

Chapter 55

###FLASHBACK###

Over six years ago.

Abner finally made the decision to allow Linda to fly into Sweden for Adrian's care. It had been a grueling five months since the accident, and finally, Adrian could manage to sit up. However, he was still unable to stand, not even for a second, and he was also dependent on others for basic tasks like going to the bathroom and changing his clothes, etc.

Linda had arrived with a concerned look. She set the hospital bed table and watched Adrian eat in the next few minutes, her eyes never leaving him.

When Adrian was done, Linda asked, "Adrian, can you tell me again about the accident? What threw you off the course?"

Adrian let out a heavy sigh. He did not enjoy recalling the accident. He shook his head and said, "I don't want to discuss it."

"Adrian, it's important," Linda insisted. "I remember you said that you felt something pull your leg."

"Yes. Maybe a twig," Adrian replied without eagerness. He still had scratch marks on his arms and some on his face. Although they were no longer inflamed, they were evident scars.

Linda fell silent as if in deep thought. Her actions made Adrian suspect something was off, so he asked, "Why? Aunt Linda, tell me."

"Your grandfather asked me to fix your things in the vacation home, so I did. Your ski boots and the clothes you wore on the day of the accident

were kept in the garage. I think the paramedics gave it to your grandfather. I was about to throw it out when I noticed something," Linda described. 1

Adrian frowned. He asked, "What is it, Aunt Linda?"

Linda looked at the hospital door and cautiously took out her phone. Then, she showed Adrian the picture and said, "Your ski boots caught a rope in between. It was about three inches long. And it looks like the rope broke, seeing how the ends are untangled." 1

"And I remember what you said," Linda pondered. "You felt your leg was pulled."

Adrian's jaws suddenly clenched. He thought back to the accident and recounted everything. Before skiing down the hill, he had checked the trail and was sure everything was safe, so he never truly understood what went wrong. Only that he felt something was pulling his leg. He jolted in the process, and it threw him off course.

The accident left Adrian so devastated that they never considered how there was malicious intent to it. Adrian was more concerned about whether or not he could walk again.

"Aunt Linda, find me a local private investigator to look into it," Adrian said, and Linda acknowledged.

In the next few weeks, the investigator looked into Adrian's accident. Adrian learned that the vacation house's caretaker surveyed the ski path the night before the accident. However, when the investigator reported next to Adrian, he said, "Sir, the caretaker, Elias? He - he is missing. He left your grandfather a resignation letter."

From that moment, Adrian and Linda felt there was something more to his accident. He ordered the search of Elias, the caretaker, but no one could point out where he had gone to. The caretaker's family was also unaware of Elias' whereabouts.

It reached a point where Adrian ordered Elias' home searched. A piece of evidence suggested that Elias received a huge sum of money after Adrian's accident, but other than that, there was nothing else.

Over ten months after the accident, Adrian was finally discharged from the hospital. However, he still had several ongoing therapies in the city. He chose to linger in Sweden for another month.

During that time, he personally investigated Elias's things in the vacation home. The investigator had already searched the same room, but Adrian hoped to find something different.

Elias had his own room on the property. Being the caretaker, he stayed in the house five days a week.

Adrian did not find anything interesting that would give him a clue. As he was there, he felt pain in his leg. He called Linda to bring him his pills and a glass of water.

While Linda was preparing his medication, she dropped the entire bottle, which rolled under the cupboard.

"Sorry," Linda said. She had to move the cupboard to reach for the bottle, and she also found a pen.

Linda was about to put the pen on the cupboard's surface when Adrian asked, "What's that?"

"A pen," Linda said.

It wasn't just any pen, though. It was a limited edition Delta Fountain Pen. Adrian narrowed his eyes. He wondered, 'Why would Elias have a pen worth more than a thousand dollars?'

END OF FLASHBACK

Hearing everything, Riley looked up to Adrian and asked, "That's it? How did you conclude that it may be related to Fredrick?"

Adrian sighed. He replied, "Fredrick only uses Delta Fountain Pens. Ever since I met him, he had always used one."

He looked at Riley and revealed, "But it wasn't just that, Riley. When I had Elias investigated, Tonet and Fredrick did not support me. I tried to tell my father that I strongly felt the accident was done on purpose, but Tonet kept influencing Dad. She kept telling Dad how the investigation was not allowing me to move on with my life and that I simply could not accept how I could no longer walk. He sided with Tonet."


"In fairness to Elias, he was the house's caretaker ever since. He was a good man, so I don't know why he did it if he did it," Adrian said. "I simply have a very strong hunch about it." 1

"Aside from that, I found proof that Fredrick had sent money to Elias' family. When I told my father about it, we confronted him, but Fredrick said he only felt sorry for Elias' family, and they requested support since he was missing," Adrian added. "Fredrick never sent them money again after that."

"So, you never found this Elias?" Riley asked.

Adrian shook his head. He replied, "No, but I have had leads over the years. There was a time when my investigators received a tip about Elias'

location. However, when the investigator got there, there were only traces of Elias. He had long fled like he knew he was being pursued."

"Did your investigators find new pieces of evidence?" Riley asked. 

"Yes, some documents with his name on them," Adrian said. "The fact that he is running, proves that he is guilty, but Riley, he doesn't have the money to run."

"Someone else is sending him money," Riley suggested. "If it is Fredrick, he could be careful now - using another name, an offshore account -"

"Yes, that's possible," Adrian said. "Clint suggested stopping the investigation, at least letting everyone think that way."

"So, I discontinued my investigation for a few months last year. Then, I hired my own people to pick up where the other PI left off, and they are closely monitoring Elias' family. I have another set of investigators following Fredrick and Tonet around, but I haven't found that connection yet," Adrian revealed.

"I am hoping, though, that I can find something in the CEO office of the King's Enterprises," Adrian declared.

Riley could not help but feel sad for Adrian. She embraced him and pecked on his chest, saying, "Everything will be revealed in time."

"I have another question," Riley asked. "I know you mentioned that your dad loves the company more than you, but why? Why don't you get along with your dad?"

Adrian's chest heaved. He admitted, "I supposed I had a hand in it too. I was a rebellious son."