

Chapter 125

The moment Ryan stepped through the glass doors, with Claudia right behind him, the three armed police officers flanked him on both sides, guiding him toward the elevators.

"What are you doing? I'm not a criminal, I need some breathing space," he muttered.

But the officers didn't respond, pretending they didn't hear him.

Every security guard, every receptionist and every passing staff member stared wide-eyed at the sight, their CEO walking in with police escort.

They reached the elevator lobby, and the officer in front tapped the button. Ryan stood tall, and his expression was calm.

Claudia remained close to his side, her eyes moving between the officers and him.

When the elevator arrived and they stepped inside, one of the officers finally turned toward Claudia. "Ma'am," he said in a strict, no-nonsense tone, "you can't come with us. This is official police business."

Claudia blinked, shocked by his tone towards her. "What? Why not?"

"It's a confidential matter," the officer said shortly. "Only Mr. Walker is needed."

Before she could respond, Ryan's voice cut the officer short.

"If she doesn't go with me, then we're having this conversation right here in the middle of the lobby. In front of my employees, in front of security, in front of whoever happens to be walking by. I don't care who



hears it.”

The three officers exchanged looks. The one standing in the middle — clearly the leader — exhaled heavily and gave a nod.

“Fine. She can follow. But she stays quiet while we speak.”

Ryan’s eyes narrowed slightly, but he gave a short nod. “That’s acceptable.”

The rest of the ride up was silent. The officers stared straight ahead.

Claudia stared at Ryan, who kept his gaze fixed on the elevator doors, his jaw was clenched but his posture was perfectly composed.

When the doors opened to the top floor, Ryan led the way to his office.

His secretary trailed behind, clearly wanting to hear what this was about but too nervous to intrude.

Inside the office, Ryan walked around to his desk. Claudia stood just to his right, and the officers spread out across the room.

The leader of the group spoke first. “Mr. Walker, we’re here to inform you that we intend to bring you in for questioning at the station.”

Ryan’s gaze sharpened instantly. “On what grounds? What have I done that is worth questioning?”

The officer lifted a hand slightly. “We’re aware of your... position in this city. We wanted to extend you the courtesy of explaining yourself before taking any further steps.”

Claudia took a small step forward. “Explain what, exactly?”



The officer's eyes moved to her, but his voice remained directed at Ryan. "In the past few weeks, multiple reports have been filed claiming that you or someone directly under your orders, have been using advanced digital systems to defraud investors. The accusations state that you convinced people to purchase large amounts of Nova Inc. shares worth billions through unofficial channels. And when payment was made, those individuals were... ghosted. No shares, no returns and no explanation."

Claudia's jaw dropped. "That's insane! Ryan would never—"

Ryan raised one hand slightly toward her. "Claudia," his tone was calm.

She bit her lip and stepped back slightly, though her eyes still burned in anger.

He turned back to the officer. "I've never done anything like that. I have no idea what you're talking about or where all of this is coming from."

"That's not what our evidence suggests," the officer replied.

He reached into the file under his arm and pulled out a stack of printed documents, placing them on Ryan's desk. "These are transaction records. The bank transfers, the email correspondences, the digital agreements. All of them lead back to accounts registered under your name or, more specifically, under your verified corporate identity."

Ryan leaned forward, his brow furrowed. He picked up the top sheet and scanned it.

His own name and digital ID were there, alongside transactions showing enormous sums being received. The dates, the sender names, the amounts, they were all precise. And yet, every he never got any of those

payments into his account.

He glanced at Claudia, and the look on her face was pure fear.

She stepped closer so she could see the papers over his shoulder. "This... this isn't possible," she murmured.

"Someone forged these," Ryan said in a low voice, more to himself than to anyone else. "Or hacked into my identity, but be rest assured that I never received the money."

"That's a convenient excuse," the second officer spoke up from near the window. His tone wasn't accusatory, but it wasn't sympathetic either. "But this isn't the kind of thing that can be done without deep knowledge of corporate security systems. Whoever's behind it is a professional, someone with access and skill."

Ryan's eyes lifted slowly from the papers to meet the man's gaze. "Are you suggesting that because I'm capable of it, I must have done it?"

The officer didn't answer directly, but the look on his face was enough.

Claudia spoke up again, unable to contain herself. "Do you realize how ridiculous this is? You're standing in the office of one of the most powerful CEOs in the country, accusing him of running petty online scams. Ryan Walker doesn't need to steal money from investors."

The leader of the group kept his attention on Ryan. "If you're innocent, Mr. Walker, then you'll have no problem coming with us to the station to clear this up."

Ryan set the papers down, his fingers drumming lightly against the desk. "If I go to the station, it'll be on my terms. And first, I want to know exactly how my name came up in this investigation. Who reported it?"



Who provided you with these so-called records?"

The officer hesitated, then said, "An anonymous source. The documents were sent directly to our cybercrimes division. They were verified before we came here." 1

"Verified by whom?" Ryan pressed further.

"Our tech specialists."

Ryan's eyes narrowed. He wasn't convinced. "Then your specialists need better training, because these are fake. Someone is trying to frame me."

The officers didn't look swayed, but they didn't move to arrest him immediately either.

Claudia touched Ryan's arm gently. "Ryan... this has Lord Ryder written all over it, this must be her handwork."

Ryan didn't look at her, but his jaw flexed. He knew she might be right. This was too precise, too well-timed.

First Bobby burns down Claudia's store, now this... both designed to hit them where it hurt most.

Finally, Ryan looked back at the officers. "If you want me to cooperate, I'll do so. But I'm not walking out of this building in handcuffs like some common criminal. You want to talk? We talk here. And you'd better bring whoever's behind this out into the light, because I don't intend to let this go."

The leader studied him for a long moment, then gave a small nod. "We can conduct the first round of questioning here. But if the evidence holds ..."



Ryan cut him off, "It won't hold!"

The room was silent for a moment. Then the officer set down the rest of the file. "Then let's begin."



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