

Chapter 81 Rumors

After conversing with Fiona briefly, Rhonda went back to her office.

Ella Saunders, who had been gossiping about Rhonda in the meeting room earlier, was editing a Facebook post. Upon seeing Rhonda, she hurriedly closed the browser. Her sneaky behavior made Rhonda suspicious, and she couldn't help but wonder if the post involved her.

She checked Facebook, only to discover that she couldn't see Ella's post at all. In other words, she was blocked.

Soon after, Fiona stormed over, looking for Ella, who was not in the office.

"Ella's not here. What's going on?"

"You haven't heard, have you? She took photos of you during the meeting and posted them on Facebook. She even claimed that you were promiscuous and had a messy personal life."

"Let me have a look." Rhonda's expression shifted immediately.

"She blocked me. Someone else showed it to me. Ella is so spiteful!" Fiona was furious.

Rhonda covered her face with her hand. She needed to calm down now. Recalling what Margret had just told her, she felt that things were not that simple.

By the end of the day, the rumor that Rhonda was someone's mistress had spread throughout the company.

Simultaneously, a photo of George embracing an unknown woman surfaced, implying that George was the one keeping Rhonda.

As Rhonda left work and stepped out of the company's gate, she saw George waving at her.

"Mr. Baldwin, what can I do for you?" She didn't know George well and had heard about his questionable reputation, so she didn't want to talk with him.

"Miss Horton, my wife believes that we're having an affair. She might cause trouble for you. Be careful."

Rhonda was irritated by his words.

"Can't you clarify to her that I have nothing to do with you?"

"I've tried, but she doesn't believe me." As George spoke, his face suddenly turned extremely flustered. "She's here. Watch out. I need to go."

Rhonda looked around and saw a woman in red charging toward them from the elevator. "George, shame on you!"

Rhonda recognized the woman as Isabella Baldwin, the director of the human resources department.

Rhonda attempted to leave, but Isabella stopped her.

"Rhonda, did you sleep with George last night?"

"Mrs. Baldwin, I suggest you assess the situation before making accusations. I have no connection with your husband. If you persist in spreading false rumors and tarnishing my reputation, I may take legal action for defamation." Rhonda spoke angrily.

"How dare you be so bold? Do you think it's acceptable to seduce my husband? You bitch! I could tell you were no good from the moment I laid eyes on you!"

Isabella grabbed Rhonda's collar and shouted, "Everyone, come see this shameless bitch. She seduces my husband and then has the audacity to threaten me with a lawsuit for slander. Go ahead, sue me if you dare!"

More and more onlookers gathered, pointing and murmuring.

"Isn't she from Margret's team? She appears so pure and innocent. Who would've thought she'd have an affair with George?"

"You never know. Some young, attractive people just want to get ahead

without putting in the work. They're always looking for shortcuts."

"I heard she had a boyfriend before. She ditched him after hooking up with a wealthy man. What a disgraceful bitch!"

"And it doesn't stop there. I heard she was involved with her tutor in college."

Rhonda noticed Cristina in the midst of the crowd as she turned around.

She quickly realized that Cristina was likely responsible for spreading the recent rumors.

Isabella continued her cursing.

"Come and see for yourselves. This is the seductress who lured my husband. Her name is Rhonda..."

Rhonda's shirt was forcefully unbuttoned, exposing a significant portion of her skin, including hickeys left by Eliam the night before.

The crowd stared at her oddly. Humiliated and angry, Rhonda's eyes welled up with tears.

Robert had arranged to meet with Eden. He happened to be passing by the Eden Building after work, so he decided to pick Eden up.

As soon as he walked out of the parking lot, he noticed a group of people gathered around the building entrance. Among them, he spotted a familiar figure.

"Rhonda!" Robert called out anxiously, and the crowd parted to let him through.

He forcefully removed Isabella's hands, took off his suit jacket for Rhonda, and enveloped her in his embrace.

Seeing an unfamiliar man come to the alleged mistress's rescue, many onlookers pulled out their phones to take pictures.

Ignoring everything else, Robert held Rhonda close and guided her through the crowd.

The two of them quickly drove away from the Eden Building.

"Are you alright?" inside the car, Robert asked with concern.

"I'm okay. Thank you." Rhonda regained some composure and inquired, "What brings you here?"

"I was on my way to meet a friend. What just happened? Who was that woman harassing you?"

Rhonda told him the whole story.

"I don't understand why I'm involved in this. I barely interact with George. I hardly know him."

"There must be some misunderstanding. Don't worry. Don't care about those nosy people."

Robert offered to have dinner with Rhonda, but she declined.

When Rhonda arrived back at home, the hourly worker had already prepared dinner. After eating and conversing with Richard for a bit, Rhonda went back to her room. She needed to finalize the tax-saving plan, which was nearly complete.

Eliam intended to leave work early but was held up by something.

He took out his phone to send Rhonda a message, only to discover her Facebook page inundated with insults.

Eliam immediately contacted David and requested that he investigate the situation.

David proved highly efficient, providing a full account of the events and several relevant photos to Eliam in under an hour.

The last photo was taken by a passer-by, in which Robert wrapped Rhonda in his suit jacket.

Eliam couldn't help but furrow his brow.

He messaged David, asking him to identify the woman who had spent the night with George.

That evening, just as Rhonda completed the tax-saving plan, Eliam returned home with a shopping bag in hand.

"What's this?" Rhonda asked curiously.

"It's a gift for you." Eliam handed her the bag.

Rhonda opened it and discovered a set of designer clothing.

"This must be expensive."

"Not really. It's under three thousand dollars." Eliam covertly crumpled a receipt for eighty thousand dollars in his pocket.

"Is it really that cheap?" Rhonda assumed the cheapest item from this brand would cost tens of thousands of dollars. How could it be less than three thousand?

"I happened to walk by a mall having a sale, so I picked these up for you." Eliam removed the clothes from the bag and urged Rhonda to try them on.

"Why buy me clothes out of the blue?"

"Leonard is getting married. As his elder sister, you should dress appropriately for the wedding."

"How did you find out about Leonard's wedding?" Rhonda was a little surprised, as she hadn't mentioned it to Eliam. She lowered her head, feeling embarrassed, and confessed, "I transferred the ownership of my apartment to Leonard as a wedding present. I didn't consult you beforehand. Are you upset with me?"

"Of course, it's your mistake. You should have informed me sooner. Leonard's getting married, and as his brother-in-law, shouldn't I also prepare a gift?"

