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Chapter 226

To her, Darius was basically her lifebuoy. He was the only thing she could hold on to as

she drowned.

When Darius saw this, he wanted to help her relax. He nodded and smiled, saying, "I

think that anyone with the money and power to go up against the Gillette family wouldn't

think of this as an issue. The reason you couldn't resolve this before was that you had

neither. Now, with me around, you have both. I need someone to help me take care of

some things in Almiron City. So, this is the time for you to shine. I'll give you a chance to

prove yourself by resolving the issue that we're facing now."

Alicia's eyes widened again. She never would've expected to come across such an opportunity. Her eyes reddened, and she nodded vigorously. "I'll definitely prove that you

made the right decision by trusting me, regardless of my age."

She wiped her tears away, then strode toward the entrance. She wanted to make things

clear to the security guards, but she was surprised by the fact that there were none around. The sudden emptiness scared her a little because she had never seen the hotel's entrance so deserted.

It made her nervous. This situation was different from what she was used to, making her

anxious. So, she turned to look at Darius, her gaze one of confusion. He knew how she

felt, but he didn't say anything, merely sticking his hands in his pockets.

Alicia took a deep breath. She knew that this was Darius' test for her. She had to calm

down and think of a way to deal with this. If she failed this, she would lose the chance to

work alongside a rich and powerful man like Darius, and she would have to continue

living her miserable life. The moment this thought formed in her mind, she pushed it

away.

If she were to fail this test, she wouldn't even be able to continue living her miserable life

because she'd just offended the lobby manager big time. If Darius didn't hire her, the

lobby manager would find ways to tie her down to the hotel while forcing her to take on

all sorts of debt. She could already see it happening.

She exhaled and strode into the courtyard. Then, she sucked in a deep breath again and

shouted as loudly as possible, "Where are all the security guards? If you don't appear

before me immediately, I promise that all of you will be fired, regardless of who your

uncles are!"

Though she didn't name any names, everyone knew who she was referring to. They

watched her with interest, sticking their heads out to see what she was up to. Alicia could

sense the gazes on her. She took a deep breath, put her hands behind her back, and turned to face the entrance. This would help to hide the fact that she was so nervous she

was trembling.

No one answered her. She sucked in another breath and said, "I'm going to count to

three. If you appear before I'm done, I can forget about you ignoring me before this. And

if you don't, I'm sorry to say that you'll have to bear the consequences of my anger."

After she said this, someone finally staggered out of one of the cars parked in the courtyard. It was Lyon, but he looked worlds apart from how he usually did. Certain parts

of his face were normal, but the other parts were purple with bruises. The left side of his

face was swollen, and he couldn't open his right eye. This was probably thanks to Edward.

Alicia didn't expect to see him like this. She took a step back in surprise.

Lyon looked up at her. He thought he sounded bold and confident, but the blood on him

and the pain coming from his body made him weaker than usual. He said, "You'd better

be polite when speaking to me, or I'll show you what it's like when I'm mad! Of course,

I'm sure you know how the other people before today ended up. You can take them as

reference points. I guarantee you'll be a hundred times worse than them."

Alicia's breathing sped up at his words. Her voice wasn't as loud as before, but she sounded more resolute. "If I were you, I wouldn't threaten someone looking like that. You

have no right to!" She emphasized the last few words.

Everyone could discern the meaning behind her words, and it pissed Lyon off even more. Alicia relaxed her stance, and her breathing slowed down. She was already in the

zone. She held her head up high and said, "You're no better than a stray dog now, so

you should keep your head down and do what a security guard's supposed to. Perhaps

I'll consider giving you some food to tide you over."

The lobby manager was already seated on one of the sofas. She watched the debacle

without making a sound. However, it was obvious that this was nothing more than a

minor interruption to her day. She wasn't bothered by it at all.

Soon, she would know how wrong she was. She got to her feet and stuck her hands in

her pockets while looking at Darius. "If I were you, I wouldn't be doing this. You don't

understand a thing about our hotel or me, so you don't know what you're dealing with.

I've seen many people like you in the past, and none of them had good endings." The

look in her eyes told Darius that she was confident he would be no better.

He turned to look at her disdainfully, then said, "I could say the same to you."

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With that said, he turned to Erin. "It's been a while now. I think we've been standing here

for at least half an hour. It's probably time for you to give me an update."

Erin's fingers paused on the keyboard. She turned to look at Darius, then smiled and

nodded. "Yes, sir. We can see some results now." As she spoke, she turned the

laptop to

face him. "Mr. Reid, as you can see, we already have 10 percent of Umbrite Hotel's

shares. Our business partners provide 8 percent, and the remaining 2 percent is from

the share market.

Now, we're the fifth largest shareholder. I've already contacted the third and fourth largest, and as long as they hand over their shares totaling 35 percent, we'll own 45 percent of this hotel. That will make us the largest shareholder."

When she got to the end of her report, her gaze went from Darius to the lobby manager,

and she smiled.

Darius nodded. "That's about as good as we can get. Continue working on it." Erin nodded, but she didn't do as he said. Instead of turning back to her laptop, she kept

her eyes on the lobby manager.

'This woman, the lobby manager, is called Samantha Williams. She got the job because

her father-our business partner owns 8 percent of the hotel's shares."

The people hiding in the corners poked their heads out again to look at Samantha in

surprise.

"I always thought she was arrogant because of her abilities or contributions to the hotel."

"Right? Turns out she knows nothing. She only got the job because her dad's rich!"

'This is completely different from what she told us!"

Their voices weren't loud, but the silence in the lobby still made their words audible.

Darius and the gang were the only guests in the lobby at the moment.

Samantha didn't expect the truth about her identity to be exposed like this. She didn't

want to admit it, though. She glared at Darius. "If you don't admit you fabricated that,

you'll pay the price for defaming and slandering me!"

Darius scoffed. No one knew for sure whether he was laughing, but it was obvious that

he was disdainful of Samantha. Everyone present widened their eyes in surprise.

'Who's this guy? I can't believe he's speaking to Samantha like that!"

"Samantha's nothing but an ordinary person now. The wealth that belonged to her

family

now belongs to this guy. I don't see why he can't speak to her like that. If I were him, I'd

probably act the same way."

Samantha's expression turned venomous at their words. She said to Darius, "I don't

think your actions make you worthy of being called a man. Shouldn't you at least tell me

who you are and what you're trying to achieve?"

"I wouldn't be so rude if I were in your shoes. I'm a client of your father's company, and

he relies on us heavily. Also, he needs an investment company to support his cash flow."

He put his hands in his pockets, looking contemptuous.

Samantha had been disdainful before, but she didn't dare behave that way anymore. Her

eyes were trained on Darius,. "Who the hell are you? How do you know that?" He glanced at the clock on the wall, and his face became void of emotion." I've already

wasted too much time on you people. You need to think about whether you're worth it."

She felt humiliated, and tears formed in her eyes. Her voice became tremulous as she

said, "Darius Reid, I know you're a wealthy person, much wealthier than I am. But you

shouldn't have done that to me when I did nothing to offend you."

Darius narrowed his eyes. 'You're not making sense at all. The surveillance cameras and

your colleagues have captured everything you did. Even if your colleagues don't say

anything for fear of retribution, there's still the surveillance footage."

He looked at the cameras, then smiled. "Of course, if you don't believe me, perhaps

there are other ways to make you explain yourself."

He turned to Erin. "Have you taken down everything that she did?"

Erin's fingers were still flying across the keyboard, but her eyes focused on Darius. She

nodded, looking happy.

"Mr. Reid, there's no need for you to worry about that at all. I knew she wasn't the good

sort right from the beginning, so I always kept an eye on her. Moreover, the fact that she

switched tactics so quickly just proves that she's acting like this for a reason." Darius narrowed his eyes again.

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Darius' ears perked up, and he realized he could hear several cars coming from a distance. His expression immediately turned icy. "I think I know why she's doing this."

Erin looked at him blankly.

He sucked in a deep breath, then said, "Because the Gillette family will be here in ten

minutes, at most."

Erin and Alicia both frowned. They quickly got to their feet and hurried to stand before

him, wanting to shield him with their bodies. They ended up standing shoulder to shoulder.

Darius lowered his head and looked at them with a smile on his face." There's no need

for you two to be so nervous. It won't solve the problem. If anything, it's just going to

increase the time I need to spend on resolving this."

The two women shared a look, but neither of them said anything since this was only their

first meeting. Then, they averted their gazes and breathed deeply. As they fell deep

into

their thoughts, Darius stretched his neck.

"Honestly, there's nothing to worry about. The person behind this hotel is the Gillette

family's dog, and they're not going to allow anyone to bully their dog. Now that we have

10 percent of this hotel's shares, it means that we have power over them. This will help

hold the Gillette family back a little.

It doesn't mean much, but for the sake of their ego, the Gillette family won't give up on

their dog. Unless, of course, Wilson Gillette is as generous as I am and willing to pay a

high price for his dog. I doubt that'll happen, though." He shrugged, then leaned against

a table nearby. "So, if I were you, I'd continue doing what I did before this."

As Erin listened to him speak, her earlier nervousness dissipated, and she quickly calmed down. She turned to him and bowed her head slightly, saying, "I'm sorry, sir. I

lost control of myself earlier, but I'm fine now."

Then, she walked back over to her laptop and started typing again.

Darius looked at Alicia, who still stood before him. "Lyon's the most useless person I've

ever met. He doesn't come from a wealthy family, nor does he have any talent. In fact,

he doesn't even have friends. So, you can go ahead and do whatever you want." Alicia's eyes widened. "Mr. Reid, how'd you know I wanted to do something?" He said, "I don't think you should be asking me questions, not with your identity." She felt like a bucket of ice water had been poured over her. However, she quickly recovered and calmed down, then bowed her head. "I'm sorry, sir. I'll ensure everyone

knows that you're the boss from now on."

Now, this was what Darius wanted to hear. He nodded, then looked at Samantha, who

was still on the floor. "Samantha, you can stop that now. The person you're waiting for

isn't here yet, and perhaps he won't be coming at all."

Her eyes widened, and she wept silently. Then, she shook her head vigorously and cried, "He'll definitely be here! He promised me!"

"Well, maybe Hank Gillette's soul is here right now." Darius looked up at the sky.

"Look,

maybe he's hanging around here somewhere, looking down at you! But if you want him

to appear before you, I'm sorry that it's not possible because he's dead. He died a long

time ago."

Samantha shot to her feet, glaring at him with bloodshot eyes. "What the hell are you

talking about? That's impossible! Hank's always been powerful and has an enlightened

martial artist protecting him. How could a pauper like you, who can only afford to wear

rags, have anything to do with him?" Darius looked at his clothes and smiled disdainfully.

"Cut the crap. If I were you, I'd be thinking of ways to escape instead of continuing to

offend me."

Samantha's expression turned murderous. She forced out through gritted teeth, "Do you

know what you're saying? What do you think you can do to me? I'm this hotel's lobby

manager! All the security guards have to listen to my orders! They should be protecting

me. That's their duty."

Darius sighed. "I've lost all my patience. I already told you that I didn't like what you were

doing, and if you continue like this, there's no way we'll be able to hold a civilized conversation. I can guarantee that there'll be a repeat of what happened earlier."

Samantha fell silent. She didn't dare to make a sound because she knew that Darius could turn his threat into reality. She sat down and looked out the window resolutely,

obviously insisting on waiting for Hank to show up.

Darius saw through her right away, but he didn't say anything. He merely walked over to

Alicia, who was standing at the entrance, looking mad. He reached out to put a hand on

her shoulder. "You don't look too happy.

Didn't you manage to resolve the issue?"

Alicia looked at him and shook her head. "No, I've already taken care of Lyon.

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in the corner of the courtyard now."

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As she spoke, she pointed at a guy lying on the ground.

Darius looked at him and raised an eyebrow. "You're worried about the Gillette family

coming here."

Alicia nodded. "Yes, sir. They're extremely unreasonable and act based on their whims

and fancies. There's no way we can predict what they'll do." She looked at Darius. "If we

stay here, we'll put ourselves in grave danger.

Also, the fact that Samantha did a one-eighty worries me. It proves that she knows they're almost here. We've kept an eye on her all this time, so I have no idea how

she

found out about that."

Darius took in her frustrated expression, then walked into the courtyard. He put his hands behind his back and looked in the direction that the Gillette family's cars were

coming from. 'You're worried that because the Gillettes know we're here, they'll be able

to swiftly come up with a counterattack against us."

Alicia didn't expect him to understand her so well. She widened her eyes in surprise.

Darius didn't turn to look at her, though. Instead, a mocking and disdainful smile curved

his lips.

'They might have a hundred and one ways to deal with us, but none of them will work

against me. Otherwise, Hank wouldn't have died by my hands." He stretched his neck.

It allowed Alicia to sense his murderous intent, but all it did was bewitch her. He was so

handsome to her now, and it dazzled her.

Darius found it odd when he didn't receive a reply. He turned back to look at her and

asked, "So, what else are you worried about?"

She shook her head. "Nothing. I'm unbelievably reassured now." He nodded.

At this moment, Samantha, who'd been weeping pitifully this whole time, suddenly stood

up. She went back to looking like her usual self and moved to put her hands into her

pockets. However, she stopped at the last second and brushed the dust off her clothes

instead.

Darius glanced at her and clearly caught the disdain on her face. He knew that it was

meant for him, and he narrowed his eyes. She was an odd woman, and it seemed that

he had to change his impression of her. He felt that it'd be dangerous if he thought of her

as a normal woman. So, he walked over to her.

Samantha watched him approach, putting her hands into her pockets and sticking her

chest out. She held her head high and looked at him. "What, are you going to apologize

to me for your rudeness now, you pauper?"

To her surprise, Darius' expression only became contemptuous. "You seem to have already forgotten about what happened earlier." Before he could continue, she cut him

off shrilly.

"What the hell do you mean by that? What do you mean I've already forgotten about

what happened? Are you mocking my memory, or are you saying I'm insane?" Darius' eyes were already narrowed, to begin with, and at her words, he shut them. He

needed a silent environment to think. This woman's attitude was extremely odd. Also,

her words seemed to be pointing out her current situation. But was there really someone

so dumb?

While he pondered this and failed to come up with an answer, he suddenly heard the

sound of someone panting outside, but the Gillette family had yet to arrive. The only

thing that piqued his curiosity about this was the fact that he hadn't heard this slightly

familiar pant despite listening to all the sounds around them. He turned to look at the

entrance.

In the next second, he saw a tall, blond man running toward them. Shelvin's hair was

mussed up because of the distance he'd run. His shirt was unbuttoned, and the collar

was flipped.

His tie had gone missing long ago. He'd never been this disheveled. However, he felt

that he could look worse. He ran toward Darius, then flopped onto the floor by his feet,

gasping for breath.

Darius looked at him with a frown. "What are you doing? Is there something you're trying

to achieve by lying down at my feet?"

Shelvin's expression turned steely. He propped himself up with both arms and

prepared

to get to his feet.

Darius cleared his throat. 'You look just like a tortoise now, you know."

Shelvin rolled his eyes. "Man, you're savage. If not for you, I wouldn't have run all the

way here. Do you know how hard that was?"

Darius put his hands in his pockets, then shook his head. 'That's not exactly right. It

might be tough for an ordinary person, but not for you. After all, despite your weaknesses, you're still a martial artist."

Shelvin looked exasperated. He glared at Darius and said, "It looks like you're not interested in what I'm about to tell you."

Instead of saying anything, Darius merely let out a scoff.

This made Shelvin's exasperation disappear immediately. He smiled brightly and spread

his hands, saying, "I was just joking, of course."

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was flipped.

His tie had gone missing long ago. He'd never been this disheveled. However, he felt

that he could look worse. He ran toward Darius, then flopped onto the floor by his feet,

gasping for breath.

Darius looked at him with a frown. "What are you doing? Is there something you're trying

to achieve by lying down at my feet?"

Shelvin's expression turned steely. He propped himself up with both arms and prepared

to get to his feet.

Darius cleared his throat. 'You look just like a tortoise now, you know."

Shelvin rolled his eyes. "Man, you're savage. If not for you, I wouldn't have run all the

way here. Do you know how hard that was?"

Darius put his hands in his pockets, then shook his head. 'That's not exactly right. It

might be tough for an ordinary person, but not for you. After all, despite your weaknesses, you're still a martial artist."

Shelvin looked exasperated. He glared at Darius and said, "It looks like you're not interested in what I'm about to tell you."

Instead of saying anything, Darius merely let out a scoff.

This made Shelvin's exasperation disappear immediately. He smiled brightly and spread

his hands, saying, "I was just joking, of course."

Chapter 230

"After all, you're Darius Reed. I'll do anything I can to help you.

Darius looked at his watch. "I don't have much time left for you. The Gillette family's

going to be here soon."

Shelvin's eyes widened as he looked at Darius in disbelief. "How's that possible? Shouldn't they have their hands full right now? Why would they show up here?" Darius glanced at Samantha. "I think the answer to that probably has something to do

with this woman, but I don't know exactly what it is. You can look into the matter yourself

and tell me the answer once you have it." He stretched his neck.

Erin hurried over to him. She sized Shelvin up, then frowned. "Mr. Reid, what's he doing

here?" Shelvin was a little hurt by her question. He raised his voice in dissatisfaction and said,

"Hey, you may be beautiful, but you can't be so contemptuous of me! I'm a great guy,

and plenty of women were interested in me even before I became an enlightened martial

artist. They were practically dying for me to marry them, but that wasn't what I..." Erin cut him off. "Yeah, I'm not interested in that. I need to speak to Mr. Reid about work,

and I don't think you should be here."

Shelvin gaped and looked at her in shock. "How can you say that? I'm here for your

chairman's sake, you know! I mean, it's obvious that you like him, but you can't insult me

like that. It's really hurtful, and I don't think it's smart to treat your future colleague like

that."

Erin looked at him in confusion, then turned to Darius. Darius raised an eyebrow but

didn't avert his gaze and continued looking at Samantha.

Now, she looked like the professional lobby manager she was supposed to be.

This was different from how she'd looked earlier and wasn't the same as how she'd

looked when she'd first appeared.

Darius found this odd, but he didn't say anything. Just as he was deep in thought, a shrill

scream rang out. He whipped his head around to look at Erin and found her lying on the

floor. He frowned, narrowed his eyes, and then bent down to help her. As he did so, he

heard Shelvin say,

"My dearest Darius, you'll thank me when you hear what I'm about to say. This woman

named Samantha Williams is Hank Gillette's fiancee."

Darius raised an eyebrow. Hank was the sole heir of the Gillette family. There was

way he would've missed news of Hank getting engaged. He looked at Shelvin doubtfully,

and it made Shelvin feel uncomfortable.

He rubbed his nose and said, "You don't have to look at me like that because I'm telling

you the truth. It's an unspoken tradition among wealthy families for the heirs or heiresses

to have a childhood sweetheart who becomes their spouse."

Darius scrutinized him. When he was sure Shelvin wasn't pulling his leg, he took a deep

breath and said thoughtfully, 'That just makes things weirder. Samantha's father is a

business partner of mine, and his wealth isn't enough to make the Gillette family recognize her as Hank's future wife.

However, that's exactly what they did, and they did it long ago too."

As Darius tried to puzzle this out, Shelvin said, "Before this, there were rumors that there

was something off about this fiancee's mental state. I didn't believe for a second that the

Gillette family would choose such a person to become the future chairman's wifeit was much too risky. Now, however, I believe it."

Darius looked at him in confusion. "Why? Was it because of her mood swings? Also, it's

not like you witnessed it. You only heard some rumors." Shelvin raised an eyebrow and

looked at Darius in surprise. "Wait, you're an enlightened martial artist-a powerful one,

too-but you don't know this? It's common knowledge among martial artists." Darius said baldly, "Indeed, I don't. My awakening was an odd process, and nobody

knew about it, so..." He shrugged.

Shelvin's eyes lit up. He started trembling, then suddenly grabbed Darius' wrist. Darius

looked at his hand with displeasure. He didn't say anything, though. He wanted to know

what Shelvin was up to.

Soon, something surprising happened. Shelvin didn't do anything else after grabbing

him. Instead, he looked at him with bright eyes and said, "Wait, so you're the legendary

genius?" Without waiting for a response, he nodded confidently and continued, "You

have to be! Only a genius would become enlightened without anyone finding out!" Darius was a little lost for words, but he didn't deny this. "Maybe you're right, but I think

you should let go of my arm and tell me why you think there's something wrong with

Samantha's mental state."

Shelvin immediately let go of Darius when he sensed the shift in his emotions, then took

two steps back, keeping what he felt was a safe distance between them.

The Consortium's Heir by Benjamin Chapter 230

Chapter 230

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two steps back, keeping what he felt was a safe distance between them.

The Consortium's Heir Chapter 231

He cleared his throat and straightened his collar before saying, "It's a skill that we enlightened martial artists can use. You just need to direct that warm energy to your eyes

to see everything you want anything at all, as long as you think about it." This came as a surprise to Darius. He widened his eyes and looked at Shelvin doubtfully,

which Shelvin didn't appreciate. Shelvin took a deep breath and looked at Darius sincerely, then said, "Darius, I'm not lying to you. Why would I when I want to work for

you in the future?" He paused, then continued calmly, "If you don't believe me, you can

try it. You'll definitely see whatever you want to."

Darius was still doubtful, but he couldn't suppress his curiosity. He tried to direct the

energy from his abdomen to his eyes. What happened next shocked him —it was the

exact scene he'd imagined!

Erin flushed when she saw him staring at her. She took a deep breath before saying,

"Mr. Reid, you're making me shy, staring at me like that." As she said this, Darius felt his

mouth go dry.

He never expected his mind to conjure up such an image, which was why he couldn't

take his eyes off Erin —she was butt -naked in his eyes.

It was only when he registered what she'd said that he returned to his senses. Then, he

jumped slightly and quickly turned away. Erin didn't understand why he was acting so

oddly, so she hurried over to him and reached out to steady him. "Mr. Reid, are you

okay?

Why did you jump? Do you feel unwell? Should I get you a doctor?"

Darius' heart was calm as he listened to her concerned questions, but he was acutely

aware of her hand on his arm. He pulled his arm out of her grasp and put it behind his

back before clearing his throat to conceal his awkwardness. Then, he frowned and said,

"I'm fine. You can let go of me now."

Erin sensed the displeasure in his tone and quickly put her hand down, but she couldn't

conceal her disappointment. Shelvin stood there silently, watching them. He turned to

Darius and smiled knowingly, saying, "So, the view was pretty nice, huh?"

Realization dawned on Erin when she heard his words, and her face burned bright red.

She immediately kicked Shelvin behind his knee. He could've avoided her, but he knew

that he'd crossed the line earlier. He didn't dodge her, so he ended up falling to his knees before Darius.

When Darius heard the sound of Shelvin's knees coming into contact with the floor, it

made him wince. Shelvin didn't look too bothered, though, making Darius raise an eyebrow. It seemed that

Shelvin was worthy of his respect. Soon, however, Darius pushed this thought out of his

mind.

Because Shelvin looked up at him, grinned, and mouthed, "Don't worry. I'm aman, too,

and I can understand how you feel. I'll take this kick on your behalf, but I hope

you' ll be

braver the next time. I'll be waiting to attend your engagement party!"

Darius rolled his eyes, choosing not to say anything in response.

He put stuck his hands in his pockets and said coldly, "You keep saying you have something important to say, but you've failed to do so. Tell me what you know about

Samantha Williams."

Shelvin knew that he was really out of patience now, so he quickly got to his feet and

said, "You've already tried directing the energy to your eyes, right? And you saw whatever it was you were thinking of. Basically, your eyes can act as an X-ray, and no

one will be able to hide anything from you. You'll be a walking X-ray machine!" Darius didn't say anything. He merely turned to sweep his gaze over everyone present

and found that Shelvin was right. It was like he'd been introduced to a new world—one

he'd never imagined existed. His gaze landed on Samantha.

He could clearly see that the blood vessels in her brain weren't like the ordinary person's

—they were all lumped together, and some of them had turned black. They were probably dead.

To Darius, this meant something really was wrong with her brain.

This made his eyes widen, but it also made him more curious. With the Gillette family's

wealth, there was no way they would choose a disabled person to be the future chairman's wife.

Yet, this was exactly what had happened. It was unimaginable, and he looked at her in

wonder.

Samantha couldn't hear their conversation.