



Chapter 112

Elizabeth sat directly across from Ryan and Claudia, her arms tightly crossed over her chest. She watched them like a predator watching its prey that didn't yet know it was being hunted. 1

Julian sat beside her, absently scrolling through his phone.

Elizabeth couldn't stop staring.

She wasn't sure what it was, but something about Claudia Duval deeply irritated her. It was probably because she believed Ryan was getting into places he wouldn't usually have access to because of her. 1

Elizabeth's blood boiled.

She hated Claudia for no reason other than existing too close to Ryan.

"That's it... I hate for being associated with Ryan," she thought in her mind.

After all, Ryan had somehow climbed his way up since she left him. He'd taken her father's company — her company. McCarthy Technologies was supposed to be hers one day and now it was gone. It was stolen, ripped away from her and it was all Claudia's fault, so she thought.

She gave them a murderous glare.

All of a sudden, the lights flickered back on. The power of the executive block was back.

Claudia sat up straighter and looked at Ryan. Her voice was light, yet loud enough to be clearly heard across the corridor. "Ryan, the power's back. Do you want to head in now?"



Ryan nodded slowly, beginning to rise. But before either of them could fully stand, Elizabeth interrupted them.

"Excuse me?" She said.

Her voice was high-pitched and cold, and it pulled attention toward her. She stood up with exaggerated drama with her hands on her hips and her face twisted in confusion.

"I'm sorry, are you two alright? Because you're acting like fools. Did you hit your heads on the way in?" she said with an icy expression on her face.

Claudia blinked, shocked by the sudden rude comments from Elizabeth, but before she could respond, Elizabeth raised her voice again.

"You're acting like the CEO's here already and invited you in," she said, folding her arms. "Newsflash, the office is empty. You're knocking on air, sweethearts. The CEO hasn't arrived yet."

Claudia's jaw tightened, clearly on the edge, but Ryan reached out and gently touched her wrist.

"Don't," he whispered calmly. "Let it go."

But Elizabeth wasn't done. She laughed loudly while clapping her hands. "Aww, look at him. Trying so hard to act like he's above it all and mature. Is this your new thing now, Ryan? Acting mature so you don't look like the pathetic loser who lost everything?"

Ryan didn't even react to her words. His face remained normal, like Elizabeth had not just insulted him.

Elizabeth's eyes lit up. "Let me make something very clear. When the CEO walks into that office, I will be the first to go in. Me, not you. Not your little lapdog girlfriend, Me. I have a proposal and a meeting



scheduled. And the last time I checked, losers like you don't get to go ahead of me."

Still, Ryan said nothing. He just stood slowly, adjusted his cuffs, and offered his hand to Claudia.

Claudia accepted it with a graceful smile and stood too. Together, they turned toward the office door, and walked towards it.

But just as they reached the entrance, Elizabeth darted in front of them and spread her arms wide, blocking them.

"Oh no, no, no," she said. "Didn't you hear what I just said? You're not going in before me."

Ryan looked down at her, and said in a calm voice. "Elizabeth move"

"I don't think so," she said coldly. "Try again, Ryan. Or maybe get on your knees and beg. That might help."

And then from down the hall they heard the sound of footsteps approaching.

Everyone turned and saw that it was Mr. Wentworth.

A tall, balding man in his late fifties with glasses and a briefcase clutched in one hand. He wore a suit and he looked confused as he watched what was happening in front of him as he walked closer.

"Yes!" Elizabeth cried triumphantly as soon as she saw him. "Mr. Wentworth! I'm so glad you're here!"

Claudia arched her brow.

Elizabeth turned toward Wentworth as if welcoming a savior. "This is the



man I was telling you about,” she said loudly, gesturing proudly towards Mr. Wentworth.

“This is the one who gave me the CEO’s contact information. A close friend of my father’s. He’s the reason I’m even getting this meeting.”

Mr. Wentworth slowed down, his eyes flicking between Elizabeth, Ryan, and Claudia.

His mouth opened, but no words came out.

Elizabeth didn’t even notice. She was too busy boasting.

“I mean, honestly,” she went on with a loud laugh, “some people think just walking into a building means they’ll be seen. But you need connections, real ones, the kind I have. I have family, friends and allies in high places.”

She gave Ryan a cold smile. “You wouldn’t understand that, would you, Ryan? People like you... you don’t get invited into powerful rooms. You just sneak around in the hallway hoping someone leaves the door cracked open.”

Still, Mr. Wentworth didn’t say a word.

His eyes were fixed on Ryan, the man Elizabeth was actively trying to block from entering the office. The man she was mocking in front of a his very own office.

Elizabeth turned back to Wentworth. “You’ll back me up, right? Just tell this man to stand aside, I’m going in first. Cancel his meeting if you can, let the CEO know the real proposal has arrived.”

Julian cleared his throat and nodded. “Exactly. We have the priority slot. That’s what you told us, Mr. Wentworth. Right?”



Mr. Wentworth blinked nervously. He looked at Elizabeth, then at Ryan, then back at Elizabeth.

And still, he couldn't speak. Shock was plastered across his face seeing the depth of what Elizabeth was doing to herself, insulting the CEO without even knowing.

He finally found a single word. "Elizabeth..."

"Yes?" she said eagerly with a wide smile on her face, believing he was going to carry out her request and cancel Ryan's request.

"Do you... do you really not know who you've been disrespecting? Do you really not know?"

Elizabeth frowned. "Know what?"

Mr. Wentworth stared at her like she was from another planet.

Ryan stepped forward, brushing gently past her as she stubbornly remained in the middle.

This time, she moved. Not because she wanted to but because something in the way Mr. Wentworth was looking at her made her pause in confusion.

Ryan and Claudia walked to the office door and Ryan pulled out a Top-level Access Card, swiped it, and the door clicked open.

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