

Chapter 30 Stirring Up Trouble

Miranda didn't believe it.

"Eliam has always been in love with Diana. How could he fall in love with someone else so soon?"

Rhonda's heart sank when she heard that.

She felt the girl in the photo with Eliam must be Diana.

"Don't mention her name in front of me!" Richard growled. His loud voice snapped Rhonda back to reality.

Miranda didn't dare to utter another word. She lowered her head and wheeled Richard to the dining room.

As she walked past Rhonda, the latter tried taking over the wheelchair. But Miranda coldly rejected her.

Meantime, Maggie asked Rhonda to help her in the kitchen.

"Take out the shell off the shrimps." Maggie handed a plate of shrimp to Rhonda.

Eliam had to work overtime tonight, so he wouldn't come for dinner. Miranda asked Maggie to serve the dishes.

"Maggie, let's eat together." She invited her to sit down with them.

Maggie looked at Rhonda in the kitchen. Seeing that Rhonda's method of de-shelling the shrimp was different from hers, she began to lecture her, saying she was doing a bad job. Maggie demonstrated to Rhonda how to do it, and asked her to follow the same method.

Then, Maggie went to have dinner.

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Rhonda didn't complain. She knew Miranda had recommended Maggie to work here. Maggie despised Rhonda and provoked her all the time. Now that Miranda was here, she knew Maggie might get more arrogant.

Rhonda felt aggrieved. As long as Maggie didn't go too far, she could bear her torments for the sake of Richard.

Richard took a few bites. When he noticed Rhonda was still busy in the kitchen, he asked her to have dinner with them.

Miranda felt uncomfortable to see Richard care a lot about Rhonda.

"Dad, she is a young girl. She can eat a little late. Don't worry. She won't starve to death."

Richard glared at Miranda and asked Maggie to help Rhonda.

Maggie had to return to the kitchen before she could sit down and have a bite.

"Why are you so inefficient? You did that on purpose, didn't you?" Maggie yelled at Rhonda.

Rhonda ignored her. After de-shelling the shrimp, they served the dish on the table.

Richard asked Rhonda to sit down and eat.

Just as she was about to sit down, Miranda said, "This is Eliam's seat. You can't sit there."

Rhonda switched to another seat without saying anything.

"My daughter, Ingrid, usually takes this seat. Why don't you sit opposite Maggie?" Miranda pointed to the farthest seat from Richard.

Just then, Richard threw his fork on the table. "Do you want Rhonda to eat or not? Eliam is not here. Why can't she sit in his seat?"

"No, I'm afraid of breaking the rules."

"What rules? I think you don't want her to eat at peace." Richard became furious. He began coughing violently as he finished speaking.

Miranda and Rhonda rushed over to him. Richard angrily shook off Miranda's hand. Eventually, he asked Rhonda to wheel him back to his room, leaving Miranda alone.

Rhonda closed the door behind her, took out the medicine, and poured Richard a glass of warm water.

Richard felt better after taking the medicine.

"Rhonda, don't be mad at Miranda. Since Eliam lost his parents, Miranda has always regarded him as her own child. I should have discussed it with her before you married Eliam. However, I had my own concerns."

Richard paused and took a deep breath.

"Eliam was in a relationship before. The two were about to get married, but the wedding got canceled for some reason. I watched that girl grow up. She's a loving girl with a lively spirit. Although I liked her, I didn't think she was suitable for Eliam."

Richard's brows furrowed.

"In fact, Eliam is an emotional guy. The girl was always there with him after his parents died. They ate and played together -- the two were inseparable. The girl's cheerful personality gradually brought Eliam out of the shadow and made him see the light again. But she had a fatal weakness, which was her competitive nature. Later, she did something and went abroad alone because she was too ashamed to see Eliam again. In fact, I always knew she wasn't the right match for Eliam. The two had contrasting personalities. They could be good friends and nothing more than that. But if they got married, their marriage would end up being a disaster. So, I chose you in the end. You are quiet, introverted, reliable, and know how to run a family. But I also found that you have a shortcoming. You are too honest and trust people too easily. These are good qualities, but they can put you in trouble too. From now on, start practicing your social skills and learn to judge people. That way, you'll undoubtedly become a good wife to Eliam. Do you understand?"

Rhonda was moved to tears. Although she knew she didn't have a future with Eliam, she decided to follow Richard's advice. Rhonda knew Richard cared for her. Otherwise, he wouldn't have spoken such heartfelt words to her.

"Don't worry, Grandpa. I'll keep your advice in mind." She smiled earnestly.

Richard nodded with satisfaction. Then, he told her that Miranda wouldn't live here for long and hoped Rhonda could be more tolerant of her, to which Rhonda nodded in agreement.

Eliam returned home very late that night. Rhonda was awakened by a quarrel in the yard.

She got up and walked to the window. Eliam and Miranda were quarreling.

"I can't believe you have forgotten Diana so soon." Miranda pointed at his heart. "She loves you so much, but you married another woman. Don't you feel sorry for her?"

Eliam was standing in the dark. Rhonda couldn't see his expression clearly but could sense his suppressed emotions.

"I'm done with her!" Eliam grunted.

"Is that why you married that bumpkin?" Miranda barked. "Diana gave up her studies to be with you. You are successful now. Is that how you repay her?"

"She was the one who betrayed me. I did her no wrong!" Eliam snapped coldly, the pain evident in his voice.

"Oh, come on. She was too young and inexperienced; people used her. She has realized her mistake. Can't you forgive her?"

"Certain things in life cannot be forgiven. She has done it. There's no turning back." Eliam looked up at the sky and sighed. "Auntie, please tell her I am ready to welcome her back, but I will only treat her as my friend."

Rhonda could feel the struggle and pain in Eliam's heart.

She wondered what kind of person Diana was.

She was curious about the woman she had never met. Diana must be someone special to win so many people's favor.

Eliam slept in the study again that night.

Rhonda guessed that Amanda probably knew about Miranda's return, so she wouldn't be staying in their house until she left. Or perhaps she had given up on Eliam.

Rhonda was happy about Amanda's leaving, but it was more difficult to deal with Miranda than the latter. Miranda seemed too judgmental and was a nightmare.

When Rhonda got up the next day, she saw that Eliam had sent her a message early in the morning, asking her to look for a shirt in the big wardrobe and send it to him.

Rhonda found the shirt and brought it to the study. The door was ajar. She knocked a few times, but no one answered.

Assuming Eliam hadn't woken up yet, Rhonda pushed the door open. Just then, she saw Eliam changing his clothes.

