress and stylist are ready. Mr. Benton personally picked them out for you."

"Thank you." Annabel smiled back at her politely and took the dress over.

As soon as she saw it, she pursed her lips in satisfaction. It had to be said that Rupert had good taste in fashion. Even Anika couldn't help but praise, "This dress looks like it was designed by our company. It seems that your husband has put a lot of thoughts into this. How sweet!"

"He's not my husband yet," Annabel snapped, pretending to be angry. Then she followed the stylist inside.

Anika rolled her eyes and shook her head wryly, smiling at her silly boss who looked like a girl who had found her first love.

In her eyes, only an excellent man like Rupert deserved Annabel.

After around an hour of styling, Annabel walked out of the dressing room. Anika's eyes widened in shock.

She had always known that her boss was beautiful, but she never knew to what extent.

Annabel's slightly curly hair was tied in an elegant updo, perfectly framing her pretty face. The red dress outlined her slender figure, making

her look noble and graceful.

"Sweetheart, you look stunning!" Staring at the dazzling woman in front of her, Anika marveled at her beauty. "You'll be the most girl at the engagement ceremony tonight!" 📌

Annabel was a little embarrassed by the praise. Looking down at her watch, she changed the subject and murmured, "It's getting late."

"What?" Anika teased her playfully. "Can't wait to see your husband?"

"I'll call him." As Annabel spoke, she took out her phone and dialed Rupert's number.

But she was met with the mechanic voice saying that Rupert's phone was powered off.

Seeing the dramatic change in Annabel's expression, Anika stopped teasing her. "What's wrong, Annabel?"

"I can't reach Rupert," Annabel answered, frowning tightly.



Chapter 159 Rupert Goes Missing

"What? You can't get through?" Anika was stunned. "Maybe Rupert's just busy right now."

"His phone is powered off." Annabel's expression darkened. What the hell was Rupert doing?

He had promised to pick her up. How come she couldn't get in touch with him all of a sudden?

"Maybe his phone ran out of power," Anika suggested in an effort to comfort her.


Annabel nodded. "I guess we'll just wait for him here. He'll pick me up when he's finished."

The two sat down on the sofa, but Annabel felt extremely restless. She kept glancing at the door anxiously, hoping that Rupert would show up.

"Annabel, don't worry. Maybe he just wants to surprise you."

Seeing the disappointment written all over Annabel's face, Anika patted her on the shoulder reassuringly.

"Maybe," Annabel answered absentmindedly.

For some reason, a sense of uneasiness rose in her heart. She couldn't shake off the feeling that something bad was about to happen. 

After thinking for a while, she tried calling Finley.

"Hello, Miss Hewitt." Finley's pleasant voice sounded from the other end of the phone.

"Is Rupert there?" Annabel asked.

"Mr. Benton? He isn't here. He didn't come to the office today." Finley was a little taken aback by her question. "Isn't he with you?"

"What? He didn't go to the office?" Annabel's heart leaped to her throat. "Are you sure?"

"Yes, I'm sure." Finley nodded affirmatively.

Rupert was supposed to meet with a client today, but Finley didn't see him arrive. He tried calling Rupert, but his phone was powered off.

Thinking that today was an important day for Rupert and Annabel, Finley figured that his boss was just accompanying his fiancée. That would've explained why his phone was off—so that he wouldn't be disturbed.

But now, he couldn't help but frown. "I thought that Mr. Benton was with you, so I cancelled his meeting today. So you're saying you're not together?"

"No. If you see him or find out where he is, please inform me immediately." Annabel's entire body had gone stiff. She had to take a few deep breaths before she managed to give Finley instructions.

"Okay. Perhaps Mr. Benton encountered something urgent. I'll have someone look for him. I'll update you as soon as I can," Finley said without hesitation.

After hanging up, Annabel looked down at her phone dejectedly, her heart tightening in her chest.

"What's wrong?" Anika asked worriedly.

Annabel frowned. "He's not at the office."

The uneasiness in her heart became more overwhelming.

Where on earth could Rupert have gone?

He had told her just this morning that he was going to the office. Why was he missing now? And his phone was turned off.

Rupert wasn't the sort of person who would do something like this.

Moreover, today was such an important day to him. He wouldn't just disappear without notifying anyone.

Could something bad have happened?

Thinking of this, Annabel suddenly stood up and said decisively. "I have to look for him."

Anika followed her out and said, "I'm coming with you."

Right now, time was of the essence. Without changing her clothes, Annabel walked out of the boutique, clutching the hemline of her dress in her hands.

"Wait for me!" Anika had to run to catch up to her. "Calm down, Annabel. Do you even know where to start looking for him?"

Annabel shook her head helplessly. Then, a thought occurred to her.

She took out her phone again and called Anthony.

"Ada, isn't today your engagement day? Shouldn't you be very busy? Why're you calling me?" Anthony asked. "Aren't you worried that your husband will get jealous?"

Annabel wasn't in the mood to joke around. In a cold and urgent voice, she said briskly, "Anthony, you need to help me trace a phone number right away."

"Huh?" Judging from Annabel's voice, the situation sounded dire. Anthony was a little taken aback. "Why? Who's missing?"

"Just text me the location as soon as possible!" Annabel snapped coldly.

Without waiting for a response, she hung up on Anthony and sent him Rupert's phone number.

Soon, Anthony replied, "I can only locate the general location. It's near Radiant Mountain."

Radiant Mountain?

The more Annabel thought about it, the darker her eyes became. Why

would Rupert go there? It was so far.

What was so important that he'd abandon her on such an important day?
Did something bad happen to him?

In a moment of desperation, Annabel hailed the nearest taxi and went straight to Radiant Mountain.

"Miss, Radiant Mountain is huge. Do you know the specific place?"
Dubious, taxi driver looked at Annabel in the rearview mirror.

This beautiful woman was all dolled up. Why would she go to such a remote place like Radiant Mountain wearing that?

"Take us to Radiant Mountain first. We'll tell you the specific place later,"
Annabel said coldly.

Then she texted Anthony again. "Can you narrow the search a little? Is there a specific location?"

Ten minutes later, Anthony replied, "I'm sorry, Ada. I tried, but that's the best I can do."

In the hospital, Rupert was frowning tightly as he looked at the woman lying feebly in bed.

Was this girl really Candy?

Those long-forgotten memories kept flashing through his mind.

There was a flower-shaped birthmark on her shoulder and she called him Ron. Those were the traits of the girl in his memory.

But why did he feel so strange the second she fainted in his arms? 

Could she really be Candy?

Rupert's handsome face was covered in a layer of icy coldness as he pondered over this.

All of a sudden, a soft voice sounded in his ears, pulling him back to reality. "Ron..."

He looked down and saw Candace's delicate eyelashes fluttering. She



slowly opened her eyes, and her pale lips parted slightly. "Ron, is that really you? Did you save me just now?"

Rupert glanced at the woman in the bed coldly. "What's your name?"

Candace struggled to sit up. Leaning against the headboard, she looked at the handsome man in front of her with affection. "My name's Candace Cooper, but people call me Candy."

"Candace?" Rupert frowned. It was a strange name to him.

"Yes." Candace nodded. "When I was a kid, everyone called me Candy. Don't you remember that we were kidnapped? We were locked up in that small, dark room. Have you forgotten about that?"

Rupert's cold face softened somewhat.

Indeed, he had been kidnapped and locked in a dark room when he was a child.

"Ron, you still remember me, don't you? Those kidnappers were so mean that they even made a dog bite us. I was deathly afraid of the dark, while you were so scared of dogs. I said I'd protect you and not let the dog bite you," Candace continued.

Unpleasant memories surged in his mind, clear as day.

In the cramped, dark room, Candy held him in her arms, trying to comfort him. "Don't be afraid, Ron. I'm very strong, you know. I'll protect you!"

Rupert called out, "Candy? Is that really you?"

