

## Chapter 90 The Orphanage

Giulio typed into his phone, "Has Eden not arrived yet?"

Rhonda responded, "Mr. Hawkins is attending to a matter this morning, he'll be here once he's done. Can we talk first?"

Initially, Eliam intended to decline but retracted the message after it was sent.

He requested the Marketing Department's manager to speak with Rhonda.

Eliam's original plan involved negotiating a fifty percent reduction in the price of collaborating with Eden Accounting.

However, Rhonda proved persuasive, providing logical arguments. She meticulously itemized and calculated each expense for Sloan Corporation.

Her persuasion convinced the Marketing Department manager, who then presented the list to Eliam.

"Did she manage to brainwash you?" Eliam had to concede, impressed by Rhonda's thorough breakdown of expenses.

"Mr. Sloan, I must say Rhonda is truly talented. She's skilled at both business and sales."

"Fine, I'll let Eden have this one. Sign the agreement at the original price."

Meanwhile, Eden arrived at the orphanage. He had received word that morning that the orphanage where his sister, Rona, resided had been located.

He left everything behind and rushed over.

However, the orphanage director informed him that Rona had drowned at the age of three or four.



Staring at Rona's old clothes, Eden felt as if he had plummeted into an icy abyss, unable to regain his composure.

The orphanage director explained that Rona had arrived with multiple injuries and had been hospitalized for over a week. Afterward, she was taken care of by another girl named Pearl at the orphanage.

The director recounted the close bond between Rona and Pearl, but nobody foresaw the tragic beach trip during which Rona was lost to the waves.

Suddenly, there was a commotion in the yard as the orphanage volunteers arrived to deliver gifts for the children.

As Eden stepped outside, he observed the children encircling a tall woman in a white gauze dress, her angelic aura accentuated by a warm smile.

"This is Pearl. She was adopted later on," the director introduced.

"What is her name?"

"Her name is Diana Leslie, the adopted daughter of the Leslie Group's chairman."

"Diana?" A sense of familiarity struck Eden as he heard the name.

Diana, who happened to look at him, was stunned. "Are you Mr. Hawkins?"

"Are you Pearl?" Eden asked, using her nickname.

Diana nodded. "How did you know my nickname, Mr. Hawkins?"

"I was told you cared for a young girl named Rona, is that correct?" Tears filled Eden's eyes. "She was my sister. I'm deeply grateful."

"Rona was your sister?" Feigning surprise, Diana said, "Rona was truly adorable."

Diana shared with him stories from her childhood involving Rona.

At noon, Eden invited Diana to join him for lunch.

Later that evening, photos of them having lunch together were shared online.

Being a celebrity, Diana attracted attention, and rumors swirled that Eden's mysterious girlfriend had been revealed as the woman who had been with his brother Marvell five years ago.

Upon seeing the news, Rhonda suspected Diana was orchestrating another publicity stunt. Since her return to the public eye, Diana had consistently dominated headlines. Rhonda conceded that Diana's public relations team was exceptionally skilled at generating buzz.

Lately, anything related to Eden Accounting had become a hot topic. News regarding the company would quickly spread and gain widespread attention.

However, it wasn't wise to spread rumors that Diana had been involved with both Eden and his brother Marvell, as it would only add fuel to the fire.

In the afternoon, Margret threw a celebration party for Rhonda, praising her for securing the Sloan Corporation order and boosting employee morale.

Upon hearing the news, Eden was pleasantly surprised and promptly approved a special fifty thousand dollar bonus for Rhonda.

That evening, Rhonda excitedly cooked a lavish meal for Eliam.

They had been swamped lately and hadn't shared dinner together in quite some time.

Eliam had promised to return by six o'clock, but it was already seven and he was nowhere to be seen.

Feeling hungry and without any other option, Rhonda decided to call Eliam.

The phone rang for an extended period before it was finally picked up.

The background noise on the phone was loud, filled with men's and women's laughter.

"Are you joining me for dinner tonight?"

"No, I unexpectedly have plans with friends. Go ahead and eat without me. Don't wait up." With that, he ended the call.

Rhonda recognized Steven's voice amidst the noise on the phone.

If Steven was present, Diana must be too.

Rhonda tried not to care, but she couldn't help overthinking the situation.

Late that night, Eliam returned home drunk.

It had been a while since Rhonda had seen Eliam get so drunk like he was now.

Rhonda detested serving people who were drunk, especially the stench that came along with it.

Suppressing the urge to vomit, Rhonda assisted Eliam into the room.

However, the moment Eliam lay down, he felt dizzy and vomited on the bed.

Rhonda was so irritated that she felt like throwing Eliam out.

In the end, though, she relented. She changed his clothes and cleaned up the mess.

It was late when she finally finished.

That night, Rhonda slept on the couch.

The following morning, Rhonda, having slept poorly, arrived at the office.

Upon entering the office, Cristina approached Rhonda.

"Rhonda, didn't you promise to include me in the Sloan Corporation project team? Why wasn't I on the list you sent last night?"

"This project is quite complex. I've selected experienced consultants to work with Sloan Corporation. If you have any issues, feel free to bring them up with Miss Welch," Rhonda replied.

"Don't keep using Margret as a threat. Aren't I aware of your intentions?"



"You're just using this to get back at me," Cristina accused angrily.

"I have a clear conscience. Say what you will, but I won't alter the arrangements." Rhonda refused to engage in the argument, adding, "If you don't agree, take it up with our superiors."

"Fine, I won't go. But why was Fiona chosen? I have more experience and better qualifications than her." Cristina began comparing herself to Fiona.

"Fiona and I belong to the same team, and she contributed to the tax-saving plan. Why shouldn't she participate?" Rhonda retorted.

"You're just being biased. Everyone knows she's incompetent and only got here through connections. She's utterly useless." Cristina persisted.

"Didn't you also use connections to join the company?" Rhonda shot back, "You know clearly who you relied on. Don't slander others here."

Cristina's face flushed with anger, surprised by Rhonda's newfound boldness. "Fine, if you won't let me go, you must ensure I receive my full bonus this month, right?"

"Per company policy, without performance, you won't receive a bonus. Are you not aware of that?"

"But I've worked here for a month. Why shouldn't I get a bonus when I clock in every day?"

Rhonda, finding Cristina's persistence tiresome, handed her an employee manual, instructing her to read it thoroughly before dismissing her.