

Chapter 8-9 Who's running Kangster Films?

Merissa shot Richard a frigid, determined look. "Listen up, Richard. I'm telling you one last time, our marriage is over! You have three days to sign those divorce papers and get them to me. Otherwise, remember what Grandma Margaret said? If I divorce you because you fail me, your company and your houses will all be mine!"

Richard was taken aback by Merissa's declaration.

He had never anticipated that she would go through with the divorce. Wasn't she still crazy about him just a few days ago? What was with the sudden change?!

But Merissa's words also jogged Richard's memory about the prenuptial agreement they had signed under Margaret's insistence. Based on that, if Merissa initiated the divorce because of his mistreatment, she would gain ownership of his company and assets.

Richard cast a glance at Cartland meaningfully, his expression grim, then asked Merissa, "Are you serious about this?"

Cartland raised an eyebrow, realizing that Richard got their relationship wrong. But taking it a good chance to irritate this jerk, he decided to play along.

He took off his jacket and draped it over Merissa's shoulders, then said to Richard, "Actually, I've been pursuing Merissa."

He then gazed down at Merissa. "An amazing and gorgeous lady like her deserves such attention at least, don't you think? I've been waiting for ages just to get a shot among her admirers. You have no idea how many they are. And let's not forget, you were the one who had an affair with your beloved Maddie, right? What makes you think you can judge Merissa?"

Watching their intimate exchange, Richard experienced a mix of emotions churning inside. But he had to admit that Cartland had a point. "Maddie is..."

Cartland interrupted him, "Forget it, Mr. Adler. We're not interested in your business. It's getting late; I'll take Merissa home. And as for you... You might want to spend time with your... you know, your sweetheart."

As his voice fell, he grabbed Merissa's hand and drove away soon, leaving Richard in a cloud of car exhaust!

As frustration washed over him, his anger found no outlet.

Caught off guard, he didn't realize until now that Merissa was no pushover.

He couldn't help shing out the crumpled divorce papers from his suit pocket. The terms that would leave him penniless and the mention of his so-called erectile dysfunction were like a slap in the face!

In a fit of anger, he crumpled the already wrinkled document up into a ball!

Maddie, who had followed Richard out and seen everything, was seething with jealousy. In her eyes, it was already too much for Merissa to have a powerful backer like Cartland, not to mention the fact that Richard had left her alone in the banquet just to chase after Merissa!

With her eyes aching with resentment, she closed them briefly to regain her usual innocence. With a naive look, she approached Richard cautiously. "Richard, you okay?"

Richard didn't reply, just said, "Let's head back."

As they walked, Richard pulled out divorce papers from his suit. Somehow, his expression darkened for a moment before he stuffed them back in.

After dropping Maddie off, Richard unfolded the crumpled divorce papers, their creases now deeper, and laid them out on the table.

The weight of Merissa's indifference lingered, a constant thorn in his thoughts.

If Merissa could move on so easily, he could also date as many women as he wanted!

He believes that after a period of time, Merissa will definitely come back to save him!

With a surge of determination, Richard grabbed a pen and scribbled his name, the ink bleeding through the paper as if mirroring his tumultuous emotions.

"Andy." He summoned his secretary.

"Yes, Mr. Adler? How can I help?"

Handing over the divorce papers, Richard said, "I've signed. Send these to Merissa tomorrow."

Merissa, you would definitely come back to me! Richard thought to himself.

At the headquarters of Kangster Films, Merissa was in her office.

Her great chatting with Edgar last night had reinforced her confidence in a new show investment.

Eager to solidify the deal, she told Kurt to get the contract for Edgar, intending to deliver it later during her visit to Cartland's set.

"What's up? Something wrong?"

Merissa was about to head out when she noticed Kurt seemed hesitant.

"It's Mr. Adler, your ex-husband. He's here with Maddie, and they're asking to see you."

Merissa pieced together Maddie's likely motives almost immediately. It seemed like Maddie's ploy to safeguard her acting career after an underwhelming performance with Edgar the previous day.

"So, should I let them in?"

Maddie and Richard couldn't possibly know she owned Kangster Films. Knowing her identity was under wraps, Merissa stayed cool. With a playful grin, she gured out a solution soon. "Isn't there a movie promotion meeting tomorrow? Let's do it this afternoon. That way... I won't have time to see them, I guess."

Kurt nodded with a mischievous grin. "Got it!"

At the reception desk of Kangster Films, with one arm around Maddie, Richard said to the receptionist, "I'm Richard Adler. Mr. Mortiz already talked to your boss about a collaboration."

The receptionist greeted him with a smile, "Hello, you must be the president of Adler Group. One moment, please."

After making a call to confirm the appointment information, the receptionist wore an apologetic smile instead. "Sorry, Mr. Adler. I'm afraid your appointment might have to be canceled. The president is occupied by an urgent meeting, and I'm not sure when she'll be available. Would you like to reschedule or wait? I'll let you know as soon as the meeting is ended."

Richard's face darkened at her words. It was the first time he had been stood up like this!

Sensing Richard's frustration, Maddie hurried to advise, "Richard, let's just wait. It shouldn't take long." After all, if he felt insulted and left directly, she would lose a valuable connection.

"Fine, but make sure to call us as soon as she's free," Richard agreed reluctantly. As they walked away, he paused and turned back. "Oh, by the way, may I have your president's name?"

The receptionist declined with an apologetic smile. "Sorry."

Richard frowned, feeling annoyed.

He had been turned down twice within just one hour!

Speaking of the owner of Kangster Films, all he knew was that it was a gorgeous lady, who was mysterious yet influential! She was known as a savvy investor who never failed. Under her leadership, Kangster Films had risen to the top of the industry within just a few years.

Despite the refusal, Richard and Maddie found somewhere to sit and wait.

Sensing Richard was getting impatient, Maddie said to him, "Richard, thanks a lot. Kangster Films is an industry leader, and I'm really hoping to score some resources here. If my career takes off, it's a win for you too!"

Richard nodded, enjoying her compliment. "I just did what I could. Without you by my side back then, I wouldn't have made it this far."

It wasn't the first time Richard had brought up "their" past!

Maddie started feeling a bit uneasy. After all, it was Merissa who had been through thick and thin with Richard, not her! She didn't share those memories!

With a guilty heart, she responded without arousing his suspicion, "It's the least I could do. You have no idea how lucky I feel to have met you!"

Time ticked by.

Night fell, and they were still waiting!

But the president of Kangster Films hadn't shown up yet!

Richard felt like he got played!

"Richard?"

Just then, a familiar voice called out, causing Richard to frown.

It was his archenemy and biggest competitor, Martin Narth.

They had been at odds since school days. Martin had always been a "huge fan" of Merissa, and he even punched Richard at the latter's wedding with Merissa.

Richard didn't want to talk to him, but out of courtesy, he nodded in greeting.

"Are you here for business? Why the wait?" Martin asked.

Poked in a sore spot, Richard found himself at a loss for words. What could he say? That he had been turned away? That they didn't want to work with him? Either way, it didn't look good for him!

Just as Richard struggled to find words, the receptionist chimed in, showing more respect to Martin, "Mr. Narth, please come in. Our president is free now."

Richard and Maddie could hear her clearly.

So, the president of Kangster Films did have time! She just didn't want to meet with them!

As the truth dawned on him, Richard's face darkened, and he stormed out of the building!

Maddie hurried after him. "Richard, they're clearly making things difficult for us. I'm sure Merissa's behind this! She hooked up with Edgar and Cartland before..."

"That's enough!" Richard cut her off, feeling increasingly irritated at the thought of Merissa!

He had the driver take Maddie home and then immediately called Andy, "Find out who's running Kangster Films. I want all her information! Now!"

Andy sprang into action, but twenty minutes later, he called back with nothing useful. "Sorry, Mr. Adler. I found... nothing."

"Are you sure?" Richard stood up, his brows furrowed in dissatisfaction at Andy's response.

"But I heard that she is usually very approachable and wouldn't act like this. Mr. Adler, have you... offended someone lately?"

Offend?

Besides his ex-wife, Richard couldn't think of anyone he had offended! Could it really be Merissa's doing?!

He rubbed his temples. "Keep digging! I need to know who's running Kangster Films!"