



## Chapter 117

Elizabeth's lips curled into a bitter smile, imagining how fast her downfall came. "So tell me, Julian... he's not just above me now, he's above you too. And I didn't even know how far he'd gone until today. He crushed me without saying a word."

She shook her head slowly, her voice dropping into something almost wistful. "Did I... make a mistake?"

Julian's gaze snapped to hers. "A mistake in what part exactly?"

She didn't answer right away. Her eyes shifted down the corridor, avoiding his. But the silence was loud enough for him to know where she was heading.

And then it clicked for him, he realized what she meant by that statement and it hurts him...

His face hardened. "Wait, are you calling losing Ryan a mistake?"

Elizabeth's eyes widened slightly, her lips parting as she struggled to take her words back.

"No, I—" she trailed off.

Julian wasn't buying it, he knew what she meant by that. "Don't lie to me," he said coldly, taking a step back. "You were ready to leave him in the dirt. And now, because you see what he's become, you're questioning your decision and calling it a mistake! Is that it? Pathetic..."

Her cheeks flushed in anger and embarrassment. "That's not what I meant —"

"Save it," he snapped, spinning on his heel. "I'm done with this



conversation.”

Julian started walking away full of jealousy. His shoulders were stiff as he rushed down the stairs.

Elizabeth stood there for a second, confused. Then all of a sudden, she moved quickly, calling after him.

“Julian! Wait—”

He didn’t slow down.

Her voice grew sharper. “Julian, I said wait!”

Still, there was nothing... no response from him.

He reached the building’s exit, pushed through the glass doors, and crossed the parking lot without looking back.

By the time Elizabeth caught up enough to see him properly, he was already sliding into the driver’s seat of his car.

He started the car, and before she could even grab the door handle, he was pulling out of the lot.

She stood there, staring after the disappearing vehicle, her chest rising and falling rapidly.

With no other choice, she pulled out her phone, called for a cab, and waited in silence.

When the cab arrived she hopped in and asked the driver to take her to McCarthy mansion.

On her way home, she kept replaying the look on Ryan’s face when he



dismissed her from his office... as if she no longer mattered enough to be worth his time.

When the cab finally pulled up to the gates of the mansion, she saw Julian's car already there.

He was standing by the gate, his back was turned to her, but when she stepped out of the cab, his head turned.

Both of them froze.

Because just beyond the gate, standing on the driveway with smiles on their faces, were Mr and Mrs McCarthy.

They looked expectant, eager, as if they were ready to hear about her grand success from the meeting with Nova CEO.

Her father's eyes were full of pride for their daughter. "Elizabeth! Julian! How did it go?"

Her mother clasped her hands together, smiling so hard. "Don't tell me... I know the CEO loved it, didn't he?"

Elizabeth's stomach twisted painfully. She glanced at Julian, silently begging him for some clue on what to say, but his expression was unreadable.

Neither of them spoke...

Because how could they?

How could they possibly tell her parents that Ryan, the man she had thrown away, wasn't just the CEO they had been hoping to impress... but the one who had just rejected her outright?



And worse... that he had sent her out of the room like she was nothing at all.

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