

Chapter 200: Every dog has its day.

Ethan's POV:

I couldn't believe what I was seeing. Alexander was standing there in the meeting room as if he owned the place. "What the hell are you doing here, Alexander?" I asked.

Alexander's smile was wide, but the feeling didn't seem to reach his eyes. "Yes, Ethan, you understood that right. The person who will replace you in your CEO functions would be me. I've been talking to our friends here at the council, and they believe that what you did to me a few months ago was inexcusable and just the tip of the iceberg of your misdeeds," he said to me.

I shook my head, still confused. "You were removed from your position because you committed fraud, and I had proof of that! This was an assertive decision from the council, the opposite of what is going on here!" I exclaimed.

"Oh, Ethan, don't make things harder for yourself," Alexander told me. I think that he was mimicking the tone that I used when I communicated the council decision in this same room months ago. "I have my own set of proof too, and now the council

understands that your absence along with your scandalous relationship with Hannah are enough to release you from your duties here," Alexander said.

"You can't do this to me! I STILL HAVE THE MAJORITY STOCKS OF THIS COMPANY!" I screamed at them. Some of the members of the board jumped scared with my attitude, but I didn't care. I couldn't accept being dethroned, especially by this scumbag called Alexander. And thinking that one day I called this prick my best friend...

"Don't be naïve, Ethan. One thing has nothing to do with the other," Alexander said. "You see, you are the main stockholder, but the council votes for the company's directory, and they all voted against you and the injustice that you committed to me a few months ago, so they decided to repair that error by giving me your position. Now, be a nice guy and remove your stuff from my office by the end of the week, will you?" Alexander told me.

And that was the last straw for me. I went berserk and jumped towards Alexander. Nobody could stop me before I punched him a couple of times. I could hear a lot of people exclaiming in horror, but I couldn't identify what they were saying.

Alexander had his guard down, so these two punches hit him squarely, one in the cheek, the

other in the eye. It would definitely leave marks.

"Ethan, Ethan! Stop!" I heard Vincent telling me while he was trying to hold my arms. "It's already a scandal!"

A couple of members of the board along with Vincent managed to extricate us. I could see in Alexander's face that he lamented since he was caught by surprise at first, and the board managed to separate us right when he was about to strike his first blow. The only bruises that I would have from this fight would be in my fists and in my ego.

"Do you see? That is why you aren't suitable to be the CEO of this company anymore, Ethan!"

Alexander barked. "Can you imagine what kind of scandal could this fight bring to our company if anyone of us decides to leak this episode to a journalist?" He continued.

I looked around and saw that many of the board members were looking at me astonished, and some of them looked even disappointed.

"Never in my whole professional life have I seen something like this," Callaham said. "I'm sorry, Ethan, but all that I can do now is to ask you to leave and cool down. We will postpone this conversation for now," he added.

"Come on, Ethan, let's get out of here," Vincent mumbled to me. I looked around at all the expectant faces and nodded slowly. Vincent felt that I wasn't resisting anymore and opened the room door. I went after him in a sort of numbness. I was definitely having an extracorporeal experience.

Vincent walked me to my office and mumbled to Eric: "Don't let anybody in or any calls to the room, ok?" Eric simply nodded, confused. I was beyond furious and didn't know what to do. I was so shocked that I allowed Vincent to instruct Eric about things. He probably did that because Alexander liked to brag about things. He would probably come to my office to continue creating chaos.

As soon as Vincent closed the door behind us, I punched a wall, which was a dumb thing to do. It just created a hole in the drywall. Well, if Alexander would really take my place here, this would serve him well. "Damn it!" I exclaimed. "What is this dumbass doing in my company?" I asked Vincent.

"I honestly don't know, Ethan. I knew that something was going on here, but I didn't know that he had anything to do with that," Vincent told me. "This is all revenge, Ethan. He can't last longer

here!" Vincent added.

"I don't give a s**t how long he lasts here, Vince! I don't want his ass in my chair for a single day!" I exclaimed to him.

"Are you sure that we can't do anything to stop him from taking your position?" Vincent asked me.

I ran my hands over my face in a gesture of despair. "How could I know, Vincent? I just fell into a damn trap! It just happened..." I sighed. "Oh, my God... what am I going to do now?" I asked with a heavy heart.

"Well, I know that you just made a rhetorical question, but I need to say it, Ethan. You need to remain calm," Vincent told me. And then, he raised his hand and continued talking when I barely started to protest. "I know. You're mad. I'm mad for you too, but you saw these people at the meeting. They were terrified. You are not giving them an example of a centered man who can easily keep his CEO functions."

"But it is so hard to remain calm when I know that this piece of s**t is at my building and on top of it, he is trying to take what is mine!" I exclaimed to him.

"Yeah, I agree with you, Ethan, but believe me, the

best that you will get by behaving like that is the security team at this door escorting you outside, believe me," Vincent added.

I sighed. He was right. I didn't take a blow at the meeting room. This was more like holding a nuclear bomb in my hands. I needed to strike back, but I just didn't know how. I turned to Vincent and asked: "What do you suggest me to do?"

Vincent remained quiet for a long minute, and then he said: "If I were you, I would leave the building. First, because of Alexander. The chances are that you are going to hit him again, and this could complicate things even more. Retreat to think from another perspective. I would also call a few corporate lawyers to see what they think about that. They will probably send you formal documents so a legal team can examine them. That is what I would do," he said.

"And how about Alexander?" I asked him.

"Every dog has its day, Ethan. And today it will be no use for you to go to war with him," Vincent said. "You need to act like him. Retreat, think, and attack," he added.

I sighed. "You are right. I will do that," I told him.

"Good," Vincent said. "Do you want me to come with you?" He offered.

I shook my head and said: "I don't think so. I need to talk to Hannah about that, and this is going to be a hard conversation already. Besides, I think that you will be strategically positioned here, Vince. While I'm out, I want you to be my eyes and ears here. Do you think you can do that?" I asked.

"Sure, you can count on me for that, although I believe that Alexander doesn't trust me anymore," Vincent said.

"Thank you, my friend," I told him.

"No problem at all, Ethan," he told me.

I managed to leave my office with no further incidents. I had a private exit in my office that almost nobody knew about it. You can call it a panic escape route. I explained to Eric what was going on, and he lamented. Unfortunately, I couldn't guarantee his future. Alexander was catty; therefore, he suspects everyone who had a connection with me. I hope I can help Eric in some way, but that wasn't the moment to do something for him.

In a few minutes, I was at the garage and left it quietly, thank God. I still had my hotel room and

the manor. I decided to go to the second. It was awkward to be there once again. I had so many memories. I bought the place when I got married to Hannah, but I made her suffer a lot here. I was sure that she wouldn't say yes to come back to the city and live here. Walking through the empty corridors, I felt nothing. I had no connection with the house. Besides, I bought a new place just for her. A place where we could be happy.

I decided to stay there for the night and pack as much as I could. This place was dead to me too. And maybe I could sell it and use the money for the lawyer that I should hire to try and take back my company. Just thinking about all that made my head throb. This damn thing was going to consume me.

I heard my cellphone ring. It was a message. When I went to retrieve the device, I saw a lot of texts from a lot of people, but just one called my attention. I had several unanswered calls from Hannah and some texts that said things like "*Where are you? I'm getting worried.*" Well, it was time to call her and break the news. God only knows what she would tell me after that.