

Chapter 166 The Situation Is Not Optimistic

"The operation was successful," Harley said after some hesitation as he pushed his gold-rimmed glasses up his nose.

Hearing this, Rupert heaved a sigh of relief. But then, the doctor continued in a careful tone, "But..."

"But what?" Rupert asked worriedly, becoming anxious again.

"But his condition is still bad." Harley hesitated again before adding, "I'm not sure if he will wake up or not."

Rupert's face darkened. "That's impossible! Grandpa has to be fine!"

A few moments later, the nurse wheeled Bruce out.

"Grandpa." Rupert looked down at Bruce, who was still unconscious. His heart clenched painfully.

Cathy stepped forward and said in a comforting voice, "Rupert, don't worry too much. Grandpa is blessed. He will be fine."

Rupert nodded flatly.

The next day was cloudy.

Annabel opened her eyes groggily.

She was first greeted with the sight of a white glazed lamp.

Where was she?

As she massaged her temples, yesterday's events slowly came back to her.

She was supposed to get engaged to Rupert yesterday, but...

He was with Candy while keeping her in the dark.

She canceled the engagement ceremony. The shock made

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Bruce faint.

Yesterday's incidents kept running through her mind on loop.

Her heart ached.

Just as she was about to get up, the room's door opened and Rory walked in.

"Annabel, are you awake?" Rory asked with concern as he walked to the bed.

"Rory?" She took in her surroundings. "Is this your home?"

"Yes." Rory nodded. "I'm going to make breakfast. What do you want to eat?"

Annabel shook her head and replied, "I'm not hungry."

Rory's eyes were filled with pity as he took in her gaunt face. "Don't starve yourself, okay? I'll get you a glass of milk. Have some."

"Rory." Annabel stopped him. "How is Bruce now?"

"He was operated upon but hasn't woken up yet." Rory sighed.

Annabel said, "I want to see him."

"Then have some breakfast first and I'll drive you there." Rory patted her shoulder. "You and Rupert..."

If she wanted to visit Bruce at the hospital, she would bump into Rupert.

Rory was worried that she would be upset when she saw him.

"Rory, I don't want to talk about it right now," Annabel said in a light voice after inhaling deeply.

Just the mention of Rupert made her heart ache.

She didn't want to think about these sad matters. She just wanted to confirm if Bruce was safe.

She barely had a few bites of her breakfast and eagerly urged Rory to take her to the hospital.

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After sitting in the car, she turned on her phone out of habit to browse the news.

The news that her engagement ceremony with Rupert had been canceled had gone viral on the Internet.

"The CEO of Benton Group and Annabel Hewitt have canceled their engagement. Bruce Benton suffered a heart attack and is battling for his life!"

"Rupert Benton is dating a mystery woman. Annabel Hewitt was dumped, so the engagement ceremony was canceled!"

Pictures of Rupert and Candy had also been published on the Internet.

Annabel's heart skipped a beat.

These paparazzi were so inescapable that they even managed to photograph Candy.

In the photo, Rupert wrapped his arms around Candy, while she leaned against his chest. They both looked so intimate that the pain Annabel was feeling intensified.

She took a few deep breaths to rein back her emotions.

Public opinion was quickly turning against Annabel. All kinds of taunts and abuses against her were spreading on the Internet.

"Annabel is a scheming bitch. Rupert dumped her, but she pretended to be the victim and canceled the engagement. As a result, Bruce is fighting for his life now. Shame on her!"

"Annabel is a bumpkin. She doesn't deserve to be Rupert's wife. He did the right thing by dumping her."

"Does anyone know who Rupert's new girlfriend is?"

Noticing that Annabel looked upset, Rory turned to look at her and asked, "Annabel, are you okay?"

"I'm fine." Annabel came back to her senses and locked her phone.

She had never been defamed like this before.

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Although she constantly told herself to not think about it, she still couldn't keep her calm when faced with the accusations of thousands of people.

"Here we are, Annabel." Rory's words dragged her back to the present.

Annabel opened the door and got out of the car. "Rory, wait for me here."

"I'll go with you," Rory offered worriedly.

"No, just wait here for me," Annabel said indifferently.

She was currently in the center of the storm. At this moment, she didn't want to be photographed with Rory.

After all, he was so famous that paparazzi did their best to get the scoop on him.

Seeing Annabel's insistence, Rory sighed and gave in. "Be careful. Call me if anything happens."

"Okay," Annabel replied with a nod.

As soon as she entered the hospital, two nurses openly pointed at her.

"Look, isn't she the woman on the news?"

"Yes, Annabel! Rupert dumped her. Why did she come to the hospital?"

"Is she here to visit Bruce?"

"Wow, how dare she show her face here? I think she is most likely to pester Rupert."

"Shame on her!"

The two nurses had their discussion while shooting disdainful glances at Annabel.

With a blank expression, Annabel strode past them and went to the in-patient department.

"Excuse me, which room is Bruce Benton in?" Annabel asked at

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the reception desk.

The nurse there looked up at her and pointed her in one direction. "In the VIP room on the eighth floor."

"Thank you."

Annabel entered the elevator, went straight to the eighth floor, and peered around. The innermost room was heavily guarded. Two bodyguards stood by the door.

Bruce must be in that room.

With each step Annabel took toward the room, her heart sank a little more.

Rupert must be in the room right now.

Did he still think she was responsible for Bruce's condition?

She rubbed the spot between her eyebrows to calm herself down.

Now was not the right time to concern herself with these issues. Her top priority was Bruce's health.

Just as these thoughts were running through her head, a woman's sharp voice rang out from behind her. "Annabel, what are you doing here?"

Annabel stopped in her tracks and turned around, only to see Cathy and Erica approaching her aggressively.

It was them again.

Annabel frowned, not wanting to waste time on these nagging women. She continued walking to the room, but Cathy grabbed her arm.

"Annabel, wasn't it enough for you to hurt Grandpa so much that he went into a coma? How dare you come here now?" Cathy cursed, glowering at Annabel.

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Annabel jerked her arm away from Cathy's grasp and shot her a cold look. "Don't be such a drama queen. I'm not here to fight with you. I just want to see Bruce."

"Auntie, Annabel is so mean!" Cathy pouted and clutched Erica's hand.

Erica yelled, "Listen up, Annabel. We want nothing to do with you. Don't ever think of bothering Rupert again. You are not welcome here. Just leave!"

"Get out of my way, you two!" Annabel was done with the drama and just wanted to see Bruce. She pushed past Erica and walked ahead.

But before she could reach the door to the ward, Erica came charging at her, barking orders at the bodyguards. "Why are you just watching? Get her out of here! Don't allow her to ever come back!"

The two guards were hesitant. They exchanged a glance before turning to Annabel. "Miss Hewitt, please leave."

Annabel shot them a cold stare. "Kindly leave my way."

"Annabel, are you not ashamed of yourself? Leave here now! Are you here to cause harm to Grandpa again?" Cathy screamed in anger when she saw that Annabel didn't move.

Yesterday, Annabel had revealed to reporters that Cathy was adopted, and now the news was all over the internet.

Her reputation in school as a wealthy socialite was in shambles, and people were whispering behind her back, calling her a fraud. Even her admirers were giving her the cold shoulder.

Giving Cathy a mocking glance, Annabel was about to make a comment when the door to the ward opened. Someone walked out. It was Rupert.

"Why are you here?" Rupert asked in an icy tone.

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Cathy wasted no time in jumping in, pointing an accusing finger at Annabel. "Rupert, this woman made Grandpa have a heart attack. Now she is here to cause him more trouble! She's a wicked person!"

Rupert shot Cathy a cold glare.

He had spent the entire night in the ward with Bruce.

He had opened the door to see what the commotion outside was about. To his surprise, he found Annabel standing there, looking as beautiful as ever.

He felt a wave of emotions which left him feeling a bit down.

Rupert blamed Annabel for his grandfather's condition and the uncertainty surrounding his life. His face darkened as he struggled to keep his emotions in check.

"Annabel," Rupert called out indifferently, his eyes devoid of any emotion.

Annabel nodded, meeting his cold gaze.

They hadn't seen each other for an entire night, and Annabel couldn't help but feel sorry for Rupert. He looked tired and haggard, his handsome face lined with exhaustion.

Annabel's heart was pounding in her chest as she faced Rupert. She had hoped to remain composed, but now her nerves were getting the best of her.

"Rupert, I came here to see Bruce." Annabel took a deep breath, trying to keep her voice steady.

Glaring, Rupert looked as if he was about to say something when suddenly a man rushed over to Annabel.

It was Rory.

"Are you okay, Annabel?" Rory had been waiting at the gate of the hospital for a while now, but Annabel hadn't come out. He was troubled so he came to check for her.

Annabel was surprised to see him and replied with a smile, "I'm fine."

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"Oh, Annabel, I didn't expect you were capable of this," Erica sneered at her. "Rupert broke up with you just yesterday and you've moved on from him to Rory."

"This is pure slander!" Rory's face turned red with anger.

Erica sneered, "You're defending this slut. Obviously, you have an affair with her."

Annabel was frustrated. She just wanted to see Bruce and see if she could do anything to help him. Why did everything have to be so complicated?

She turned to Rupert again. "Rupert, allow me go in to see Bruce."

As soon as Rory appeared, Rupert's demeanor changed. His expression grew colder.

Even though Annabel had assured him countless times that she and Rory were just friends, Rupert couldn't bring himself to believe it.

Rory seemed to care deeply for Annabel, far more than a typical friend would.

Annabel had broken off their engagement the night before, and now she was with Rory. What an irony!

Rupert couldn't help but wonder if she had left him for Rory.

All of a sudden, a flood of thoughts raced through Rupert's mind. These thoughts made his head spin.

"You can leave now. I don't think Grandpa wants to see you." His eyes were as icy as Rupert spoke.

Rupert then turned around and walked back to the ward, slamming the door behind him.

Annabel shuddered with fear at the sound of the door slamming shut.

Why?

Why was Rupert being so difficult? All she wanted to do was see Bruce. It seemed ridiculous that Rupert could detest her so

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much that he wouldn't even grant her little request.

Her heart sank as she felt the weight of the rejection.

"Annabel, let's leave." Rory came over to her as Annabel stood frozen, staring at the door to the ward.

Annabel snapped out of her daze and nodded her head in agreement, feeling defeated.

"Listen up, you two. Make sure Annabel doesn't come here again!" Erica told the bodyguards with a smug smile.

"Yes, madam!" The bodyguards both nodded.

As Annabel walked out of the hospital, her phone rang. It was Leonard.

"Anna, it's me," Leonard said.

Annabel's eyes welled up as she heard her grandpa's familiar voice. "Grandpa."

"I've read the reports online. What's going on with you and Rupert?" Leonard asked, sounding confused.

After Leonard had rescued Annabel and Rupert from the island, he decided to tour around the world.

He was having some fun when he stumbled upon the troubling news that Annabel and Rupert had canceled their engagement, and Bruce had suffered a heart attack.

"Grandpa, I..." Annabel started talking but she paused and took a deep breath. She didn't want her grandfather to be troubled. "It's nothing. I can't take care of myself."

"Are you sure?" Leonard asked.

"Yes, Grandpa. Have fun, I'm fine." Annabel tried to feign calmness.

Knowing his granddaughter well, Leonard just nodded and said, "Okay. I want you to know that you can call me if you need any kind of help."

Annabel got off the phone, opened the car door, and was about

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to get in when she spotted a woman approaching. She was holding an insulated bottle.

The woman looked familiar.

As the woman drew nearer, Annabel squinted her eyes to get a better look. It was then that she realized who it was.

She turned out to be Candy.