

Chapter 31: Meeting The Kings

"Your mother may go home next week. She may opt to resume her therapy as an outpatient," the doctor said to Riley. "Of course, staying here until your mother fully recovers is more convenient."

"Thank you, doctor. We will discuss it," Riley said before seeing the doctor leave.

Riley walked over to Renee and sat on her bed. She asked, "Mom? Would you like to go home?"

Renee thought deeply. Then, she responded, "I don't think I want to travel often while I still can't walk properly. Is it okay if I stay here? It's a lot safer here. When you get home, Riley, you always travel with a driver, right? Adrian had mentioned he assigned you a driver. So you are always safe? How is the house?"

"Um." Riley chuckled. She said, "Mom, we are talking about you, not me."

Then, she wondered if it was the right time to tell Renee about living with Adrian. Clearing her throat, Riley said, "But about me, Mom. I have been meaning to tell you. Adrian has been a bit protective of me, so he asked me to move into his villa, but I have my own room -"

"Really?" Renee contemplated before inquiring, "So you have company at Adrian's house?"

"Yes, Mom. There are housekeepers, security guards, the driver, and Adrian, but he is often busy and comes home late when at work,"

Riley revealed.

Renee's shoulders fell, as if relieved. Riley was a little confused, so she asked, "Is everything okay, Mom? I hope it's okay with you." 1

"I think it's good that Adrian is taking care of you." Renee smiled and said, "No wonder you look better and have been smiling often. You have also regained that beautiful glow on your face."

Yet again, Renee wavered. She asked, "How are things between you and Adrian? You said you went on a trip?"

"A short trip. I hope the caregivers helped you while I was away," Riley answered.

"Of course, Miranda and Loraine are both sweethearts," Renee answered. "Yesterday, Miranda helped me color my hair. I didn't realize I had so much gray hair already. And Loraine, when she arrived for the night shift, she painted my nails."

"How wonderful of them," Riley acknowledged. "Adrian chose the best people to care for you, Mom."

Riley smiled and studied her mother. Renee had also gained weight since moving to the King's Medical Center. Overall, Adrian's help improved their circumstances.

"You too, Mom," Riley declared. "You have been doing well and looking great too."

Renee had almost the same characteristics as Riley. They had the same golden hair and the same face. The only difference is the color

of their eyes.

"And about Adrian and I," Riley bit her lip before revealing, "I got my divorce certificate two days ago, so we officially decided to be a couple."

"I knew it!" Riley turned to the door and saw Zia walk in. "I saw your pictures, and I was like, I don't have to give this man a name to know this is my boss!"

"Oh, my god, Zia," Riley laughed before covering her face. She wasn't sure if she was doing the right thing, but Adrian had clarified that their status was not a secret. In the eyes of the public, they were a couple. So, she told her Mom, and now, Zia knew.

"Aunt Renee, just look at Riley. She is blooming again, and her eyes are sparkling!" Zia pointed.

Riley frowned, saying, "What? No, I'm not."

"I just told her that too." Renee calmly glanced at Riley, saying, "I'm just glad you are no longer affected by Brian. I am worried that you are in a new relationship; I'll always be. But so far, all I have is gratitude towards Adrian. How can I dislike the man? He has been so good to us."

"Exactly, Aunt Renee," Zia remarked. "Clearly, the boss dotes on Riley."

Zia rushed over to Riley and hugged her tightly. She said, "I'm so happy for you and the boss. I hope he will stop being grumpy now that he has a girlfriend! Haha!"

"Grumpy?" Riley admitted that, at first, that was her impression of Adrian, but after spending time with him, Riley learned that he was a good person who knew how to smile. She defended, "You make him sound like an old man. He isn't grumpy."

"Maybe to you, he isn't," Zia said before rolling her eyes. "But anyway, his occasional mood swing can never outweigh how he had successfully managed the healthcare business of King's Enterprises. He is a business genius who cares for his employees."

"I just have one question for you, Riley?" Zia asked. "Are you happy?"

'Am I happy?' Riley echoed in her head. How could she not be? Even if they were only playing the role of a couple, Adrian had always been sincere. So, she replied, "Of course! I am happy." 1

While everything was going well for Riley, Saturday came swiftly, and she was worried about meeting Adrian's grandfather.

Riley wanted to look intelligent and classy, so she wore a business white coat, a red shirt underneath, and white trousers. This time, she wore makeup and jewelry to match her style. She also added curls to her hair to give it more volume.

When she was satisfied with her appearance, Riley headed down the stairs; her red heels tapped against the tiles, and she walked gracefully.

Finally, she stood before Adrian.

Adrian wore a beige coat with a black shirt underneath. They weren't exactly a match, but it was close enough.

For a second, Adrian studied her from head to toe. He smiled approvingly and complimented, "You look beautiful, a fitting queen for a king."

It was the first time Adrian had flattered her looks, so she felt butterflies in her stomach. Her cheeks were red as she said back, "You look great yourself."

"Are you ready to meet my family?" Adrian asked.

Riley let out a sigh. She answered, "Ready."

More than an hour later, Riley stood before Adrian's family. Everyone was shocked that Adrian had brought a woman to the old mansion.

"Riley, this is my father, Anthony King," Adrian said, referring to a man in his fifties. Anthony was tall, like Adrian, and they had similar physical features, like their sharp jawlines and pointed noses. However, Anthony had lighter hair, almost caramel and his eyes were brown.

"That is my stepmother, Tonet King, and my stepbrother, Fredrick King," Adrian said without delay. Pointing to the older man with gray hair, fair skin, and brown eyes, Adrian added, "And, of course, my grandfather, Abner King."

Adrian held Riley's hand. He introduced, "Everyone, this is my

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girlfriend, Riley Allen."

"Come again?" Adrian's grandfather reacted. "What's her name?"

"My name is Riley Allen, Mister King. It's an honor to meet you," Riley greeted before bowing to the patriarch of the King family. Then smiled at the other members of the King family, saying, "Pleasure to meet you all."

"Girlfriend? No wonder you did not try to fix things with Leni Eros! You were seeing someone else?" Adrian's father reacted.

"Oh, please, Anthony," Adrian's stepmother, Tonet, remarked, her tone had a hint of sarcasm. "Even if Adrian tried, I doubt Leni Eros would willingly agree to continue with the engagement. The marriage agreement was forced upon them! And you know, Adrian is -"

"Enough! Enough about Leni Eros and the engagement!" Abner's hand suddenly slammed on the table's surface. He narrowed his eyes at Adrian, saying, "A word, Adrian. In my study. NOW!" 

'Wait. Wait. Wait. Why is Adrian's grandfather angry? I hope it's not about me,' Riley nervously thought. 