

Chapter 24 Call The Police

Before Rhonda could react, Robert protectively pulled her into his arms.

Meantime, he grabbed Santino's wrist and twisted it behind his back. Santino screamed out in pain.

Robert kicked his leg from behind, and the latter fell flat on his face.

Robert's heroic move garnered everyone's attention. The people watching broke into thunderous applause.

Cristina was embarrassed to see Santino making a fool of himself. She was angry and hated that all men around Rhonda were always excellent in every aspect. However, the one she stole away from her with great effort turned out to be a loser.

Amanda, who was standing among the crowd, was also furious. Her blood boiled with rage the moment Robert pulled Rhonda into his arms.

She had been chasing after Robert for so many years, but he hadn't bothered to bat an eyelid at her, let alone touch her hand. But he was holding another woman in his arms. She couldn't remain calm.

Santino scrambled to his feet awkwardly only to find Cristina had left.

Robert held Rhonda's hand and led her to his office.

He poured her a glass of water and eyed her with concern.

"Sorry to bother you again." Rhonda's face flushed with embarrassment. "Thank you so much for helping me."

"Is that man your boyfriend?" Robert asked.

"Ex-boyfriend." Rhonda told Robert the story of her breakup with Santino and her lightning marriage with Eliam.

"So you married him for five hundred thousand dollars?" Robert's heart sank. He wished he had met Rhonda earlier.

Rhonda nodded.

Seeing the serene look on her face, Robert felt she looked exactly like his dead girlfriend, Sally.

His heart took a sprint in his chest again.

"Had I met you earlier, I wouldn't have let you marry anyone else," he mumbled.

"What did you say?" Rhonda asked, snapping out of her thoughts.

She had been wondering why Santino and Cristina suddenly came to see her grandmother, so she didn't notice the change in Robert's expression.

The intensity of his gaze and the affection in his eyes sent a shiver down Rhonda's spine. She sprang up to her feet in a fit of panic. "Dr. Coyle, I have important work to do. I'm leaving now." With that, she darted out of the office.

When Rhonda walked to her grandmother's ward, she heard loud voices from inside as if an argument was going on.

Several people were standing at the door, including patients and nurses.

"Look, Ma'am, this patient just had an operation. You can't make a ruckus in the ward," the head nurse said.

"It's none of your business! Who do you think you are?" Cristina bellowed, "I just want everyone to know that Rhonda has stolen public funds for her grandmother's treatment. I came here to give her money out of kindness, but she asked someone to assault my boyfriend. How could she be so ungrateful?"

Hearing Cristina's voice, Rhonda rushed inside. "Cristina, my grandmother just had an operation, but you're slandering me in front of her. Do you have a heart?"

"I will shut my mouth if you agree to sell the apartment to me. Otherwise, none of us will live in peace." Cristina didn't care about anything else. She was willing to go to any extent to secure her future with Santino.

"You're doing all this just to get my apartment? Cristina, you were not like this before. Although you were a bit stingy in the past, you were not so selfish. When did you become like this?" Rhonda sadly looked at Cristina.

The two were best friends in college, but she didn't know when everything had changed.

"It's all your fault. You turned me into this person!" Cristina shouted hysterically.

"You are excellent in every aspect. You are clever, pretty, kind, and popular. All our teachers and classmates liked you. You took all the limelight. You got into a big company after graduation and became the financial director in less than a year. But what about me? I chased after Santino for four years. I brought him milk every morning, sat next to him in class, and helped him with his homework. When he failed the exam, I stayed at the door of his teacher's house and pleaded for him. What have you done for him? You've always blamed him for not being ambitious. You forced him to enter a big company and make money just so you could buy a house. Santino is right. Only money is important to you! You're the selfish one! You made Santino work for you. You bought an apartment with his hard-earned money and tricked him into paying the rent. Rhonda, I've never seen a shameless person like you!"

"Is that why you and Santino betrayed me?" Rhonda was seething with rage. "I always regarded you as my best friend, but you snatched my boyfriend away. I tricked Santino into giving money for rent because I wanted to save up for our future. Is that wrong?"

"Rhonda..." Nora vaguely understood what was going on. She looked at Rhonda sadly, gasping for breath. Her heart broke to see her granddaughter's life fall apart.

Rhonda panicked. She rushed to her grandmother and held her hand. "Grandma, I'm here. It's all over. Don't worry about me."

"Rhonda, is... Is she telling the truth?" Nora gasped and eventually passed out.

"Get out!" Robert rushed in to rescue Nora.

Cristina didn't expect such a situation would arise. She blankly stared at the doctors and nurses rushing in and out of the room.

Just then, Amanda came over and dragged her out of the ward.

It was Amanda who had stopped Cristina at the gate and told her Nora's ward number.

Rhonda sat in a corner, hugging herself, choking with sobs. Guilt and remorse consumed her. If she hadn't quarreled with Cristina and agreed to sell the apartment to her earlier when she asked, her grandmother would have been fine.

In the corridor, Eliam witnessed everything that happened. Instead of going to the ward to comfort her, he turned around and left.

Outside the in-patient building, Eliam called his assistant in Esmesh and asked if he had found anything.

The assistant said he had obtained a copy of the call record and had e-mailed it to Eliam.

"Got it." Eliam hung up the phone.

Fortunately, Nora soon regained consciousness because of the prompt emergency treatment.

The first thing she did when she woke up was to ask Rhonda about the missing public funds. Rhonda told her everything, including her lightning marriage.

But she didn't mention the five hundred thousand dollars. Rhonda lied that she knew Eliam before, and he had been pursuing her. Later, after hearing that she had broken up with Santino, he proposed to her, and after careful consideration, she agreed to marry him.

Nora remained silent for a long while and finally said she wanted to see Eliam.

Rhonda promised to bring Eliam home after Nora returned home from the hospital.

She stayed in the hospital that night.

The next morning, she received a call from the company again, saying Stewart had called the police and asked her to come to the office.

Rhonda went to the company after Nora had her breakfast.

A policewoman took her to a private room to record her statement.

Considering there was no solid evidence to prove that Rhonda had taken the one hundred thousand dollars, the police asked her to leave and wait for the news.

As soon as Rhonda walked out of the company, she saw Robert's car parked at the gate.

"Dr. Coyle, what are you doing here?"

Robert got out of the car. He said he had just finished his night shift and wanted to drop by to see if Rhonda needed any help.

Rhonda remembered that his home was entirely in the opposite direction but didn't say anything.

She was just curious as to how Robert knew she was in the company. Rhonda couldn't help but wonder if he had followed her all the way.

However, Robert was not the only one who had followed Rhonda. Eliam was in his black Bentley across the street, watching her.