

Chapter 35 Cousin Ingrid

Ingrid insisted on talking to Robert for a while, so Rhonda got out of the car.

She pushed the gate open and walked in. Her gaze fell on Eliam standing in the yard.

"You haven't slept yet?"

"I have something to tell you," Eliam said with a gloomy face.

"Go ahead!"

"Grandpa will be going to Germany next month for his operation. I want you to go with him. You might have to stay there for a month."

Rhonda showed no signs of reluctance. However, she was worried about her grandmother. After all, nobody would be there to take care of Nora if she went abroad.

As if he had read Rhonda's mind, Eliam said, "I will look after your grandmother when you are away."

Rhonda nodded. "Okay. But I want to go home and stay with Grandma for a few days before I leave."

"No problem. When are you planning to go back? I'll drive you home." Eliam was cold. He seemed more distant than the first day they met.

Rhonda wanted to explain about the sunglasses. But seeing Eliam's cold attitude, she felt there was no point in explaining it to him.

Rhonda's silence irked Eliam.

"Don't you have anything to tell me?"

"Rhonda!" Just then, Ingrid came in, running, and bumped into Eliam.

"Eliam?" Ingrid's body stiffened. Eliam's gloomy face frightened her witless.

"Where have you been lately?"

"I went out with my friends. Is Mom mad at me?" Ingrid asked cautiously.

"Why don't you ask her yourself?"

"Forget it. It's already late. She must have gone to bed. I want to sleep with Rhonda tonight. Are you okay with that, Eliam?"

Only then did Eliam realize that Ingrid was holding Rhonda's arm. She seemed more attached to Rhonda than to him.

Something seemed fishy. "What's going on with you two?"

"I won't tell you." Ingrid pulled Rhonda back to the master bedroom. She made a face at Eliam before closing the door, which seemed to confuse him even more.

"Rhonda, you saved my life today. I don't know how to thank you."

"It was no big deal. Don't worry."

Just then, Ingrid's phone rang.

"Oh, Eliam is calling me. I need to answer it." With that,

Ingrid went to the balcony.

Rhonda knew Eliam well enough to understand that he must want to figure out what happened tonight.

She didn't want to think much about him. Since Eliam deliberately distanced himself from her, she could only let nature take its course.

That night, Ingrid chatted with Rhonda until midnight. She told many things about Eliam and his childhood.

Ingrid told her the Sloan family had fostered Diana since childhood. After Eliam's parents died in the accident, she had chosen to stay with Eliam instead of going abroad and living with her parents. She had been there for Eliam, right by his side, during his darkest times.

Diana had been the beam of light that lit up Eliam's dark life.

Ingrid yawned and said, "Rhonda, I advise you not to fall in love with my cousin. He has always been in love with Diana. No woman can replace her."

She turned and saw that Rhonda had fallen asleep.

The next morning, Miranda asked Ingrid over. Miranda rebuked her and said she would be sending her abroad to study.

After lunch, Richard asked Rhonda to come to his room.

He gave Rhonda a bank card and asked her to buy beautiful clothes, get some facial done, and dress up.

Rhonda was embarrassed. Perhaps Richard also felt she didn't look decent enough for their family.

However, Rhonda had always been frugal. She hadn't even

used a facial mask worth more than ten dollars, let alone any expensive facial treatments.

She returned the card to Richard and said she had enough money. However, Richard insisted on giving the card to Rhonda. He said he wanted to hold a respectable wedding for her and Eliam. However, considering his illness, Eliam wanted to keep everything simple.

Therefore, Richard always felt very sorry for Rhonda. He said there was not much money on the card. It was only sufficient for her to buy some clothes.

However, Rhonda didn't know the black card symbolized the power of the Sloan family. It was a credit card with no limit.

Under his insistence, Rhonda had no choice but to accept the card. She only wanted to keep it for Richard and didn't plan on using the money.

Just as she walked out of Richard's room, Rhonda saw Ingrid come out of Miranda's room, looking dejected.

"What's up?"

"Shh!" Ingrid pulled Rhonda into the master bedroom. "Guess what my mother told me?" she said in a mysterious voice.

"She said she would send you abroad?"

"No, she said that in the morning. She told me now that Diana was coming back. She asked me to move to her place for a few days before leaving abroad."

"Don't you want to be with her?" Rhonda couldn't understand why Ingrid looked bothered.

"It's not that I don't want to. Diana is suffering from severe

depression. If I stay with her, I will have to look after her and say goodbye to my freedom. How can I endure such a huge responsibility at this age?"

"Depression? Is it serious?" Rhonda asked worriedly.

"I don't know the details. I heard Eliam had found the best psychiatrist to treat her. I don't know if it will help her, though."

"Depression is difficult to heal."

"Aren't you jealous?" Ingrid couldn't fathom why Rhonda wasn't worried after hearing Diana was coming back.

"Jealous? Why would I be jealous?" Rhonda shrugged. "Who am I to be jealous? Besides, since Eliam and Diana can't forget each other, we should hope for the best for them, shouldn't we?"

"Rhonda, you are so open-minded. I like to be with a person like you. You are a strong woman."

"Well, I'm not as good as you say. I have a clear estimation of myself and where I stand. I don't want to complicate things or cause any trouble." Rhonda smiled. "Let's go shopping."

Rhonda had been doing a part-time job for the last few days. She planned to buy something for her grandmother with the money and take it when she went to see her.

Ingrid loved shopping. The two spent all day shopping.

Rhonda bought several clothes, health supplements, and tonics for Nora but didn't buy anything for herself.

Ingrid couldn't stand it anymore. She insisted on buying her a princess dress.

Rhonda took her for dinner to thank her.

Ingrid was free-spirited and enthusiastic, while Rhonda was an introvert who remained quiet most times. Although the two had contrasting personalities, they got along well, as if they had known each other all their lives.

They didn't return home until Miranda called them.

As soon as they entered the yard, Maggie darted over to them and held Ingrid's hand. "Oh dear, what took you so long to return home? Your grandpa has lost his temper. Be careful when you go in."

"Why?" Ingrid frowned and hurried to Richard's room.

Rhonda hesitated for a second and followed her, but Maggie stopped her outside the room.

"It's the Sloan family's personal issues. You better stay out of it and don't cause unnecessary trouble."

However, the moment she finished speaking, they heard Richard's resonant voice. "Is Rhonda outside? Come inside."