

## Chapter 13 Finding Support

"Hey Colten, it's Leanna here. Hope I didn't wake you up."

Leanna ensured Braydon was watching as she switched her phone to loudspeaker. Then Colten's calm voice filled the room, saying, "Hey, Leanna, I was just getting ready to sleep, but I'm still awake. What's up? Is everything okay?"

"Colten, I'm feeling a bit lonely. Could you send someone over? I'm right outside a hotel."

Colten could hear the worry in her voice. Without even asking why, he quickly said, "Sure, stay put. I'm sending someone to get you."

Once the call ended, Leanna gave a smug look and gestured towards Braydon with her phone. "You heard him, Braydon. You can leave now. Since it's Colten's decision, Nate won't blame you."

Braydon let out a sigh. He could see how differently Leanna treated Colten compared to Nate.

Even though he got Nate's commands, he couldn't muster the courage to defy Colten. All he could do was sadly drive off.

Leanna was surprised when Colten himself showed up instead of sending someone else.

On her first day back in the country, she had reached out to Colten first and found out he had moved back to Elesmond.

Luckily, he did. Otherwise, she would have caved into Nate's pressure.

Once in the car, Leanna didn't waste a moment and hugged Colten's arm.

"Why are you here yourself, Colten? It's really late."

"Do you also know it is late now? And you, out here alone, could run into trouble. I owe a lot to your grandfather. If something happened to you, how could I face him in heaven?"

Leanna pulled a face and stuck out her tongue.

"What's the matter? Are you having problems?" If not, she wouldn't be asking for his assistance right now.

Looking down, Leanna felt wronged. "Nate has blocked all my cards." She observed Colten as she told him.

Colten got the picture straight away. "I'm not sure what's going on between you two that made you leave, but are you still upset with him? Haven't you made up?"

"I just don't want to go back. Colten, can I crash at your place for a bit?"

Nate was trying to drag her back, wasn't he? She needed a safe spot away from him.

"Absolutely. Stay as long as you need."

"Great." Leanna wrapped her arm around Colten's.

The following morning, while having breakfast, Colten saw Leanna barely touching her food. She lingered after eating, showing no urgency to leave for work. Curious, he asked, "I thought you started at General Hospital. What's the hold-up today?"

Leanna seized the moment to share her troubles, saying, "You wouldn't believe it, Colten. Nate has messed with my job there. He's not letting me work."

"Why not? Being a doctor at General Hospital sounds perfect for you. What's his problem?"

Tears welled up in Leanna's eyes as she vented her frustration,

saying, "He's got this idea that because I'm in the Andrology Department, and it's mostly male patients, it's not suitable for me. He interrupted my consultation yesterday and pulled me out."

Her voice wavered as she spoke.

Colten was upset seeing her so distressed.

Angered, he pounded the table. "This is getting out of hand. Is he meddling in your career now? Unbelievable. I'll sort him out."

Colten then instructed the butler to call Nate.

Once Nate was on the line, Colten didn't hold back his criticism.

Listening to Colten stand up for her, Leanna's spirits lifted. Yesterday's grievances seemed to fade away.

It appeared Colten was the only one who could keep Nate in check.

Colten was her steadfast supporter.

After the call, Colten let out a sigh of relief. "He's on his way here. He's in for an earful."

"Okay, thank you." Leanna snuggled closer to him.

Before Nate's arrival, she wanted to ensure Colten was on her side, especially regarding her job.

If Colten supported her, Nate's objections would be futile.

"Colten, my work in the Andrology Department is all about helping people and contributing to the circle of life. It's so important. I don't get why Nate is so against it. Is working for the Holland Group isn't the only worthy career? It's too absurd!"

Colten agreed, "You've got a point."

"Colten, can I count on you to back me up and not side with Nate?"

"Of course. If this job means so much to you, I'm all in. You've got my full support!"

When Nate showed up, the two were engrossed in a chess game.

For more than ten minutes, they purposely excluded him, pretending he wasn't there.

Yet, as soon as Nate entered, the room's mood shifted, the tension palpable. Leanna could feel a heavy weight in the air, almost suffocating her.