

Chapter 102 Birthday Party

Upon hearing the news, Eden's countenance turned somber. Was Sloan Corporation purposefully trying to intimidate him?

"Mr. Dixon, our two companies have been working together smoothly. We recently signed a three-month contract. Why have you suddenly scheduled a meeting with another company? Have we done anything wrong?"

"This was Mr. Sloan's idea. We're just following his lead." Kevin shifted the blame to Eliam.

"Let's put that aside for now. Why hasn't anyone welcomed the project team we sent this morning?"

"Mr. Sloan said we're only acknowledging Rhonda due to her tax planning scheme. No one else will be welcomed," Kevin explained.

"Why are you allowing someone to interfere in the cooperation between our companies?" Eden sensed something amiss with Eliam. "Also, temporarily transferring Rhonda is a routine work arrangement for our company. What does it have to do with Sloan Corporation?"

"This is Mr. Sloan's idea. Or would you prefer to tell him yourself?" Kevin replied helplessly.

Eden was so incensed that he slammed his phone down and repeatedly called Eliam but his phone was switched off.

In the end, Ella and the others who had been waiting outside the branch office all morning returned dejected.

She had intended to present a substitute for Rhonda's tax planning scheme but they didn't even let her in. She was disheartened.

Upon hearing the news, Dolores immediately messaged Rhonda.

Rhonda was also perplexed about why Sloan Corporation had taken this



In the afternoon, Rhonda felt considerably better, prompting her to call Leonard and inquire about recent developments. To her surprise, she learned that Eliam had returned home.

Rhonda couldn't help but wonder why Eliam hadn't gone back to his family now that he was back home.

She couldn't help but feel a tinge of disappointment, thinking that Eliam might have gone to see Diana.

Despite Eliam insisting that he saw Diana as just a good friend and their relationship was pure, it was clear to everyone that he favored Diana.

Rhonda was at a loss as to how to handle the impact of this relationship, wondering if it was an insurmountable barrier between her and Eliam.

Whenever she thought about it, Rhonda couldn't help but wonder if there was any hope for a future with Eliam.

Just as she was fretting over this, Fiona called her to invite her to her birthday party, which her family was organizing.

Rhonda initially didn't want to go, as she didn't enjoy crowded events and was worried that Robert might also attend.

She had promised Jennifer to stay away from Robert and she couldn't break that promise.

However, Fiona said that Rhonda was her only friend and she really wanted her to be there.

Fiona assured Rhonda that Robert wasn't invited to the party and so Rhonda finally agreed.

Rhonda chose a Longines watch for Fiona as her birthday gift.

The party was scheduled to start at half-past seven in the evening.

Rhonda arrived at the Stiller family's villa in the suburb with the gift in hand.

She had anticipated a small gathering for Fiona's birthday but, to her surprise, the Stiller family had spared no expense and the party was extravagant.

Fiona looked stunning like a fairy in her white princess-like dress.

Rhonda presented her heartfelt gift and wished her a happy birthday.

"Thank you for coming," Fiona replied, taking the gift with delight like a child.

"What did you get her? Let's see," a voice interrupted from behind.

Rhonda turned around to see Alivia and Diana approaching arm in arm.

"Rhonda, what gift did you bring for my sister?" Alivia sneered. "A cheap item worth only a few hundred dollars?"

"She's so stingy with herself, how could she be generous to others?" Diana added her own snide comment.

"No matter what it is, I'll like it as long as it's from Rhonda," Fiona interjected.

"Fiona, I don't understand why you invited her on such a happy day. It's such a buzzkill," Alivia said.

"Rhonda is my friend. Please show some respect," Fiona defended as she led Rhonda to the back garden where the party would be held.

Guests started to arrive in twos and threes, mainly young men and women who chatted in groups, took selfies or talked business while enjoying drinks.

The majority of attendees tonight hailed from affluent families, with some being compelled by their parents to seek potential marriage partners.

Rhonda, not a fan of raucous gatherings, retreated to a peaceful corner to sit.

It was then that Diana approached her and snidely remarked, "You seem to have developed a taste for parties lately, haven't you?"



Rhonda remained silent.

"Has Eiam returned yet?"

Diana's query made Rhonda's heart skip a beat.

It appeared that Eiam hadn't been in Diana's company the previous day.

"You can ask him yourself," Rhonda responded coolly.

"I've been unable to reach him as his phone has been switched off. Can you get through?" Diana probed tentatively.

"I never call him. It's always him who calls me," Rhonda retorted.

"Are you trying to show off?" Diana's face flushed with anger.

"I'm speaking the truth. It's only natural for couples to call one another. Why would I need to boast?"

"Rhonda, mark my words, I'll make sure you lose everything one day. I'll send you back where you came from!" Diana threatened with a venomous smile.

"I'll be waiting," Rhonda responded calmly, rising to take a seat elsewhere.

Suddenly, the music began, and everyone joined in to sing a birthday song. Amidst the crowd, Fiona, garbed in a white dress and wreath, strolled towards the garden.

As guests readied their cameras to capture the moment, someone inadvertently trod on the hemline of Fiona's dress.

Fiona lost her footing and tumbled to the ground, causing her dress to rip from the back.

The crowd erupted in screams but no one stepped forward to assist her.

If Fiona were to rise, her dress would slip and reveal her private parts.

In that moment, Rhonda dashed over and draped her red windbreaker over Fiona to conceal her.

Rhonda pulled a string from her hair to mend the tear in Fiona's dress from behind and carefully helped her to her feet.

Though the back of the dress was damaged, the front remained unscathed, and Fiona appeared somewhat refined wearing Rhonda's windbreaker over her ensemble.

The entire episode lasted less than three minutes, yet it was a heart-pounding experience.

Fiona's body trembled and it was uncertain whether her reaction was due to fear or anger.

A discerning observer could surmise that the incident was no accident but rather a planned scheme orchestrated by someone.

Fiona suspected Alivia as the culprit.

After changing into fresh attire, the party resumed without any further incidents.

The fall was a mere interlude that went unmentioned.

"Rhonda, thank you so much for your help." Fiona expressed her gratitude.