

## Broken 140

### Chapter 140 After She Left

Mrs. Carter tried to fill the silence with small talk by asking about how long Selene planned to stay. I could tell that Mrs. Carter was just trying to make the atmosphere less awkward than it already is. Selene responded smoothly, talking about new opportunities and meetings, but with every sentence she made, she found a way to mention Daniel. “Remember that investor from the conference we attended?” or “You always had great instincts for numbers, Daniel.” Each remark rolling out of her lips felt like a small jab, like she was reminding me that she knew parts of him before I did. Elias, who was usually quiet, finally broke the rhythm. “So, Selene, how long are you planning to stay around here?” he asked, his tone calm but loaded with meaning. Selene smiled, tucking her hair behind her ear. “Just a few weeks. Maybe more, depending on how things go.” I caught the faintest flicker of annoyance on Daniel’s face. Mrs. Carter noticed too but kept quiet, forcing another polite smile. Dinner couldn’t end fast enough. When we finally stood up, Daniel excused himself to take a call, and Mrs. Carter went to the kitchen with the maids. Elias gave me a weird look before disappearing down the hallway. That left Selene and me alone in the living room, surrounded by the awkward leftovers of polite conversation. “Amy,” she called out suddenly, “Can we talk for a moment?” I turned to face her, arms crossed. “About what exactly?” She let out a small smile that didn’t reach her eyes. “Nothing serious. Just girls talk.” I didn’t trust her tone, but I followed her out of courtesy. We stepped into the hallway where it was quiet. She leaned casually against the wall, studying me. “You and Daniel look happy,” she said, her tone dripping with something unspoken. “We are,” I replied flatly. “That’s nice.” She tilted her head. “You know, Daniel and I used to talk about what kind of woman he’d end up with. I didn’t think it’d be you.” It was the way she said it in a calm, confident, condescending way. She wanted me to react. I kept my cool. “That’s probably because you didn’t know him as well as you thought.” Selene smiled faintly, but there was irritation behind it. “Maybe. But don’t mistake comfort for love, Amy. Some men just settle when they’re tired of fighting for what they want.” My chest tightened, but I didn’t let her see it. “Daniel doesn’t settle,” I said quietly. “He chooses. And once he does, that’s it.” Her smirk faded for a second, then she straightened. “We’ll see.” She walked off before I could say anything else. I stood there for a few seconds, trying to remain calm. It wasn’t anger I felt, it was irritation. Not in her, but in the fact that people like her still thought they could shake me. Daniel came back a few minutes later, he found me standing by the wall. He looked concerned. “Hey. You okay?” “I’m fine,” I said automatically.

He frowned. “You’ve been quiet since dinner.” “I’m just tired.” I tried to smile, but it didn’t reach my eyes. He stepped closer, gently touching my hand. “Did Selene say something to you?” I met his gaze. “She tried. But it doesn’t matter.” “Tell me what she said,” he pressed, his voice was calm but serious. “She said you might’ve settled,” I said, watching his reaction. Daniel sighed, rubbing his forehead. “Amy, she’s trying to cause problems. Don’t let her. You’re not someone I settled for. You’re someone I don’t even deserve but I don’t mind spending every day of my life treating you like a queen that you are.” I wanted to believe him, and deep down I did, but the words still clung to me. “I know,” I said softly. “I just... don’t like her being around.” “She won’t be here long,” he promised. “And I’ll make sure she doesn’t bother you again.” He kissed my forehead, but the warmth didn’t calm my thoughts. When he went upstairs, I stayed behind for a while, thinking about everything that had just happened. Selene’s face, her tone, her confidence, it wasn’t about love. It was about control. She wanted to remind me that she once had access to Daniel’s world. But she didn’t understand something important – I wasn’t the same woman I used to be. I’d already learned to stand my ground. Later, when I went upstairs, Daniel

was already asleep. The soft sound of his breathing filled the room. I watched him for a while, my chest tightening with something that wasn't doubt, but fear of losing what we'd built. I lay beside him, his arm instinctively wrapping around me. I closed my eyes, forcing myself to breathe calmly. I wasn't going to let anyone drag me back into old insecurities. Still, as the night grew quiet, I couldn't ignore the small knot forming in my chest. Selene wasn't just passing through, I could feel it in my bones. She'd come with a purpose, and I had a bad feeling that this was only the beginning. \*\*\* The next morning, I woke up before the sun came up. Daniel was still asleep beside me, his arm draped over my waist. I slid out of bed quietly, careful not to wake him. I needed space, even if I couldn't explain why. The air between us had been different since last night. He hadn't done anything wrong exactly, but the silence that followed Selene's visit had changed something inside me. I showered quickly, dressed up, and packed my bag. When I glanced back at the bed, Daniel something simple, like "See was still out cold. For a second, I thought about leaving a note – you at work" but I didn't. I just left. The drive to work was quiet. The roads were nearly empty, and for once, I was grateful for the peace. When I got to the building, I went straight to my office and threw myself into work. Anything to keep my mind off the previous night. The pile of reports on my desk suddenly seemed like a gift.

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