

Chapter 66 Richard Was Hospitalized

The moment Eliam left the villa, he called David and instructed him to stop the investigation into the previous night's kidnapping. He also asked David to handle any surveillance footage from that night to prevent the police from tracing the car.

Once Eliam was gone, Diana slumped onto the sofa. She momentarily felt as if her secret had been exposed.

She desperately wanted to confess to Eliam that she did all this out of love and fear of losing him. However, she ultimately decided against it.

Rhonda took a leave of absence from the company and arranged to work from home.

She took care of Richard and Leonard during the day and conducted online training in the evening. As Rhonda's fame grew, more and more people attended her training sessions and sought advice in her live stream room.

As for Eliam, he suddenly became incredibly busy and often worked late.

A week went by.

There was no news from the police. It seemed all leads had vanished overnight, so the investigation into Leonard's kidnapping was temporarily put on hold.

Rhonda suspected Diana but had no evidence, leaving her unable to act.

On the weekend, Eliam had a rare day off.

Rhonda and Richard were enjoying the sunshine while Eliam sat beside them reading a book at noon.

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Her grip on her bag tightened, and her forced smile grew rigid.

Rhonda was the first to notice Diana.

"Hello, Miss Leslie." Rhonda stood up.

Richard remained seated, and the smile in his eyes slowly vanished.

Eliam stood up as well.

"Why didn't you let me know you were coming? I could have picked you up."

"I know my way here. Don't forget, I lived here for over a decade."

Diana then approached Richard. "Grandpa Richard, it's been a while. How have you been?"

"I'm doing well. Thank you for asking," Richard replied flatly.

"Rhonda, please get a stool for Diana," said Eliam.

Rhonda nodded and as she was about to get a stool, Richard stopped her.

"Rhonda, I'm feeling tired. Please take me back to my room."

"Grandpa Richard, why do you suddenly feel tired just as I arrive?" Diana came to talk about what happened in the past and seek justice in front of Eliam. She decided to stop pretending to be submissive.

"I recall you being a very courteous girl back then. Why have you become so rude now?"

"I'm sorry, Grandpa Richard. I've always been respectful to esteemed elders, but you don't fall into that category." Diana spoke in a brusque tone.

"Diana, how can you speak to Grandpa like this?" Eliam frowned.

"Why don't you ask him how he treated me back then? He forced me to leave you and severed all ties between us. Do you know how I've lived these past five years? I've spent my days in tears, constantly contemplating suicide."

Diana pulled up her sleeves to reveal scars on her wrists. "Do you see these? He's the one to blame!"

A flicker of pain crossed EIAM's eyes. He looked at Richard and asked in disbelief, "Grandpa, is what she's saying true?"

Richard nodded emotionlessly. "Yes, she's right. I forced her onto that plane years ago, and I intentionally cut off your communication."

"Why? Why would you do that?" EIAM asked in disbelief.

"Everything I did was for your own good." Richard started coughing violently.

Rhonda quickly fetched water for him.

When she returned, she found Richard convulsing and foaming at the mouth, which was terrifying.

"Grandpa, are you alright?" EIAM panicked.

"Call an ambulance!" Rhonda immediately instructed Tess to dial emergency services.

The ambulance arrived shortly after.

Richard was placed on a stretcher, and EIAM and Rhonda climbed into the ambulance as well.

Diana stood still in the yard. The ambulance had disappeared, but she still stared blankly at the gate.

"Miss Leslie, are you alright?" Tess approached her and waved a hand in front of Diana's eyes.

Diana finally came to her senses. She had planned to clear her name today, but she hadn't anticipated Richard having a stroke.

Inside the ambulance, EIAM held his head in his hands, consumed by worry and guilt.

Rhonda patted him on the shoulder. Trying to comfort him, she said, "Grandpa will be okay. Don't stress too much."

Eliam looked up, his eyes were red and swollen. "I shouldn't have spoken to him like that. It's all my fault."

"You were just overcome by emotion. Grandpa will be fine. Don't blame yourself."

"I hope so. If anything happens to Grandpa, I'll never forgive myself."

Before long, they arrived at the hospital. Following the doctor's evaluation, Richard was diagnosed with a stroke. Thankfully, his life was not in danger, but he had temporarily lost his ability to speak and care for himself.

"Let me take care of Grandpa Richard." Suddenly, Diana appeared at the door of the ward. "I take responsibility for this. Let me take care of Grandpa Richard to make up for my mistake."

"Why are you here?" Eliam approached her. Seeing the tear stains on Diana's face, he felt a pang of sympathy.

Rhonda, however, wasn't paying much attention to the conversation in the hallway. She had just noticed Richard's finger twitching.

She took his hand and discovered that he was holding a business card. The card had a name and a phone number printed on it.

Richard was repeatedly blinking at her.

"Do you want me to call this person?"

"Uh, uh, uh..." Richard nodded vigorously.

At that moment, Eliam and Diana entered the room. Both appeared to have been crying, particularly Diana, whose eyes were red and puffy.

"Rhonda, you can head home now. Diana will take care of Grandpa."

Rhonda was reluctant to leave Richard in Diana's care, but with Eliam's decision made, she had no choice but to comply.

She briefed Diana on some essential care instructions before leaving the ward with the business card Richard had given her.

When she arrived home, she checked on Leonard and noticed that he appeared unwell.

"What's wrong? Are you feeling okay?"

Leonard showed Rhonda a message from an unknown number.

"Stay away from the hospital, or your brother's other leg will be in danger."

Rhonda had received similar threats from this number before.

"Leonard, think back. What did the man who kidnapped you look like?"

"He had a big scar on the left side of his chin, was in his 40s, had a southern accent, and was short but strong."

Rhonda suspected that this person was connected to Diana. Otherwise, why would Leonard receive such a message right after she returned from the hospital?

That night, Eliam arrived home very late.

Rhonda wanted to ask about Richard's condition. When she heard the noise, she approached the study and knocked on the door. An impatient voice from Eliam responded, "Whatever it is, let's discuss it tomorrow. I'm exhausted."

Rhonda returned to her room in a sulky mood. She took out the ring Eliam had given her from a drawer. It was stunning.

However, when a ring lost its significance, it was merely an object.