

Chapter 33: Harassment

Dinner was far from the appetizing feast Riley had anticipated, even with the tantalizing seafood spread before them. Despite Abner King's valiant efforts to maintain a semblance of order, the air in the dining room was thick with an unspoken tension that seemed to grow with each passing moment.

Anthony's eyes were like daggers, piercing through the air and landing squarely on Adrian. But Adrian, seemingly unfazed, continued to fill his plate with food. He deftly peeled a giant prawn, dipped it in a chili sauce, and placed it on Riley's plate. His voice was calm as he said, "Here, it's your favorite, Hun."

Forcing a smile, Riley said to Adrian, "Thanks, Hun."

After eating the fat prawn, Riley gulped down a glass of white wine. She wiped the corners of her mouth with a table napkin and said, "Um, excuse me. I need to go to the restroom."

"Let me show you where it is," Adrian offered.

"It's okay, Adrian." Riley grabbed her purse, saying, "I can find it."

"I'm sure she is smart enough to find her way," Tonet remarked.

"Turn right after the dining area, then go straight to the narrow hallway," Adrian instructed.

Riley smiled before leaving. Once she found the restroom, she sighed in relief. She shook her head, saying, "Wow, I finally understand what Adrian was talking about."

She felt sorry for Adrian but was also proud of how he had lasted

years with a stepfamily such as Tonet and Fredrick.

So far, Fredrick had not done anything to her, but how he looked at her said it all.

"He seems like a creep," Riley muttered, describing Fredrick. She would stay away from that man at first sight!

Riley fixed her hair before powdering her face. She was about to reapply her lipstick when someone tried to open the restroom door. Frowning, she said, "Someone's in here."

No one answered, so Riley called, "Anyone there? Give me a few minutes, and I'll be done here."

Still, there was no answer at the door.

Riley hurriedly applied her fiery red lipstick before getting out of the restroom. To her surprise, Fredrick was waiting for her.

Immediately, her heart raced, and she sensed danger. Trying to walk past him, she said, "Excuse me -"

Fredrick blocked Riley's path with his arm and said, "What is a hot stuff like you doing with a disabled man like Adrian?" He smirked and added, "Wouldn't you rather be with me?" ²

"I am the CEO of The King's Enterprises. I am just as rich as Adrian, and I can please you better," Fredrick suggested, his face inching closer to Riley. ⁴

His demeanor exuded a lack of respect or consideration for Riley's feelings and boundaries. She pushed Fredrick's chest as she turned her face the other way, saying, "This is harassment. Stay away!"

"He won't satisfy you, but I will," Fredrick insisted.

"Fredrick!" Riley snapped. "Nothing about you is enticing to me. Clearly, you don't understand a real woman. GET OUT OF MY WAY. NOW!" 1

A chuckle left Fredrick's lips. He breathed closer to Riley, so much so that she felt chills down her spine. He said, "Now. Now. Don't play hard to get. Can't you see it? I am the better King heir in the family." 2

"Okay," Riley firmly said. "You asked for it -" 3

"Ahhh!" A growl left Fredrick's lips the second Riley thrust her knee to his balls. 4

"Help! Adrian! He is harassing me!" Riley screamed.

Fredrick was still in pain, but his expression soon changed. Sweat formed on his forehead as his eyes rounded, seeing his family coming in their direction.

"What happened here?" Anthony raised.

Adrian had hastened the speed of his wheelchair, and he arrived second to Anthony. He barked in anger, "What the hell did you do to my girlfriend, Fredrick! I won't let you off!"

"I did not do shit!" Fredrick claimed while getting on his feet. "She came on to me, and when I refused her, she kicked my groin!"

"He was harassing me!" Riley revealed. "He was leaning closer and pinning me to the door. Who knows what he would have done if I didn't act!"

Abner arrived just in time to overhear Fredrick and Riley. He angrily

said, "Fredrick! Is this a way to treat a guest?"

"For all we know, she could be lying! She wants something out of this," Tonet suggested. "Besides, why would Fredrick do that? Every woman wants my son!"

"And what if Fredrick is lying? Will you admit that you failed as a mother?" Adrian snapped at Tonet. 3

Simultaneously, Riley ran to Adrian's side. She was panting as she defended herself, "I don't want anything from him, nor am I interested in him! He was leaning too close, so I hit him with my knee!" 1

While Tonet said many things, trying to discredit Riley, Adrian took out his phone. Riley watched from behind as he scanned surveillance cameras. Apparently, the man had access to the cameras within the house.

When Adrian found what he was looking for, he raised his phone and said, "See for yourself!"

The video told everything, and Abner was mortified. He raised his voice at Fredrick, "How did the board choose you over my grandson! I could never understand! Kneel!" 1

Abner pointed to Fredrick and demanded, "Kneel before Riley and apologize!"

"Father," Tonet begged. "That's a little too much!"

"Then, I'll file a lawsuit," Adrian suggested. "After all, I have the evidence I need."

"Adrian, wait! Think about this! Think about the image of our company?" Anthony raised. "Let's settle this as a family?" 2

"So, a maniac is better than your disabled son?" Adrian shot back, making Anthony step back in silence.

"It all depends on Riley. She was the victim today, so we will ask what she wants," Adrian said before shifting to Riley.

Everyone turned to Riley, waiting for her answer.

"What did she want? She couldn't imagine filing a lawsuit over a few months of imprisonment. Riley wasn't familiar with lawsuits, but she knew she would be lucky to push a misdemeanor case against Fredrick. At best, she could get a settlement following a civil case.

"Well, what is it you want? Ten million dollars?" Tonet suggested.

"Shut up!" Anthony angrily said.

After much thought, Riley found the answer she desired. She raised her chin and demanded, "I want Fredrick to momentarily step down from his CEO position and let Adrian take over for no less than three months."

"You can say anything, that you are sick or need a break," Riley proposed.

"What? There is no way!" Tonet countered before laughing. "Only my son can be the CEO! What can a disabled man do?" 2

"If you won't, I'll file a lawsuit," Riley suggested.

Adrian looked at Riley with a smirk on his face. He gave her the "I did not know you had it in you" look. Then, he turned to Fredrick, saying, "I can see the headlines now; the CEO of King's Enterprises sued for harassment."