

Chapter 49 Unexpected Encounter With Santino

They looked alike. Eden looked at Marvell on his computer screen. For a moment, he thought he was looking into the mirror.

Although their features looked similar, the two were poles apart.

Eden had been serious and quiet since he was a child. People stayed away from him because of his aloof nature.

But his brother, Marvell, was born to be a playboy. He had a way with girls. Marvell had dated countless women but was never serious about any of them.

"Marvell, have you forgotten what day it is today?" Eden became furious when he saw Marvell embracing two women on either side.

"Of course not. It's Sally and Rona's birthday." The frivolous smile on Marvell's face vanished in an instant. He dejectedly pushed the women away, picked up a glass of wine, and gulped it down in one go.

"Rona would have turned 23 if she were still alive." Eden instinctively glanced at the bracelet on his wrist. All six brothers and sisters had a similar bracelet, and their names were engraved on the charm.

In the personnel department of Eden Accounting, Rhonda filled out countless forms that her hands turned sore. She didn't expect to have such a tedious entry process.

"Is this yours?" Margret Welch, the head of trainers, picked up a bracelet from the floor. There was a small name charm on it, which looked delicate.

Rhonda took it and smiled gratefully.

"Thank you very much. I accidentally dropped it." Rhonda carefully put the bracelet on her wrist. She had worn it since she was a child and cherished it all her life.

Margret's hair was styled into a short bob. She looked efficient.

"My name is Margret Welch, and I'm your team leader. Welcome to join us."

Rhonda didn't expect her supervisor to be so young. Margret looked only a few years older than her.

Margret gave a brief introduction of the company to Rhonda and then told her about the work arrangement.

As a new employee, Rhonda had to undergo a career training program. Some courses were online, and some were offline. After the training, she would have to take up an examination. She would be officially hired only if she passed the examination.

The moment Rhonda left the company, it started raining.

She trotted to the nearest bus station. Rhonda looked up and saw Santino running over to the station.

He was carrying a big box and was soaked in the rain.

The moment Santino saw Rhonda, he turned his face in embarrassment. It looked like he wanted to seem relaxed, but his stiff back betrayed him.

Rhonda didn't know what to say.

The two remained silent. She believed their lives were like two parallel lines, and they would never cross paths all their lives.

Unfortunately, the bus got delayed because of the rain.

The downpour grew heavier. Rhonda didn't want to wait any longer.

Ten minutes later, she finally hailed a taxi.

At that moment, Santino spoke. "I'm sorry." His voice was low and gravelly. Rhonda thought she had misheard him.

She got into the car without looking back.

The moment she closed the door, she heard a loud bang outside. Rhonda turned around and saw Santino lying on the ground.

After thinking it over, Rhonda asked the driver to stop the car and help her carry Santino into the car.

"Do you have a stomachache again?" Seeing the pain in Santino's face, Rhonda wanted to take him to the hospital, but he refused. He said he wanted to go home and take some pills.

Rhonda had no choice but to ask the driver to drop Santino home.

They followed the address Santino gave them and arrived at an old residential area.

Rhonda followed him to the gate of the apartment. Santino took the box and asked her to leave.

Rhonda nodded and turned around, but she was still worried about him. After taking a few steps forward, she couldn't help but look back. Her eyes widened when she saw Santino squatting on the stairs leading to the basement. He was struggling to stand.

She knew Santino always had stomach issues. His stomachaches were excruciating.

Rhonda hurried over to him.

"Why are you still here?" Santino's face was distorted in pain. "Do you want to laugh at my plight?"

"Stop talking! Go home and take your medicines." Rhonda took Santino's hand and put it around her neck, supporting him.

Santino didn't refuse. He leaned against Rhonda, staggered down the stairs, and came to the door that led to the basement.

A musty smell greeted the two as they entered the room.

Santino turned on the light. It was a windowless room. Rhonda saw a bed and a long table. Toiletries, razors, packets of instant noodles, pickles, and even stinky socks were scattered on them in a messy pile.

Rhonda was stunned.

She couldn't believe the trim, handsome prince charming of their campus had ended up in the dump.

"Why are you living here?"

"What can I say? This is Karma." Santino sighed, took out a medicine bottle from the bedside table, picked up a bottle of water, and swallowed the medicine in one big

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gulp.

"You know what? I regret not listening to you. I should have saved more money."

Santino laughed at himself, shaking his head. "When I was with you before, I didn't have to look after anything. I assumed I could get everything at ease. Even though I lost my job, I still lived a comfortable life. But I never realized it was all because of you. Later, when I got into a relationship with Cristina, everything changed. She is lazier than me. She never cooked or did the laundry. She spent more money than me. But I liked that she never nagged me to do anything. We ate, drank, and had fun together. Soon, we spent all the money and became broke. Last month, Cristina's younger brother lost in gambling and borrowed money from a loan shark. Those people threatened to break his bones if he didn't repay the money. Cristina had no choice but to take one hundred thousand dollars from the company. Later, when she knew her action would soon come to light, she tried framing you. On the day the police took her into custody, she called me and asked me not to let go of you. God, she's always been like this. She always blames others. I also made a huge mistake before, but I regret it now. I deserve it."

"How is Cristina now?" Rhonda asked.

"I withdrew all my savings, terminated the lease contract of the apartment I rented before, and borrowed some money from my friends. I raised one hundred thousand dollars and returned it to her company. Fortunately, the company issued a letter of understanding. I hope her punishment is lenient."

Rhonda rubbed her temples and let out a weary sigh. She couldn't forgive Cristina and Santino but felt bad for them.

"What happened to you? Why did the Sloan Corporation

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fire you?"

"You know about that?" Santino smiled bitterly. "I merely looked at the attendance sheet on the director's desk. They suspected me of stealing confidential information from the company. They not only deducted the confidential deposit of sixty thousand dollars but also fired me."

"This seems a bit too harsh." Rhonda thought of Giulio, whom she had blocked earlier.

"Well, this is perhaps the retribution I deserve." Santino lay on the bed and waved at Rhonda listlessly. "Please leave. I don't want you to see me like this."

"All right. Rest well." Rhonda closed the door for Santino and left with a heavy heart.

On the way home, after mulling it over, she unblocked Giulio and sent him a message, begging him to give Santino another chance. ①