

Chapter 108 Scheme

Rhonda's hands, holding chopsticks, quivered slightly. She recalled that someone had pushed her into the water from behind that night.

The sensation of suffocation underwater made her feel as though death was imminent.

Had it not been for Marvell, she would have died.

Rhonda carried on eating.

Seeing her nonchalance, Diana felt discontented and persisted, "That time, you were with me, but Eliam rescued me first. That's proof that I remain the most important person in his heart."

Rhonda set down her fork.

At that moment, Steven and Eliam entered.

"Rhonda, fetch two more sets of tableware. Steven and Diana are joining us for dinner," Eliam instructed.

"I'm tired. I'll head back first." Rhonda stood up, walked past Eliam, and exited the dining room.

"What's her problem? Doesn't she welcome us?" Diana exclaimed.

"What did you say to her earlier?" Eliam's expression darkened.

"I didn't say a thing," Diana protested, feeling wronged.

"Enjoy your meal. I'll go check on her." Eliam left the Leslie siblings and returned to his room.

Rhonda lay in bed, feeling sulky.

"What's bothering you?" Eliam reclined beside Rhonda and poked her back.



"You can go back and entertain our guests." Rhonda sobbed.

"Why are you crying?"

"I'm not crying."

Eliam turned Rhonda's face towards him and noticed her reddened eyes.

"Why are you trying to deny it? Who upset you?"

"Just leave. I don't want to see you." Rhonda grabbed the quilt and pulled it over her head.

With no other choice, Eliam returned to the dining room.

"What's going on with cousin-in-law?" Steven asked.

"She's alright. Probably just tired," Eliam responded.

"Eliam, I heard Mr. Dixon and Mr. Welch had a conversation the other day. How did it go? The New Voyage's price is significantly lower than Eden Accounting's, right?"

"I haven't checked on it yet," Eliam replied, focusing on his meal.

"Eliam, are you interested in that southern city land?"

Eliam cast a cold glance and retorted, "Weren't you aware that Marvell claimed it?"

"Marvell intends to sell it soon," Steven mentioned with a grin.

"Sell?" Eliam looked at Steven and asked, "Are you interested in it?"

"Absolutely. Opportunities like that are scarce. But Marvell's odd; if he dislikes someone, he won't sell, no matter the offer."

"Have you spoken with him?"

"We met briefly a few days ago but didn't chat much. We had a previous disagreement," Steven admitted candidly. "So, I'd like you to step in and purchase the land."

"I'm not considering purchasing it at the moment," Eliam stated.

"If you buy the land, I'll cover the cost. Once you have it, you can sell it to me, and I'll give you 5% of the total amount as a bonus."

Eliam scoffed, "Quite the schemer, aren't you?"

Steven grinned. "You don't know the half of it. Actually, Sloan Real Estate originally owned that land. It went bankrupt and was acquired by Marvell. My father has a soft spot for Sloan Real Estate, so he wants the land back."

"I'm curious about the grudge between you and Marvell," Eliam said, putting down his chopsticks.

Steven glanced at Diana, replying, "It's a long story. I'll fill you in later. Right now, our priority is securing the land. I heard Marvell's in town. You could schedule a meeting with him when you're free."

Eliam nodded. "I'll think it over."

After dinner, Steven took his leave.

In the study, Diana noticed Eliam was absorbed in his work and hadn't spoken to her for quite some time.

She leaned over, placing a hand on his shoulder.

"Eliam, take a break and chat with me."

Eliam removed Diana's hand, responding, "If you're bored, go shopping with others."

"I don't want to shop with others. I just want your company. Doing anything with you is fine," Diana said coquettishly.

"I'm swamped and can't spare the time," Eliam replied, slightly annoyed.

"Can I wait until you finish working?" Diana said with grievance.

"I'll be extremely busy for the next few days."

"But you found time to cook for Rhonda. Why can't you make time for me?"

Diana complained.

The memory of the night's events agitated Eliam. He had barely seized the opportunity to be alone with Rhonda when Diana and her brother intruded.

"I've told you repeatedly that Rhonda is my wife. It's natural for me to be with her. Unless it's urgent, don't call me in the future. I don't want her to misunderstand."

"Eliam, all I want is to have dinner and watch a movie with you. How could she possibly misunderstand that? Can't friends even share a meal? What kind of wife would prevent her husband from dining with his cousin-in-law?"

"Whatever you say." Eliam didn't want to prolong the argument. He focused on his work.

Diana sat there, growing bored. As she was about to leave, she noticed Rhonda leaving the house.

"Eliam, Rhonda just left. It's late; where could she be going?" Diana asked deliberately, adding, "Is she sneaking off for a secret date?"

"Do you genuinely hope she cheats on me?" Eliam retorted, visibly irritated.

"I'm just looking out for you. You're so ungrateful. You don't appreciate how kind I am to you," Diana snapped, grabbed her bag, and stormed out.

Once Diana had gone, Eliam grabbed his phone and tried calling Rhonda.

After waiting for a while, no one answered the phone.

Meanwhile, Rhonda took a taxi to a prearranged location where Adolf Acosta, who claimed to be her father's former coworker, was waiting.

"Mr. Acosta, why were you so insistent on meeting me?"

"I've reached out to the five victims from back then, but we're all uneducated. I need your help with this lawsuit. What do you say?"

"No problem. But do you have any evidence?" Rhonda had never been



part of a lawsuit and was unsure how to proceed.

"Here's the situation. We contacted Billy, the previous building contractor. He claims we were employed by Sloan Real Estate at the time and should seek compensation from them for the accident. We should sue Sloan Real Estate, with Billy only held jointly and severally liable. Billy has also provided some evidence proving our employment relationship with Sloan Real Estate."

He handed Rhonda a stack of documents.

She quickly scanned them and said, "I'll consult my lawyer tomorrow. Wait for my update."

Not far from them, Steven narrowed his eyes to observe their interaction. Sitting beside him was a portly old man named Duncan Ellsworth, who used to work as Billy's assistant.

Back then, Charlton arranged for Duncan to work for Billy. They conspired together to deceive Sloan Real Estate for three hundred million dollars, and then framed Billy for it.