

51 She would never be able to dance again.

Feeling her nerves already fraying, Beca turned to look at her husband and said, "Did you see that? I told you. We haven't raised a gentleman but a bully. He takes every opportunity to make realize how I probably have failed as a mother." 1

"Mom!" Ryan sighed, clearly expressing his frustration with how his mother was treating him.

Gareth felt bad for his wife too. He hadn't been there when everything happened, but the moment he returned, Beca had told him everything. He was furious to know that his son had treated Arwen so poorly. However, since Ryan was no longer a child, Morgan didn't feel right to lecture him about his flings.

"Ryan, your mother asked you a question. Answer her." But even so, he wouldn't allow his son to bully a woman —especially to a kind woman like Arwen.

Ryan looked between his parents and groaned,

"Why do you think I did something to her? I did nothing! She got herself into the mess. I just thought she would come to push it all on me here."

"What mess?" Beca asked, not interested in hearing Ryan bring up the same story again.

Ryan sighed, then narrated everything that had happened. And by the time he finished, Beca was already fuming hot in anger. She didn't address her son directly. Instead, she turned to speak to Morgan. "Should I call your son gullible or an idiot? Because even though I want to believe he is the former, he is proving to be the latter." 2

"Ryan, how could even consider —if only for a moment —that Arwen would try to harm Delyth? Have you not learned well enough about people to read their nature?" She then turned to look at his son and asked incredulously. "Tell me, what more do you need to see to understand that the woman you fell for is nothing but a wicked, vicious witch? She deliberately made that post to harm Arwen, yet you stood there siding with her? Haven't you learnt to differentiate right from wrong?"

For the first time, Ryan didn't defend Delyth, and Beca took this as a sign that he was coming to his senses. Just as she was about to console him for his poor decisions, Ryan's phone rang, making her frown. Something in her gut told her that this call would again bring everything to square one.

Ryan looked at the caller ID and furrowed his brows. It was from the hospital, so he answered. The moment he heard the person on the other end, he stood up, ready to leave immediately.

"I will be there. Do whatever is necessary until I arrive," Ryan said before hanging up and preparing to rush to the hospital.

Beca, having already sensed his intentions, sternly asked, "Where do you think you are going, Ryan? We were having a conversation. Do I need to remind you not to leave before finishing?"

"Mom, something happened to Delyth. I need to get to the hospital right away. I promise I will come back and discuss this later. If you want, I will even apologize to Arwen. But right now, please let me go," he almost pleaded, his concern

for Delyth only making Beca feel more disheartened.

No doubt, Arwen wasn't ready to tolerate this anymore. No good woman would. 1

Gareth gently patted Beca's hand, silently urging her to let Ryan go. Seeing his husband's support, Beca relented as Ryan rushed out. However, she called after him, "Ryan, I won't stop you today, but remember what I said about Delyth. She will never be accepted in our family, not even in her hundred lifetimes. So you would better warn her to think carefully before she tries to harm Arwen again. I won't be calm next time."

Ryan heard her, but he didn't respond as he left. Seeing him in such haste, Beca couldn't help but be more disappointed in her son. Shaking her head, she looked at her Morgan and said, "Your son is bewitched by that vicious girl. I lost the chance of having the best daughter-in-law in the town, and I don't know what else he will make us lose."

Some time later, at Cralen Care Hospital, Ryan walked briskly through the halls before stopping

outside the operating room. He has been informed that Delyth was being taken in for an emergency surgery. She had already undergone one the previous night, and now she was being wheeled in again. He had no idea what had happened.

"What's wrong?" Ryan asked, spotting a nurse around who was heading toward the operating room. His brows were furrowed in both worry and confusion. "What had happened to her?"

"Ms. Ember has been badly injured. She is undergoing critical surgery," the nurse replied.

"Critical surgery? How did she get injured?" Ryan asked again, still not understanding the situation. She had just fine when he left.

The nurse looked equally confused. "We are not sure. The nurse who was attending to her said Ms. Ember asked to be left alone to rest. And later, one of our staff found her at the bottom of the staircase. She was already unconscious and badly hurt," the nurse explained, then excused herself to enter the operating room.

Ryan was at loss. What exactly had happened? As he waited outside, he tried calling Daniel; but his

phone was off. He thought about calling Arwen, but something held him back. His fingers hovered over her contact icon but never completed the call. 4

After a few hours, the doors of the operating room finally opened, and the doctor stepped out with a solemn expression. When Ryan saw him, he immediately walked over to ask, "Doctor, how is she?"

The doctor shook his head. "Sorry, Mr. Foster. We did everything we could, but we couldn't save her legs. She may be able to stand in the future, but she will never be able to dance again." 9

Ryan froze. Delyth was a ballet dancer. Imagining her life without dance was unimaginable. He didn't know how she would take this news once she woke up. 2