

A Favor 54

Chapter 54

Leona turned to me, her eyes flashing with alarm. “What is your problem, Winona?” she snapped.

“I’ve had enough, Leona. Stay away from Davidson. He’s not interested. Leave him alone, or I’ll have to take matters into my own hands.” My voice was sharp, my patience fraying.

She looked ready to strike back, but thought better of it. With a hard stomp of her red heels, she spun on her heel and stormed off, pouting like a child who’d just been scolded.

“You have no idea how much I appreciate that.” Davidson’s lips curved into a grateful smile.

“You’re welcome. I need a breather.” I forced a small smile and stepped away.

All the tension from before still clung to me. My head was full of what had just happened between Davidson and me. I needed a moment alone to steady myself before I could return and pretend to enjoy the rest of the gala.

The evening flowed smoothly, and I found myself completely comfortable among the people at our table. Every time Leona looked our way, Davidson and I leaned harder into our roles, turning up the charm for her benefit. Davidson had been especially attentive; his small gestures made it clear to everyone—including Leona—that I mattered to him tonight.

“So, how did all this start between you two?” Mrs. Briggs, seated beside her husband, leaned forward, curiosity bright in her eyes.

I looked to Davidson, hoping he’d take the lead. Honestly, I wasn’t sure I could tell a convincing story on the spot.

“Well, Winona has been my assistant for two years. To be honest, at first I always saw her as my employee. I mean, anyone with eyes can see she’s beautiful, but when I was with Leona, I focused on her. I didn’t look at anyone else.” Davidson caught my gaze and smiled.

“In short, things changed for me after everything fell apart with Leona. Winona really helped me these past few months, and at some point, I started seeing her differently. One night, I invited her to dinner, and I couldn’t help myself. I kissed her. You should’ve seen her face. She ran out my door like I’d set the place on fire. It took her a few days to come back, but now... here we are.” Davidson paused to squeeze my shoulder before continuing.

Heat rushed to my cheeks as he talked about me, and I caught him watching me with an amused, teasing smile.

“Are you blushing again?” he laughed, eyes sparkling.

“Enough, Davidson. You’re making it worse. Don’t be mean,” I shot back, pouting as the rest of the table burst into laughter.

“Hey, I’m just telling the truth,” he said with a soft chuckle, pulling me closer and kissing the top of my head.

“You’re unbearable, you know that?” I pretended to glare at him, even as laughter slipped out.

“Come on, Winona. I’m sorry for embarrassing you in front of everyone.” The look in his eyes said he wasn’t sorry at all.