

## Trapped in Love #Chapter 41 - Read Trapped in Love Chapter 41

### Chapter 41

Chapter 41 Be Assertive and Take Him Back

+15 BONUS

Daniella walked out through the fire exit after making that call, only to unexpectedly run into Caroline, who was waiting for the elevator.

Daniella stood next to her and flashed a smile, hoping for some kind of acknowledgment. "What a coincidence, Ms. Shenton."

Caroline simply ignored her presence.

Unfazed by the cold reception, Daniella arrogantly crossed her arms and said, "I heard you haven't been feeling well. Should I take your place tomorrow and attend the event with Evan?"

Carline continued to act oblivious to Daniella's words.

After being ignored repeatedly, Daniella's humiliation grew.

She waved her arms frustratedly and spoke with a lowered voice. "Why are you acting

Caroline?"

Caroline scoffed and glared at her. "You're breaking character just like that?"

SO

proud,

Frustration seeped through Daniella's clenched teeth. "I told you your good days would come to an end soon. I'll be with Evan tomorrow night!"

Caroline looked at her, perplexed. "What's there to be happy about, presenting yourself like a sex worker?"

Furthermore, Evan would never indulge in drinking at the annual dinner. Even if he did, what did

it have to do with Daniella being with him or not?

Daniella's face paled from the rage. "You better watch out, Caroline! Don't blame me if I show you

no mercy!"

The elevator doors opened just as Daniella finished speaking.

Caroline stepped expressionlessly into the elevator and pressed the button.

As the doors closed, Daniella's eyes brimmed with a deep brutality, a simmering intensity fueling

her determination.

In that moment, she couldn't help but revel in the anticipation of seeing how long Caroline could uphold her mask of arrogance.

www

At five in the evening on Friday, Caroline put on a presentable and warm outfit for the annual dinner.

+15 BONUS

Upon descending the stairs, she found Evan already waiting on the couch. His black coat added to his cold and elegant charisma. His mature features held a restrained air of sophistication. 1

She glanced at him briefly and looked away, announcing her readiness as she approached him. "I'm ready."

Evan glanced up, giving her a thorough appraisal. Satisfied that she hadn't worn an inappropriate attire, he stood up with a smile.

Together, they got into the car and headed toward the Silver Hotel.

Twenty minutes later, the car pulled up at the hotel entrance.

As they stepped out, they spotted two familiar faces—Alex and Lucas.

Evan furrowed his brow as he approached them with Caroline in tow. “What are you guys doing here?”

Lucas smiled, “We came to learn from you how to organize the annual dinner for next year.”

“You could have just said you were here for the drinks if you wanted an easy entry,” Alex added.

Lucas glared at him. “Why do you always find ways to expose me?”

Growing irritated by their bickering, Evan dismissed them. “If you’re here to fight, then leave.”

“We’re good!” they hastily assured him.

The three of them proceeded into the hotel, with Caroline walking a few steps behind. Just before entering the ballroom, Alex paused and turned to face her. His smile exuded warmth as he said, “We’ll have to trouble you to take Evan home tonight.”

Caroline was left speechless.

“Evan!”

Before Caroline could utter a word, Daniella’s sweet voice reached their ears.

Curiosity piqued, Alex and Lucas turned to observe Daniella running toward them.

Caroline discreetly made her way toward Paige, who happened to be engaged in conversation with their colleagues nearby. As soon as she spotted Caroline, Paige waved her over.

“Over here, Carol!”

Caroline nodded and joined her, taking a seat beside her.

Paige playfully teased her. “Did you see that pretentious woman? Flirting at the annual dinner, how ridiculous!”

2/4

+15 BONUS

Caroline pulled her friend closer and whispered, "There are many people here. Let's not say that."

Paige slapped her hand in irritation. "You're way too nice!"

She handed Caroline a glass of fresh juice from the table. "I had the waiter make this fresh for

you. It's packed with vitamins."

Caroline accepted the drink with a grateful smile. Thanks."

Soon, all the employees arrived, and the MC took the stage to give a speech.

The lucky draw this year still employed the same drawing number system as the previous years

Caroline received the number 8.1

In the initial rounds, she didn't win anything, but in the final round, she struck luck and won 5,999

dollars.

Her colleagues couldn't help but envy her as she ascended the stage to claim her prize.

Paige grabbed Caroline's hands and yelled in excitement as she came down from the stage. You're so lucky!"

Caroline instinctively glanced over at Evan, who was seated at the main table.

However, she quickly averted her gaze when she noticed Daniella serving him food with a smile.

Paige grinned mischievously. "I think the boss did it on purpose!"

Caroline was puzzled. "What do you mean?"

“I remember you won a laptop worth over 4,000 dollars last year! It was the most expensive prize! And two years ago, you won 2,200 dollars. It wasn’t the most expensive prize, but it was the second most expensive prize. Tell me, who can be this lucky for three years in a row? You’re the only one who can’t see it.”

Caroline’s expression froze, and she couldn’t help but furrow her brow as she looked at the check

in her hand.

Paige’s words made sense, but Caroline wasn’t vain enough to assume such things.

An hour later, Alex suddenly approached her and grabbed her arm. “Ms. Shenton, I think you should check on your Mr. Jordan.”

Paige moved to intervene when Caroline was unexpectedly grabbed. “Who are you? Let go of Carol!”

Alex glanced at Paige, studying her closely. “Are you willing to take responsibility if someone else steals his heart?”

Paige was stunned, and her gaze involuntarily shifted toward Evan. There, she saw Daniella

on Caroline’s arm.

She turned her head away and gave Caroline a nudge. “Be assertive and take him back!”

+15 BONUS

Alex raised an eyebrow, surprised by Paige’s reaction, then swiftly whisked Caroline away within

seconds.

## **Chapter 42**

Chapter 42 Let’s Not Trouble Her

Caroline was reluctantly dragged over to Evan, all the while feeling lost and bewildered novelbin

She overheard Alex's words to Daniella. 'Ms. Love, it's better to let Ms. Shenton handle this

difficult task."

Caroline couldn't comprehend why she had to be the one to undertake such an thankless

responsibility.

She glanced at Evan, who was now unconscious and drunk after a mere half-hour of drinking. She

was secretly alarmed.

How much had they made him drink?

Daniella was taken aback. She hadn't expected Alex to bring Caroline into the picture.

Suppressing the upset feelings, she forced a smile "Mr. Price, allow me to take care of Evan. Ms. Shenton hasn't been feeling well lately, so let's not trouble her."

"Ms. Love, there are certain things you should know when Evan drinks. Are you confident that you can handle it?" Alex inquired.

"Of course," Daniella replied confidently..

Caroline was rendered speechless.

She couldn't fathom why Alex insisted on her taking on this role.

Evan and Daniella would inevitably end up together sooner or later.

Besides, she was merely an outsider.

Before Alex could continue, she interjected, "Mr. Price! Let Ms. Love handle him. I'm leaving!"

He furrowed his brow and observed her as she departed. After some contemplation, he followed after her.

“Ms. Shenton, you’re aware that Evan is allergic to goose, right? Ms. Love fed him some. As his secretary, I presume you have allergy medication with you. It would be wise to administer it while we wait for the doctor.”

Caroline remained silent.

Alex continued while she stood there, quiet and pensive. “If you don’t take care of him, then Evan can only blame himself for being so blind that he chose a secretary who doesn’t care if he dies at all!”

+15 BONUS

With that, he left and returned to his seat. 1

Caroline struggled with her emotions as she stood in place.

Should she go?

If she did not, Evan would undoubtedly suffer. She had witnessed his allergic reactions before, and

they were frightening.

However, she did not want to ruin his time with Daniella.

After pondering it over, she decided to give the medicine to Daniella and then leave.

A sly smirk formed on Alex’s face when he saw her hastily departing.

Lucas, slightly tipsy, leaned on his shoulder. “Why are you trying to get Ms. Shenton involved with

Evan? Ms. Love looks pretty great, no?”

Alex pushed him away. “Can’t you see that Evan has been ignoring Ms. Love? As his friend, it’s my duty to push someone that he likes toward him.”

Lucas tutted and said, “You’re such a meddler...”

In the hotel lobby, Caroline persuaded the front desk to provide her with Daniella's room number.

Just as the elevator doors opened, she coincidentally saw Daniella, who entered the elevator

before Caroline could call out to her.

Frowning, Caroline realized that her best option was to go directly to Daniella's room in search of

Evan

When she found the room, she pressed the doorbell several times.

Finally, the door swung open, revealing Evan with an unusually flushed face.

Without wasting a moment, she rummaged through her bag for the medicine, her eyes fixed on his flushed complexion.

"They told me you ate goose. I'm here to give you the medicine... Ah..."

Evan grabbed her waist and pulled her into the room before she could finish her sentence.

He held her tightly, burying his head in her neck.

His voice was passionate and rough, carrying an unprecedented urgency. "Take off your clothes!"

Caroline was stunned. How could these symptoms occur if it was an allergy?

As he delivered a warm and overpowering kiss, she noticed a redness on his neck but no signs of a

rash.

In that moment, she realized the truth. 1

That b\*stard Alex had deceived her!

+15 BONUS

Daniella intended to return to Evan's hotel room after concluding her phone call.

However, she suddenly heard soft moans that would make anyone blush coming from the room,

causing her to freeze and furrow her brow.

Who was it in there?!

She had only stepped out to speak with Nic on the phone, so who was taking advantage of this

opportunity?!

Though she possessed the key card, she hesitated to enter. She believed Evan would be furious if

she entered without his permission.

She quickly took the lift down to the front desk and claimed she needed to review the security

camera footage as she had misplaced something.

Her hands clenched as she observed Caroline appearing outside the room through the screen.

She had an intense urge to shatter the screen in front of her.

She thought tonight's plan would guarantee her success in becoming his girlfriend!

Who knew that Caroline would suddenly emerge and ruin her scheme!

Resentment grew within her.

Since Caroline had acted so shamelessly, she couldn't be blamed for executing her own plan

ahead of schedule!

At 5 a.m., Caroline discreetly exited the room, fully dressed.

She needed to hurry back to Villa Rosa, as the first draft for the competition had to be submitted.

by 8 a.m..

Only two hours remained until the submission deadline. She needed to review her draft one last

time before sending it out.

Meanwhile, Daniella emerged from the corridor just as Caroline left the room.

With clenched teeth, she watched Caroline's departure. Her tired eyes were bloodshot.

She had considered leaving last night but couldn't bring herself to do it.

Instead, she had waited the entire night, hoping to find a way to salvage the situation.

Her instincts had been correct—Caroline would be the first to leave the room.

## **Chapter 43**

### Chapter 43 Ungrateful Daughter

Daniella opened the door and walked into the room in her heels.

As she observed the man soundly asleep in bed, she discarded her clothes without hesitation, allowing them to fall carelessly onto the floor. She gingerly climbed into the bed, mindful not to

disturb his slumber.

She slept soundly until 7 a.m...

Suddenly, Evan's eyes fluttered open from an upset tummy, his face contorted with discomfort.

He frowned when he realized that he was in a hotel room

"Mmph... Evan, you're awake?" Daniella's voice filled the air, carrying a hint of sleepiness as she gazed at him sheepishly.

In that moment, a rush of memories from the previous night flooded Evan's mind. He recalled the

ringing of the doorbell, his hazy consciousness as he stumbled towards the entrance, and pulling

someone inside upon recognizing a familiar voice. He had mistaken Daniella for Caroline—his

heart sank.

Annoyed, Evan threw off the blanket and rose from the bed, his frustration evident on his

handsome face.

With disappointment evident in her voice, Daniella quickly sat up. "Evan! Do you despise me to the extent that you don't want to be intimate with me?"

Evan's handsome face stiffened, his voice ice-cold. "Did you bring me here?"

"I had been drinking too. I realized it wasn't safe to drive you home, so I brought you here. I intended to get some honey water to help sober you up, but the kitchen was closed. When I returned, you suddenly pulled me in and things escalated... Evan, if you loathe me, I can pretend this never happened."

Feeling wronged, she recalled the images she had seen on the security camera and lied. novelbin

Evan's fists clenched tightly as he spoke, "Daniella, I'll make it up to you, but not right now."

Secretly relieved by his response, she hoped he wouldn't recall Caroline's presence.

Her focus was now on ensuring everything went smoothly when her adoptive parents—who had promised to come—arrived.

Meanwhile, Caroline had just finished showering when Evan returned home. She crossed paths with him, an instinctive desire to ask about his well-being tugged at her.

+15 BONUS

However, before she could utter a word, he spoke coldly. "Did you know that Daniella took me

away last night?"

She nodded. "I do."

Frowning, disappointment evident in his eyes, Evan continued. "You truly are something, Caroline.

With that, he swiftly made his way to their room, slamming the door with a resounding thud,

leaving Caroline standing at the entrance, bewildered and lost.

Perplexed by his sudden outburst, she couldn't fathom what she had done to trigger such a tantrum. Evan had been fine the previous night, but this morning, he seemed like a completely different person

Deciding not to dwell on it, she headed downstairs for breakfast before setting off to the hospital.

The bodyguards stationed themselves outside the ward, allowing her to enter alone.

Caroline's heart squeezed painfully at the sight of her pale and tearful mother, Katie, lying in the

hospital bed and sobbing.

She quickly went up to ask. "Mom? What's wrong?"

Katie hurriedly wiped away her tears upon seeing Caroline and choked out, "You're here, Carol."

She nodded, her mind racing as she considered her next question. "Was Dad here?"

A weary sigh escaped Katie's lips. "Let's not talk about him, Carol. Please, let's not."

Rage began to simmer within Caroline. “Mom, did he cause trouble for you again? Did he demand

more money?”

“Stop it, Carol. I’ve already paid Doctor Wilson back.” Katie said.

“We owe him too many favors. We’ve burdened him enough; we can never repay him...”

Caroline’s emotions were complex. She knew all too well that her father would inevitably return, seeking money once more, given his character. However, she hadn’t anticipated it happening so

Soon

Taking a deep breath, she made a determined declaration. “Let me handle it, Mom. I won’t allow him to come back.”

Katie stared at her in disbelief. “What are you going to do, Carol?”

“Call the police,” she stated firmly.

She refused to be a passive victim any longer. Even if it meant being labeled “ungrateful” and

2/3

+15 BONUS

Recognizing her daughter’s resolute character, Katie refrained from dissuading her. Exhausted, she closed her eyes, silently watching as Caroline left the ward.

In her heart, she hoped that Bradley would finally learn his lesson.

Caroline instructed the bodyguards to take turns keeping watch outside the ward

Bradley appeared two days later.

The bodyguard secretly recorded the abhorrent scene as Bradley coerced Katie into handing over money and resorted to physically assaulting her.

The footage was swiftly sent to Caroline, shattering her heart as she witnessed her mother being

callously thrown to the ground and struck by her own father.

Caroline immediately commanded the bodyguards to intervene and put a stop to Bradley's abusive

actions

Simultaneously, she rushed to the police station, presenting the incriminating video evidence to the officer in charge.

In no time, the officer accompanied Caroline back to the ward

She felt sad and helpless seeing Bradley being detained.

"Caroline, you ungrateful daughter! How dare you call the police on me!"

His eyes widened with fury as he unleashed his scathing words upon Caroline. 1

"Just you wait! I'll hunt you down when I get out! I will make you suffer along with your mother!"

After recording her statement with the police officer, Caroline returned to the ward to comfort her mother, Katie.

Meanwhile, in a nearby restaurant, Daniella and Evan sat next to each other. They were there to meet with the individuals posing as her adoptive parents.

"Mum, Dad, why didn't you let me know you were coming back?"

## **Chapter 44**

### Chapter 44 Why Are You Lying

Her fake adoptive father mustered a strained smile and said, "Hi, Daniella. Please, have a seat."

Her fake adoptive mother glanced at Evan and deliberately inquired, "And who might this be,

Daniella?”

Daniella blushed shyly. “Mom, this is Evan, the person I’ve told you so much about.”

Her adoptive mother appeared stunned, but she nodded in acknowledgement. “Ah, so this is Mr. Jordan. Please, join us.”

Evan sat down, his dark eyes fixed on the couple who seemed to have appeared out of thin air. They poured him water and engaged in casual conversation.

Barely had they settled in their seats when the waiter arrived to serve the food.

“Daniella, Mr. Jordan seems like a reliable man. We are relieved that you’ve found someone like him,” her adoptive father commented.

“Yes, indeed her adoptive mother chimed in, her gaze shifting towards Evan. “Mr. Jordan, when

you plan to make your relationship with Daniella official?”

do

Evan wiped his hands slowly with a napkin, his tone distant and cold. “What kind of relationship are you referring to?”

“Engagement, of course.”

“We haven’t reached that stage yet. There are some matters I still need to attend to,” Evan

responded, his voice devoid of warmth.

Daniella played along sweetly. “That’s right, there’s no rush. Evan is quite busy, and we’ve only just started dating.”

Hearing her words, Evan suddenly recalled Caroline’s statement, “I don’t want to be a mistress.”

Annoyance welled up within him. He discarded the napkin and abruptly stood up. “I have some urgent matters to attend to. Please, continue without me.”

Daniella panicked at his sudden departure. She hurriedly followed him, calling out, "Evan! Are you angry with me?"

He halted and turned his head to look at her, his expression icy. "Daniella, I don't wish to say hurtful things to you."

Tears welled up in her eyes. "But we've already been intimate. Aren't we considered to be in a committed relationship after that?"

+15 BONUS

"No one can make that decision for me."

With those words, he turned away and left.

Upon returning to the car, Evan instructed Reuben, who was in the driver's seat. "Arrange for an investigation into Daniella's adoptive parents."

Reuben expressed doubt. "You want to investigate Ms. Love's childhood?"

Evan loosened his tie and gave a grunt with his deep voice.

Later that night, Caroline returned to Villa Rosa..

She hadn't eaten much for dinner and, after taking a shower, descended the stairs to request some fruit from Lily to replenish her vitamins.

Coincidentally, Evan had just arrived back and encountered her as she left the bedroom. His eyes were drawn to the water droplets trickling from her hair to her chest. It ignited a smoldering desire within him.

He swallowed hard and questioned, "Where are you going?"

Instinctively clutching her robe, she replied. "I'm going to get some fruit."

She attempted to sidestep him, but he gripped her arm firmly. "Ask Lily to bring the fruit. Come to the room with me."

Caroline knew exactly what he wanted without having to think about it.

However, her doctor had advised her to abstain from sexual activity for the first three months of her pregnancy.

Thus, she withdrew her arm coldly. "I can't do that for the next few days."

Evan scoffed, closing the distance between them. "Lily will inform me when you're menstruating or not. So tell me, why are you lying?"

A flush crept up Caroline's cheeks as she heard his words. She raised her head, looking at him with anger. "Are you a pervert, Evan? You even know about that?"

He flashed a teasing smile and grasped her chin.

"Tell me!"

She slapped his hand away reluctantly. "I'm not feeling well, and I didn't say I'm on my period!"

Evan paused for a moment, then scoffed. "You seem quite energetic when you're speaking. You don't look ill at all."

She was left speechless.

Forget it! She couldn't win against this man! novelbin

+15 BONUS

Rather than provoking his anger and facing potential violence, she would rather comply with his wishes.

Meanwhile, at the hospital, Daniella arrived at Katie's ward, guided by the information she had

obtained.

After confirming that Caroline wasn't present, she approached the room and peered inside. through the window.

Katie was lying down, but she slowly sat up upon seeing someone approaching. Confused, she asked, "Who are you?"

Daniella walked over and sat by the bed, offering a smile. "I know Caroline, Mrs. Shenton. I came here to see you."

Katie scrutinized her with skepticism. "Oh, why didn't she come with you?"

Daniella pursed her lips. "If she were here, I doubt I could share this with you."

Gradually, Katie's expression turned serious. "Has something happened to her?"

With a sigh, Daniella spoke. "Well, I was hoping you could talk to her, Mrs. Shenton. My fiance and

I are planning to get engaged, but she has been sharing a bed with him. My fiance is her boss..."

"Impossible!" Katie interjected loudly as soon as Daniella finished speaking. "My daughter isn't

that kind of person! What nonsense are you spewing?"

"Mrs. Shenton, I'm only telling you this out of concern. I don't want Caroline to face difficulties at

work. And if she weren't a mistress, how could she afford your expensive medical bills and her

father's debt?"

## **Chapter 45**

### Chapter 45 No One Will Ever Want Her Again

Katie stood frozen, her anger still palpable as she struggled to catch her breath. "Impossible! You're slandering her! I can sue you for this!" she exclaimed.

Daniella feigned anger as she rose from her seat. "If you don't believe me, call her, Mrs. Shenton! That's all I have to say. Please ask Caroline to know her place!" With that, she left the ward, walking away confidently in her heels.

Meanwhile, Katie couldn't shake off Daniella's words, feeling increasingly anxious. The doubt and anger inside her grew stronger, compelling her to reach out to Caroline.

Meanwhile, in the intimate confines of the room at Villa Rosa, Caroline heard her phone buzzing and glanced toward the bedside table.

She lightly tapped Evan's chest. "Someone is... mmph..."

Before she could complete her sentence, he leaned in and kissed her lips, diverting her attention.

She could only ignore her phone.

Much later when they were done, she hurriedly left the bed and made her way to the bathroom. while clutching her phone tightly.

A wave of unease washed over her when she noticed missed calls from her mother.

With a racing heart, she quickly dialed back, relieved when Katie promptly answered the call.

"Why didn't you answer, Carol?" Katie's voice held a serious tone. novelbin

Breathing heavily from her recent passionate encounter, Caroline replied, "I was taking a shower,

Mom. I didn't hear my phone."

Katie detected the evasiveness in her daughter's voice and interrogated fiercely. "Where are you

now?"

Just as Caroline was about to respond, the bathroom door swung open, and Evan entered, his eyes

filled with seriousness. "Who are you talking to?"

Startled by his sudden appearance, Caroline hung up the call in a moment of panic.

She furrowed her brow and explained, "That was my mom. Can you please give me a heads-up.

before entering next time?"

Evan's gaze hardened as he glared at her. "Why are you so nervous?"

Clutching her phone tightly, Caroline found herself too preoccupied to answer him. A sense of unease lingered in her eyes. She couldn't shake the worry that her mother might have heard

1/9

+15 BONUS

He seemed to have guessed what she was worried about. "Are you afraid your mom will find out

you're with me?"

"No," she responded irritably, pushing him away. "I'm worried she'll find out I'm with a man right.

now."

Evan leaned against the basin with one hand supporting his body as he inched closer to her ear.

Your mom wouldn't mind if that man were Doctor Wilson, right?"

Caroline locked eyes with him and pushed him away. "My mom isn't like that!"

What had she done with Doctor Wilson that Evan couldn't seem to let go of?

Meanwhile, in the ward, anxiety gripped Katie as she placed her phone down, her face paling. She

was certain she had heard a man's voice during her conversation with Caroline.

It couldn't possibly be her boyfriend. Caroline wouldn't hide that from her. But if Caroline were a

mistress...

Fear coursed through her as she contemplated the possibility. She wanted to trust her daughter,

but the mounting medical bills and Bradley's debt were a substantial burden. Closing her eyes in anguish, she couldn't help but worry that Caroline had resorted to such shameless acts because of

her.1

She could never repay her daughter if that were the case.

Daniella, who had been standing outside the ward, overheard every word Katie said. A satisfied smirk crossed her face as she reached for her phone and made a call.

As the call connected, she glanced mischievously at the security camera in the corridor. "I've done

my part. You're up next"

The next day, Caroline arrived at the hospital early in the morning, mentally rehearsing the words she had carefully prepared the previous night. Taking a deep breath, she entered the building.

determined to address the situation head-on.

But as the elevator doors opened, she froze.

Her heart sank as she saw her photos plastered all over the walls, accompanied by a glaring

sentence in red: "This is the shameless mistress who has sex with her boss for money!\*

Her blood boiled, and an icy chill coursed through her veins. The people walking out of the elevator looked at her, and after realizing she was the one in the posters, cast disgusted glances

her way.

273

+15 BONUS

The second when the doors were closed, a realization hit her like a bolt of lightning.

She spun around abruptly and sprinted towards the upper floors, her heart pounding in her chest.

If the posters were displayed in the elevator, what about the corridors? And the bathrooms? And worst of all, what about her mother's ward?

Panic consumed her, and she struggled to catch her breath. Suppressing the pain in her chest, she staggered towards the oncology department on the third floor

As she turned the corner, she saw a group of people gathered outside her mother's ward. Voices filled with judgment reached her ears.

"I wonder if she was ever taught any morals. Allowing her child to stoop this low..."

"Their family is a mess after all. I didn't expect their daughter to be even more messed up

"She's engaging in such behavior at such a young age. No one will ever want her again."

"My child spoke to her a few days ago. Who knows if she carries diseases with her!"

"Enough! Stop gathering around here!" the nurse shouted, but the families of other patients were in no hurry to disperse.

Caroline felt the onslaught of criticism like relentless waves, leaving her dazed as she stumbled

into her mother's ward.

"She's here! It's her!" Someone in the crowd shouted, and suddenly, all the judgmental eyes turned

toward Caroline.

## **Chapter 46**

Chapter 46 One's Reputation Is Important

"Quick! Step aside. She might have HIV!"

“How shameless! She did it for money and status. How fucking shameless!”

“Get lost! Get the hell out of here!”

Suddenly, desperate screams echoed from the ward. It was Katie’s voice.

Caroline regained her composure and swiftly pushed through the crowd, making her way into the chaotic ward.

The floor was a mess, and there were shattered glass scattered everywhere

The sight made Caroline struggle to breathe. Even swallowing felt unusually difficult. Her eyes fell upon Katie, sitting on the hospital bed, looking pale and struggling to catch her breath.

Tears welled up in Caroline’s eyes as she choked out, “Mom...”

“Don’t call me that!” Katie roared fiercely.

Caroline’s entire body trembled, and she sobbed, trying to reason with her mother, “Mom, please don’t be angry. Let me explain, okay?”

Through tear-filled eyes, Katie pointed an accusing finger at Caroline, her voice filled with hurt and disbelief, “Why would you do that? Why?”

Caroline broke down in a torrent of tears, her voice choked with emotion. “Mom, it’s not what you think. Please calm down. Let’s talk and sort things out, okay?”

“Caroline! You... you!”

But before Katie could finish her sentence, she suddenly blacked out and collapsed to the floor.

“Mom!” Caroline rushed forward, embracing Katie tightly. Then, she screamed from the ward, Nurse! Nurse! Help! My mother needs help!”

Within moments, a nurse hurriedly entered the room.

In less than two minutes, an anxious doctor arrived.

Caroline was swiftly pushed out of the ward as the medical team urgently attended to Katie.

The commotion outside the ward had dispersed, leaving behind a vacant and silent corridor that seemed to suffocate those present with its eerie gloom.

Caroline collapsed onto a nearby bench, her gaze vacant as she stared off into the distance.

+15 BONUS

'If only I had realized something was wrong last night and rushed here, could I have prevented this from happening today? I should have noticed sooner that the person who wanted to harm me is still out there, likely with more schemes. But I was careless and allowed myself to be taken

advantage of.

Caroline hugged herself tightly, attempting to calm her racing thoughts, but it proved futile.

Soon, urgent footsteps echoed through the corridor, and a pair of black leather shoes came into

view

"Caroline, I'm sorry I'm late. Scott's voice carried a deep sense of concern.

Caroline looked up, her gaze distant. Her red and teary eyes caused Scott's brows to furrow.

"Dr. Wilson..." Her voice quivered, nearly hoarse.

She reached out and tightly grasped Scott's pants "Please, I'm begging you. Go in and save my

mother, please."

Don't worry. I'll do everything I can to save your mother. Promise me you'll stop overthinking. okay?" Scott gently consoled her.

Caroline nodded resolutely. "Okay..."

Scott turned around and entered the ward. When he opened the door, Caroline heard the urgent

sounds of the medical equipment.

Fear washed over her once again. 1

Half an hour later, the door of the ward was swung open.

Several doctors and nurses emerged from the room.

Caroline hurriedly approached them. "Doctor, how is my mother?"

The lead doctor shook his head regretfully. "Go and see her one last time. We did everything we could."

Caroline stood frozen, as if her soul had left her body in an instant.

She raised a trembling hand to steady herself against the wall and slowly made her way into the ward.

At a glance, she saw her mother's once vibrant face now worn and yellowed. A respirator covered

Katie's mouth.

Scott sat by the bed, his expression filled with guilt as he watched Caroline enter.

+15 BONUS

He stood up with his head lowered as he whispered, "I'm sorry, Caroline."

However, Caroline remained silent.

She sat down by the bed and looked at her mother. The sight of Katie's sunken cheeks caused her heart to ache so intensely it felt like it might shatter.

Suppressing the tears welling up in her eyes, Caroline reached out and held Katie's hand, which was gradually losing its warmth. She leaned in close to her mother's ear and whispered, "Mom, can you hear me?"

Katie's brows twitched, and she struggled to open her eyes slightly. When she saw Caroline, tears streamed down her cheeks. She tried to open her mouth, gesturing for Caroline to remove the respirator.

Caroline glanced at Scott, who nodded and gave his permission.

With trembling hands, Caroline gently removed the respirator. Katie mustered all her strength to speak weakly, her voice barely audible, "Carol..."

Caroline nodded firmly.

"Carol, don't be a mistress. Reputation is very important for women..."

Caroline's lips quivered "Okay, Mom. I'll listen to you." novelbin

Katie closed her eyes and weakly pursed her lips. "Having you in my life is my great satisfaction."

Caroline bit her lips hard, but the tears couldn't be held back.

"Mom, I'm begging you. You may be satisfied, but I'm not. I want you to stay with me. I have a plan. We'll leave this place once you're discharged from the hospital."

"It's too late... I won't make it..." Katie's breathing grew weaker. "Carol... Actually... You... You're not... my..."

## **Chapter 47**

### Chapter 47 Don't Be Mad at Him

Katie's lips moved slightly. Caroline watch on as if in a trance, but no sound reached her ears.

The machine beside her emitted a long beep, plunging Caroline's heart into an overwhelming. sense of coldness.

In a rush, Evan arrived at the scene, guided by Caroline's desperate cries and screams that echoed from within the ward. His heart skipped a beat as he hastened his steps, eager to reach her side.

To his surprise, before he even entered the ward, he witnessed Scott tenderly patting Caroline's

back, offering her comfort. A surge of anger replaced the initial ache in Evan's heart, causing his

fists to clench tightly at his sides.

With a tense expression on his handsome face, Evan turned to Reuben, who stood by his side,

trembling with trepidation. "Shall we go in, Mr. Jordan?" Reuben asked cautiously.

Evan's face remained impassive as he pivoted, issuing a cold command "Investigate this. I want to

know who's responsible!" His voice held an icy edge.

Just as Reuben was about to depart, Evan added, "Also, send a few people to the funeral. Make sure

everything goes well."

Since Katie had no relatives or friends, Caroline organized a simple funeral for her. Both Paige and Scott had taken leave to accompany Caroline during this difficult time.

For three days, Caroline barely ate or drank, and she only managed to steal a few hours of restless

sleep.

Paige felt really sorry for her friend. She approached Caroline, trying to offer solace. "Carol, please eat something and rest for a while. We're here for you."

However, Caroline shook her head silently.

Paige sighed and was about to resume her seat when something caught her eye. She turned her head and noticed Daniella's presence.

Daniella was here alone.

Instantly, Paige's expression changed, and she moved to block Daniella's path. "What are you doing here? If you're here to cause trouble, leave now."

Daniella raised an eyebrow. "Can't I come on behalf of Evan?"

Paige instinctively glanced at Caroline, who remained stoic, before redirecting her attention back to Daniella and issued a warning. "If you stir up trouble again, I'll make you regret it!"

+15 BONUS

Daniella chuckled and pushed past Paige, stepping forward. She glanced at Caroline briefly and

then shifted her gaze to Scott, who stood beside her. After a momentary pause, she averted her

eyes.

Approaching the area, Daniella offered flowers in tribute to the deceased before turning her

attention to Caroline. "Evan is busy, so he couldn't make it. Don't be mad at him," she stated matter

-of-factly.

Caroline lowered her head quietly, seemingly unaffected by Daniella's presence and words.

Daniella snorted and squatted down, feigning comfort as she whispered, "Caroline, there's no pity

in my heart for you. In fact, I believe you deserve every bit of this suffering. You attempt to steal

my man, and every day you cling to him relentlessly. Even God Himself cannot bear witness to such audacity and is punishing you for it."

She paused momentarily, a wicked smile dancing across her lips, before continuing. "Ah, but

perhaps that wouldn't be fitting. I should have accused you of being the one who murdered your

own mother. Wouldn't that have been more appropriate, you little mistress?"

Upon hearing the last word out of Daniella's mouth, Caroline's eyes widened in disbelief. Abruptly raising her head, she stared at Daniella with cold intensity. "What did you say?"

Daniella swiftly stood up, pretending to be panicked "Caroline, what's wrong with you?"

Caroline's eyes reddened as her anger surged. "Mistress?"

She had been tormented by this question for days, unable to comprehend who would be so wicked

as to desire her mother's death and spread such rumors in the hospital, exposing her sick mother.

to unnecessary suffering.

on

Finally, the truth dawned on her, and there could be no one else but Daniella Daniella, who was

consumed by envy, was the very person behind this atrocious act.

Caroline stood up, her voice seething with rage. "What about me? How dare you come here! I know

it was you, even if I don't have any evidence! Daniella, you will face the consequences for

everything you've done. Get out of here! Let my mother rest in peace! Leave! Now!"

Perceiving Caroline's distress, Paige sensed something was amiss and urgently inquired, "What's - happening?"

Scott approached Caroline and supported her by holding her arm, while casting a somber look at

Daniella. "Please leave," he said firmly.

Infuriated, Daniella bit her lip and retorted, "How ungrateful you all are! Caroline, you've lost your mind. Don't falsely accuse me!"

Caroline's eyes burned with fierce coldness, bordering on a bloodthirsty glare. She angrily

+15 BONUS novelbin

Daniella hastily retreated, leaving Caroline grinding her teeth, her face drained of color, Moments

later, Caroline collapsed to the ground, and the anxious cries of Paige and Scott gradually faded

into the background.

The bodyguards stationed outside witnessed the ordeal and promptly reported the incident to

Evan. Upon receiving the news, Evan's black eyes turned icy.

He ended the call and immediately dialed Daniella's number. In a stern tone, he demanded, "Where

are you now?"

Daniella sobbed, filled with grievance. "Evan, I haven't done anything wrong. Why interrogate me over the phone? Don't you trust me? Or are you starting to believe Caroline's accusations? Do you

think I'm the one who killed her mother?" 1

Evan clenched his lips tightly, a frustrated expression taking hold. I'll ask you one last time.

Where are you now?"

Daniella pleaded, "Evan, please trust me. I'll prove my innocence."

## **Chapter 48**

Chapter 48 Are You Leaving

After Evan hung up, his handsome face contorted with disgust.

“Mr. Jordan.” Reuben, who was behind the wheel, sensed Evan’s unease and spoke up.

Evan massaged the space between his brows and said, “Tell me everything you got on her.”

Reuben complied and started relaying the details. “We spoke to Ms. Love’s foster parents. Their statements align with the information in Ms. Love’s medical records. They even mentioned how

she always spoke about saving you when they brought her home all those years ago.”

Hearing that, Evan’s eyes narrowed, a mix of confirmation and lingering suspicion taking hold.

Daniella had always given him a vague weird feeling, but now, he was sure.

A sinking feeling settled in Evan’s heart. He raised his gaze to meet Reuben’s “Take me to the

hospital.”

Reuben appeared taken aback. “Mr. Jordan, you have a video conference scheduled this afternoon.”

“Reschedule it for tonight,” Evan coldly commanded.

Without saying another word, Reuben steered the car toward the hospital.

However, just as they arrived at the hospital entrance and Evan was about to step out, Reuben

abruptly halted him. “Mr. Jordan, Ms. Love cut her wrist.”

Evan froze in his tracks, turning to face Reuben, his brow furrowed “Where is she now?”

Reuben responded swiftly, “She’s being rushed to the hospital”

#

Inside the emergency room, Caroline stirred from her slumber, roused by the beeping machines surrounding her. With great effort, she pried open her heavy eyelids, casting a weak glance at her

surroundings, the curtain shielding her from the room.

The familiar scent of disinfectant filled her nostrils, evoking a bitter sense of recognition. Suddenly, the curtain was pulled aside, and Scott approached with a thermos in hand.

Upon noticing Caroline's wakefulness, Scott inquired tenderly, "Caroline? Are you feeling any better?"

Caroline mustered the strength to move her lips, her voice hoarse. "Yeah."

Scott placed the thermos on the bedside cabinet and took a seat beside her. "You should have listened to me and rested more. Your anger caused you to faint in a fit."

+15 BONUS

Caroline cast her gaze downward, fully aware of her condition. The events leading up to her fainting were still vivid in her memory.

She vowed to seek revenge against Daniella, their feud burning within her, but now was not the

time. Once her mother's funeral was concluded, she would gradually gather evidence.

Composing herself, Caroline asked in a calm tone, "The funeral..."

Scott gently interrupted her. "Your friend is handling it. Don't worry. You can afford to rest for a while longer before rushing back. And you need to eat now; otherwise, you'll be too weak for the

burial tomorrow. Furthermore..."

Scott's voice trailed off as he lowered his gaze, concealing the emotions that welled up in his eyes. He added softly, "You should also consider the well-being of your baby, even if you don't think of

yourself.

Caught off guard, Caroline looked at him, her expression one of astonishment. "You... you know?"

Scott nodded, a deep sense of bitterness evident. "The doctor conducted a comprehensive check-

up on you."

Caroline pursed her lips, preparing to speak, when a familiar voice from nearby cut through the

air.

"Evan, I'm sorry. I've caused you trouble."

The moment Caroline recognized the voice, her eyes filled with pure hatred. It's was Daniella's disgusting voice!

Soon after, Evan's subdued and hoarse voice reached Caroline's ears. "Don't ever do this again."

Daniella sobbed. "Evan, do you trust me now? I didn't kill Caroline's mother."

Evan's tone turned colder. "Enough. Let's not bring that up again."

Caroline's eyes dulled, while Scott looked at her with concern, uncertain of what he could say.

Undeterred, Daniella continued, her voice pleading, "Evan, I don't mind if you investigate my past

with my foster parents. It's normal for you to doubt me. But now, do you still doubt me?" @

After a brief pause, Evan asked, "Ella, what do you want from me?"

Daniella replied, "I just want to be with you. Even if you don't care for me now, I want to stay by

your side."

Evan stated firmly, "You were the one who saved me. Of course, I'll fulfill that promise. Give me a

month. I'll announce our engagement after that."

Upon hearing Evan's final words, Caroline slowly closed her eyes, tears streaming down her

+15 BONUS

Scott let out a sigh, gently wiping away her tears. "Caroline, he isn't deserving of your feelings."

Caroline returned to the funeral grounds late in the night. Kneeling before her mother's photograph, she engaged in prayer. Her frail figure appeared feeble, yet she remained resolute. with her back straightened.

"Mom, I feel useless. Please rest in peace. I will fulfill the promise I made to you... And I will find the person who caused your sudden death. Give me time. I won't let her escape punishment!"

The following morning, Katie was cremated and laid to rest.

Caroline sat in front of the tomb for a long while before making her way to Villa Rosa

Upon Caroline's return, Lily approached her with concern evident in her voice. "Ms. Shenton, what

happened to you? You've become so thin."

Lily's worry resembled that of a caring mother. Suppressing her pain, Caroline forced a smile.

"Lily, I've come back to pack my belongings

Lily appeared bewildered. "Ms. Shenton, are you leaving?"

Caroline gently patted Lily's shoulder, offering no further explanation, and turned to ascend the

stairs.

Evan was nowhere to be seen, and Lily made no effort to stop Caroline. She swiftly packed her novelbin

belongings into two suitcases.

## Chapter 49

### Chapter 49 I Refuse to Be a Homewrecker

As she pulled the suitcases out the door, a sleek Maybach pulled up in front. Evan who sitting inside the car, caught sight of Caroline standing at the entrance with her luggage.

Stepping out of the vehicle, he approached Caroline with a gloomy expression and inquired, "What are you doing?"

Caroline responded with an expressionless face, "Evan, please carefully consider my words, now that you've made up your mind.

—

Glancing at her suitcases, he sneered, "You want me to consider letting you go?"

Caroline lifted her gaze and spoke calmly but aloofly, "Yes."

His demeanor grew somber. "Are you that eager to be with Doctor Wilson?"

To prevent him from angrily kicking her suitcases, she deliberately placed them behind her.

"Evan, I have no control over your thoughts. As I've mentioned before, I refuse to be a homewrecker. Even though it'll be a month later before you get officially engaged, I no longer wish to be your mistress."

Her statement caused an instant chill in the air. "How do you know I'm getting engaged in a

month?"

Caroline sneered, "Did you already forget what you said? Should I remind you of the time and

place?"

Her sarcastic words stung both of them, casting a shadow of gloom over Evan.

She exposed her true emotions to other men, whereas she had always remained aloof and distant

in his presence, which fueled his anger.

He felt that he had spoiled her to the point where she had the audacity to retort. Irritated, he took

a step toward Caroline. "Do you want to terminate the contract? Caroline, can you afford to do so?"

Caroline replied, "I can't, but L.."

"Caroline!" Evan interrupted her coldly. "It's the final month. The contract will end then!"

His tone was icy, leaving no room for her to refuse

A month wasn't a particularly long or short period of time. However, she couldn't disobey her

mother's dying wish. "Evan, I believe I can bear the consequences."

After a brief moment of silence, he snorted gloomily, crushing any hope that she might have had.

1/3

+15 BONUS

"So, you're not planning to take any action against the person who killed your mother, are you?"

Caroline clenched her teeth as she thought, 'Is that how he sees it? I have no evidence. What's

more, he's going to get engaged to my mother's murderer and protect her! I'll lose if I take her head.

-on."

But his words seemed to carry an underlying meaning.

Caroline sighed inwardly before cautiously asking. “Evan, what do you mean?”

He glared at her coldly. “If you can’t figure it out, go inside and eat. You can ponder it after you’re

full.”

It was the last chance he was giving her.

She understood his unspoken message, even without him explaining it.

As long as she remained obedient, he would deal with the culprit.

Caroline’s curiosity was piqued. What would he do if he discovered it was Daniella?

Perhaps he would find an excuse to delay any action against her and disregard Daniella’s deeds.

Pursing her lips, she inquired, “And if I insist on leaving?”

In response to her question, he closed the distance between them and abruptly grasped her chin. Well, then I’ll make your cherished Doctor Wilson vanish from Angelbay City tonight!\*

“Evan! Why are you always trying to involve innocent people?” Caroline glared at him. novelbin

She screamed inwardly, ‘Doctor Wilson! He always brings up Doctor Wilson! There’s nothing between Doctor Wilson and me. Why does he keep mentioning Doctor Wilson?’

“You guys aren’t innocent.” he retorted before turning and walking toward the villa.

Before entering, he added, “Think it through.”

Caroline seethed with anger, yet she felt utterly helpless against him.

She knew Evan was a man of his word.

After Daniella received a call in the hospital, she nearly destroyed everything in her ward.

It was the first time her fake foster parents had witnessed her in such a rage, causing them to

retreat to a corner and remain silent.

Daniella glared fiercely at the bandages around her wrist.

She had endured the pain in exchange for Evan's sympathy. She had even gone to great lengths to

Her intention was to show Caroline that she had gained Evan's trust.

+15 BONUS

However, she hadn't anticipated that Caroline was pregnant with Evan's child.

Was that the reason Evan hadn't insisted on Caroline leaving? Had he learned of her pregnancy?

It seemed that she had to find a chance to sound him out.

If...

If she were to carry Evan's child...

Caroline's child would not be as precious as hers.

Daniella pondered the idea for a while, then suddenly recalled something

She sent a text to Nic. [Nic, I miss you. When are you coming to see me?]

Caroline received an email in the afternoon a few days later. She had passed the preliminary

round of the online fashion competition.

However, the excitement she once felt about being selected had waned. In the past, she had pursued her dreams for the sake of her mother and children. Now, she did it for her children alone.

Glancing at the time for the second round of the competition, she closed the email without much

enthusiasm.

Suddenly, her phone rang beside her.

Upon seeing that it was Paige calling, she answered.

“Carol, come down here immediately. Something’s wrong!” Paige’s voice was filled with

nervousness.

Caroline maintained her composure as she inquired, “What’s the matter?”

Paige explained in a hurried tone, “Your father is downstairs, just outside the company. Hurry up and make him leave before he causes a scene.”

Furrowing her brow, Caroline thought, ‘It’s only the tenth, and they’ve already released him.’

“Got it. I’ll be there shortly.” With that, she ended the call and made her way downstairs.

## **Chapter 50**

Chapter 50 Stay in the Restaurant

+15 BONUS

Bradley stood outside the company with his hands in his pockets, his face covered in stubble as

he gazed up at the skyscraper.

That b\*tch dared to get me locked up! I suffered so much in there,‘ he seethed with anger. ‘I will

make her pay for it today.’

Lost in his thoughts, he suddenly erupted, bellowing, “Caroline, you come down now!”

The company's security guards had already noticed Bradley, but they refrained from intervening

as he was merely observing from a distance. However, his loud outburst threatened the company's

image, so a security guard swiftly approached him.

"Sir, please refrain from shouting outside the company's premises," the guard urged.

Bradley spat on the ground before retorting, "Don't you dare stop me! I'm here to find my daughter.

It's none of your business."

The bodyguard frowned, insisting, "If you're looking for a family member, please make a phone

call."

"My phone's battery died. Help me get her down here," Bradley requested.

The security guard inquired, "What is your daughter's name?"

"Caroline! Her name is Caroline," he replied.

Coincidentally, Daniella arrived just in time to hear their conversation as she stepped out of her car. Her body tensed, and a glimmer of cunning intent flashed in her eyes. Taking a few steps forward, she approached Bradley and asked, "Sir, are you Caroline's father?"

Bradley turned around, looking at her with confusion. "Who are you?"

"I'm Caroline's colleague. Why are you looking for her?" Daniella asked, feigning a friendly smile.

Raising an eyebrow, Bradley responded, "I'm here to get even with her and ask for money. Can you

believe she had me locked up in prison?"

Pretending to be shocked, Daniella asked, "Caroline did that?"

Bradley cursed, "She's fucking shameless!"

Daniella echoed his words, adding, "Indeed, that's infuriating. Sir, how about this? I'll give you the money you need. Just give me your contact number. If there's anything, text me, and I'll inform Caroline. Making a scene here will only tarnish your reputation, don't you think?"

Bradley's eyes lit up at the mention of money, and he eagerly shared his contact number. Daniella.

1/3

+15 BONUS

After putting away her phone, Daniella said, "Sir, please don't mention to Caroline that we met. I prefer to keep my good deeds hidden from others."

Bradley nodded firmly. "Okay, I won't say anything."

When Caroline arrived downstairs, Bradley was sitting on a flower bed by the company entrance. She walked up to him, her gaze cold as she questioned, "What are you doing here?"

Bradley glared at her. "I'm here to teach you a lesson!"

"Is that so?" Caroline snorted. "Go ahead, as long as you're not afraid of ending up in prison for a

few years.

A flicker of fear crossed his face. "I won't hit you, but I'll make you suffer."

Caroline leaned slightly and extended her hand. "Feel free to try. Let's see who ends up being

thrown out—me or you."

Her desperate behavior made Bradley yearn to hit her vigorously, but he knew that she always valued righteousness before her family, so he restrained himself.

"Give me money!" Bradley changed the subject.

Caroline responded firmly, "I won't give you a penny anymore. You want to exploit our

relationship for money? I've given you enough over the years. I helped you repay your debts in the past because I didn't want Mom to be disturbed at the hospital. But now that she's passed away, I

won't continue paying off your debts."

With those words, she turned away and left.

Bradley remained rooted to the spot, shocked. "Katie... is dead?"

After work, Caroline went out for dinner with Paige. They chose a relatively quiet restaurant.

After placing their orders, Paige broached the topic. "Carol, haven't you informed the boss about

your pregnancy?"

Caroline calmly sipped her tea. "Why do you ask?" novelbin

Paige explained, "That pretentious woman is so repugnant. She claims the boss gave her a bank card to spend freely."

Caroline's heart skipped a beat. "He adores her so much."

+15 BONUS

Although bitterness lingered in her heart, it wasn't as intense as before. Caroline set her cup down

and replied, "Hmm, it's pretty good."

Paige sighed. "By the way, you asked me to keep an eye on Daniella, to see if she takes her

medication. Do you still remember?"

Caroline responded with a question of her own "Did you find anything?"

Paige shook her head. "I had someone follow her for a while because of this. I even know which building she resides in. The person I hired informed me that a man entered Daniella's house the night before yesterday."

Caroline was stunned. "A man?"

Evan was occupied with work at Villa Rosa on that night. Who could have entered Daniella's

house?

"Could it be... her foster father?" Caroline speculated.

She had heard that Daniella's foster parents had come to Angelbay City.

Paige pursed her lips. "He had blond hair. He looked like a gangster, but of course, he's not her

foster father." 1

Caroline was at a loss for words.

Paige continued, "Let's not cause a commotion just yet. I'll investigate further."

Caroline agreed, knowing it was unwise to confront Daniella without sufficient evidence. Even

though she desperately sought something to expose Daniella's true nature, she wouldn't alert

Daniella until she had concrete proof.

As they finished their dinner and prepared to settle the bill, Caroline's phone rang unexpectedly. It was Evan calling. Feeling a slight unease, she answered the call.

Evan's voice sounded hoarse and tinged with anxiety. "Where are you?"

Caroline glanced at Paige and told him the restaurant's location.

"You didn't bring along any of the bodyguards, did you?" he asked.

Suddenly, Caroline became anxious. "Why? What's happening?"

Check out the trending news online. And remember, don't leave the restaurant until Reuben arrives," he said in a cold tone.