

Chapter 117 Leak The Secret

"Daniel has looked into it. All those who had access to the technical information have been investigated and cleared of suspicion one by one. Only your people remain, and you are the prime suspect," Eliam stated bluntly.

A breach of trust could range from minor to severe. If not for the unique relationship between Rhonda and Eliam, Daniel might have reported the incident to Eden Accounting, which could have cost Rhonda her job.

That morning, when Daniel informed Eliam of the situation, the two had a heated argument.

Ultimately, with Eliam's protection, Daniel decided to temporarily shelve the matter.

"That's impossible. I would never do such a thing." "The document you received last weekend included a small section detailing the project's technical aspects. Think it over. Who has seen that document?"

Rhonda's mind raced through numerous images, trying to identify the culprit.

"Daniel gave me the document. He mentioned its importance and didn't want others to see it. I read it myself and left it on my desk."

"Consider it carefully. Are you sure no one else has seen it?"

Rhonda thought hard. "No, because Daniel said it was important. I didn't show it to anyone. Before leaving work, I returned it to Daniel."

"Were you ever away from your desk that day?" Eliam also doubted that Rhonda was responsible.

"I stepped out once, and only Estelle was in the room at that time." Rhonda recalled after some thought.

"Estelle?"

"She seems like an honest person. I don't think she would do that," Rhonda stated.

"Appearances can be deceiving. She might not truly be as honest as she seems." Eliam contemplated for a moment and said, "Don't mention this to anyone. The leaked information won't have a significant impact on us, but it does serve as a reminder."

"Alright, I'll follow your advice." Rhonda also recognized the matter's importance.

For tech companies, even a brief introduction constituted a trade secret before a project's public unveiling, as competitors could develop similar products just by glancing at it. It would be even worse if they patented it first.

Seeing Rhonda's cooperation, Eliam didn't want to put too much pressure on her. He handed her a key and explained that they needed to collaborate until the matter was fully investigated.

Rhonda felt compelled to agree with him.

As noon approached and Rhonda was about to head to the canteen for lunch, Antwan trailed her.

"Rhonda, off to the canteen? Skip it. The food there is terrible. Tell you what, I'll treat you to lunch outside. There's a new restaurant across from our office. I hear their dishes are delicious," Antwan suggested.

"Thanks, but I'm fine with whatever's available at the canteen."

Just then, Dolores and Estelle joined in. "Rhonda, we've heard the noodles at that restaurant are amazing. We want to give them a try too. Let's all go together."

Rhonda rarely saw Estelle dine with others. Considering the breach of trust incident, she agreed.

Antwan initially intended to spend time alone with Rhonda, but he hadn't anticipated it turning into a group meal.

Along the way, Antwan stayed close to Rhonda, attempting to gain her attention and fawning over her.

Even Dolores, standing nearby, could sense Antwan's intentions towards Rhonda.

"Rhonda, what if Estelle and I go elsewhere? The tables at that restaurant are small, and it might be cramped for the four of us," Dolores suggested wisely.

Rhonda cast a disdainful glance at the tall and muscular Antwan, clearly showing her disapproval.

Antwan looked at Rhonda innocently. "Rhonda, do you want me to go to a different restaurant? I'm the one who suggested going there today."

"I didn't say anything. You're welcome to join us if you'd like."

The four entered the restaurant together. Indeed, the table was quite small, and the space was barely enough for all of them.

Estelle sat across from Rhonda.

"Estelle, what kind of noodles do you feel like having?" Rhonda asked.

"I'm not picky. I'll have whatever Dolores is having." Estelle wasn't much of a conversationalist. She appeared honest, but Rhonda believed she should possess her own opinions.

In the end, Dolores and Estelle opted for beef noodles, while Rhonda and Antwan chose noodles with gravy.

The restaurant was bustling, resulting in a slow service for their noodle dishes.

The conversation began, although it was mostly Antwan doing the talking. Dolores, not wanting any awkward silences, occasionally chimed in during Antwan's monologues.

Estelle remained silent throughout, preoccupied with her phone.

Rhonda noticed she was constantly sending messages.

Since they were sitting close together, Rhonda leaned in slightly and saw Estelle was chatting with Ella.



Noticing that Rhonda was looking at her, Estelle hurriedly closed the app on her phone.

Rhonda felt puzzled. Estelle had just transferred from George's team and, logically, shouldn't be acquainted with Ella.

The noodles were finally served.

Antwan ordered some appetizers and placed them all in front of Rhonda.

It was clear to anyone that Antwan had his sights set on Rhonda, but she seemed unaware of it.

"Rhonda, that Sloan guy is so irritating today. Why did he ask you to move into his office?" Antwan muttered discontentedly.

"It's for work convenience," Rhonda clarified. "Besides, we're employed by your company. We have to follow your company's arrangements."

"I don't know where that fellow comes from. It seems like even Daniel listens to him." Antwan harbored a strong dislike for Eliam.

"Isn't he from the tech department?" Dolores interjected.

"I work in the tech department, and I've never heard of someone like him being there," Antwan countered.

"What? How can that be? How many people work in your company's tech department?" Rhonda frowned.

"Our company is tech-oriented, so naturally, there are a lot of people in the tech department. Many of them work for companies that we outsource work to," Antwan explained.

"In that case, he might be employed by one of those companies, as you mentioned, and only recently returned." Rhonda found the explanation reasonable and accepted it.

However, Antwan still felt that Eliam didn't resemble a technician, but more of a manager. He appeared even more authoritative than Daniel.

After finishing their noodles, the group walked back. Suddenly, Rhonda's heel got caught in a sewer grate, causing her to nearly fall.

Antwan rushed to help Rhonda free her heel, but in doing so, accidentally broke it off from the shoe.

The four stood there, dumbstruck and unsure of what to do next.

With the office still a fair distance away, walking barefoot wasn't an option for Rhonda.

Finally, Antwan offered to carry Rhonda back to the office.

Upon entering the lobby, they spotted Eliam in the corridor. Rhonda immediately asked Antwan to put her down.

However, he did it too fast that Rhonda fell to the floor.

Antwan attempted to help Rhonda up.

Eliam shoved Antwan aside and lifted Rhonda effortlessly from the floor with a single hand.

"What happened to your shoes after lunch?"

"The heel got stuck in a sewer grate." Rhonda pushed Eliam away and hopped towards the office.

Antwan tried to follow her, but Eliam stopped him at the door. "Do you have nothing better to do? If I'm not mistaken, you're still in your probationary period, correct?"