

Chapter 111 The Agreement

"I can't reveal that. It's all my fault. I dragged you into this mess. I'm sorry about your father." Tears flowed down Adolf's cheeks as he spoke.

"Can you tell me who was responsible for that accident?" Rhonda was desperate to uncover the truth.

"I believe it should be the suppliers' fault. The cement they provided was substandard and practically useless. Otherwise, the reinforced bars wouldn't have collapsed."

"Then who was in charge of coordinating with the suppliers?"

"It was Duncan, the project manager at the time. He worked for the boss Mr. Leslie." Adolf was an honest man and wouldn't deceive her.

Upon hearing this, Rhonda realized that someone was trying to dredge up the past to deliberately harm Richard.

But the company had gone bankrupt. What could anyone gain from hurting him?

"Did the Leslie family ask you to approach me?" Rhonda suspected that the Leslie family was most likely behind it all.

They used her to amplify the situation. On one hand, she represented the victims' families, making her words more convincing. On the other, they wanted to drive a wedge between her and Eliam.

"I truly can't say. Young lady, they're wealthy and powerful; they can do whatever they want. We stand no chance against them." Adolf wore a pained expression.

Rhonda thought of the man with the scar. She took out her phone, showed him the photo, and asked, "Adolf, have you ever seen this man?"

"Yes, it's him. He's the one who always came to me. He forbade me from telling anyone anything, threatening to kill my entire family if I did."

The man hadn't ceased to commit crimes even after he was bailed out from the police station.

"So the evidence you gave me was all provided by him?"

"Yes, he handed them to me. I didn't understand any of it. I passed them on to you without even looking at them. I don't know anything beyond that."

When Rhonda left, she gave Adolf five hundred dollars and asked him not to disclose her visit to anyone.

As soon as she returned to the Sloan family home, Fiona called and informed her that the online rumors had been spread by the Leslie Group's public relations department.

The Leslie family was indeed behind it all.

The following day, the court notified her about mediation scheduled for the upcoming week.

In the afternoon, Steven sought her out.

Rhonda didn't care for Steven at all.

They met at a hotel restaurant.

Upon meeting, Steven presented Rhonda with a diamond necklace, which she politely declined. This created a momentarily awkward atmosphere.

"What's the reason for our meeting today?"

"It's about your lawsuit. I want to know how I can help you," Steven said with a smile.

"Thank you, but I don't require any assistance at the moment," Rhonda responded. "However, I am curious about the whereabouts of a man named Billy Laurie."

Steven's expression shifted slightly. "I'm not familiar with the person you're referring to."

"He was the building contractor back then. I heard your father recommended him. I want to add him as another defendant in the case."

"He's been missing for years. Accusing him won't do you any good," Steven replied.

"He's been missing for years? What about Duncan Ellsworth?"

Steven's eyes turned sinister. "The people you're mentioning have no connection to your father's accident. The court won't entertain accusations against them."

"Is that so?" Rhonda had Adolf's statement implicating Duncan, but she chose not to share this with Steven.

"Who informed you about Duncan?" Steven asked.

"My grandmother told me that Duncan recommended my father for the construction site job. After my father's accident, he signed a compensation agreement with my grandmother and promised her one hundred and fifty thousand dollars as compensation."

Hearing this, Steven's frown deepened.

In the end, why would it end up involving him?

"Can I have a look at that agreement?" Steven struggled to maintain his composure.

"I have the agreement, but I can't show it to you. However, I can tell you that it bears Duncan's signature and Billy's company stamp."

When Charlton introduced building contractor Billy to work for Sloan Real Estate, Duncan served as their intermediary. Subsequently, Charlton placed Duncan as the vice president of Billy's company. Charlton and Duncan conspired, using Billy's construction firm to extract three hundred million dollars from Sloan Real Estate.

Following the accident involving Eliam's parents, Charlton seized fifteen percent of Sloan Real Estate shares from Richard, but his greed persisted. With Billy in custody, Duncan assumed control of his company. Charlton instructed Duncan to orchestrate an accident to sabotage Sloan Real Estate, allowing him to take over. However, Richard filed for bankruptcy, foiling Charlton's plans.

Over the years, Charlton harbored resentment. When he learned that Richard had established another real estate company and recovered some assets from the previous firm, he grew suspicious of the past bankruptcy.

Charlton exhaustively investigated Richard, and with newfound evidence, targeted his new real estate company.

Determined to acquire the new company at any cost, Charlton was infuriated when Richard transferred the company to Eliam's name.

Steven sent a message to Duncan and asked him if he had this agreement.

Duncan confirmed its existence but was uncertain if he had signed it.

Steven seethed with anger. Possessing this agreement would be akin to shooting himself in the foot.

As Steven's expressions changed, Rhonda felt a sense of secret satisfaction. It looked like he had taken the bait.

After leaving the hotel restaurant, Rhonda took a taxi. Along the way, she noticed a car tailing her.

When she reached the Sloan family's residence, Eliam was waiting for her in the yard.

"Did the court inform you about the mediation?" Eliam questioned.

"Yes."

"Grandpa is in a coma now. What do you want? You're after the money,

right? But you have to promise me that you'll drop the lawsuit once you receive the money."

"I don't want money, and I won't drop the lawsuit."

"Then what on earth are you after?" Eliam's confusion regarding Rhonda only grew.

"I haven't made up my mind yet." Rhonda asked, "How is Grandpa doing now?"

"How can you even bring up Grandpa?" At that moment, Diana came out from the study. "If you hadn't sued Grandpa, he wouldn't be in the hospital right now."

Rhonda caught sight of Diana and quickly turned around, heading straight for the room.

Diana approached and grabbed her arm. "Hold on, don't leave. I have a question for you."

"I found this card in your room. Is it yours?" Diana took out a bank card and waved it in front of Rhonda.

"That's mine. Give it back." Rhonda recognized the card Richard had given her, likely misplaced during her packing.

"Yours? In my opinion, you stole it from Grandpa, didn't you?"

Diana handed the card to Eliam and said, "Eliam, look, this is Grandpa's card, right? His name is even on it."

Eliam was well aware that the black card had no overdraft limit.

"Why is Grandpa's card in your room?" Eliam's expression darkened.

