

Chapter 140

Elizabeth's heart skipped. Her blood ran cold when she saw Rayn walking towards them. Julian's mouth opened slightly as if to say something, but no words came out.

"Ryan Walker?" one of the officers whispered almost in shock.

The second officer, who had been standing just behind him, stiffened and saluted immediately. "That's him," he muttered to his colleague. "The CEO of Nova."

Within seconds, their entire demeanor changed. They straightened their postures, their expressions humbled, and the annoyance that had been in their eyes a moment ago vanished completely.

The lead officer stepped forward slightly, bowing his head respectfully. "Mr. Walker," he said, his voice now carrying nothing but reverence. "We didn't know you were here. If we had noticed, we would have paid our respects immediately."

The third officer said quickly, "Yes, sir. Please forgive our oversight. We meant no disrespect."

Ryan lifted a hand lightly, the corners of his lips curving into a polite smile. His voice remained calm, smooth, almost casual, as though their sudden shift in behavior did not surprise him at all. "There is no problem. You were only doing your job."

The officers exhaled in relief, exchanging glances as though grateful he had not taken offense.

Claudia's lips curved in a satisfied smile. She leaned closer to Ryan and whispered softly, "Look at the way they bow. You own this city now,



Ryan.”

Ryan only smiled without responding. He only kept his gaze fixed forward at the police.

It was then that Edna Franklin turned her attention to him. Curiosity got the better of her. Slowly, she bent her head sideways, studying Ryan's face closely, then allowed a smile to spread across her lips.

“You,” she said softly, her voice carrying admiration. “Are you Ryan Walker?”

Ryan turned his head slightly toward her, gave a small nod, and extended his hand. “Yes, I'm Ryan Walker.”

Edna's smile deepened as she took his hand firmly in hers. Her shake was strong, as she felt it was an honor to meet a man like him in person.

“I've heard of you,” Edna admitted, her eyes sparkling with interest. “In the business world, your name has been making waves. They say you are rising like no other, conquering industries here faster than anyone imagined possible.” [1](#)

Ryan didn't puff his chest or boast. He simply gave a polite smile and replied evenly, “People exaggerate sometimes. I only do my best.”

That humility, that calmness, that refusal to brag even when praised, impressed Edna more than arrogance ever could. She tilted her head slightly, studying him again, then said, “Interesting... Very interesting.”

Elizabeth's stomach twisted painfully as she watched. She could see it, the way Edna's eyes softened toward Ryan, the way respect showed in her voice when she addressed him, the way the police changed instantly at his presence. His power was undeniable and it hurts her. [1](#)

Her chest burned with jealousy so strong she could hardly breathe.

Julian, too, scoffed uncomfortably, his jaw tightening, his own pride crumbling as he realized once again how far beneath Ryan he truly was.

Edna turned slightly toward the police officers again and said calmly, "Once you finish dragging those fools out, perhaps I could have a private conversation with Mr. Walker? A business discussion, of course."

The officers nodded immediately. "Of course, Madam Franklin."

Elizabeth's cheeks burned hot. Fools. That was the word she had used. Fools? And she had pointed right at her and Julian.

Ryan, however, lifted a hand gently before the officers could proceed. "Before you do that," he said softly with a calm voice, "I have one request."

Edna blinked, curious. She turned toward him with a raised brow. "A request?"

"Yes," Ryan said, nodding slowly. His eyes moved toward Elizabeth and Julian, who both stiffened immediately under his gaze.

"I've watched everything that has happened. I've seen the arrogance, the insults, and the lack of humility. And I agree they have been wrong."

Elizabeth's heart thumped violently in her chest. Her breath caught as Ryan's words came. She swallowed hard, her hands trembling against her purse.

Julian's lips parted slightly as though to beg, but he didn't dare.

Ryan paused deliberately, letting the tension hit them even harder, letting everyone wait for what he would say next. Then he continued.



"But," he said at last, "Elizabeth works under McCarthy Technologies. And McCarthy Technologies is my company now. If she is dragged out of here like a criminal, it reflects on the company name. That is not good for business."

Edna raised her brows slightly, intrigued.

"So, my request," Ryan continued calmly, "is that instead of dragging them out, allow me to pay for the damage. Consider it handled on behalf of my company."

The room erupted in murmurs again. People exchanged glances. Some nodded in respect, impressed by his decision.

Others whispered about his influence, his reach, his power to shield even those who opposed him simply because their downfall might reflect bad on his empire.

Edna's lips slowly curved into a smile. She bent her head to the side slightly again, clearly impressed.

"You surprise me, Mr. Walker. Most men would have loved to see their enemies dragged through the mud. Yet here you are, protecting them for the sake of business reputation."

"I heard she is your Ex-wife," she said, and Ryan nodded. "And you still want to save her from the embarrassment, wow! You are such a nice man," she added.

Ryan only smiled faintly and replied, "Sometimes business comes before personal satisfaction." 1

Edna studied him for a moment longer, then finally gave a soft laugh and said, "If that is what you want, then so be it."



She turned toward the police officers and said firmly, "You may go. There's no need to take them."

The officers nodded immediately, though Edna still slipped them a generous tip for their stressing them.

Elizabeth stood frozen in place, her face was hot from the shame, her pride had been crushed, her body trembling. She could hardly believe what had just happened.

Ryan had saved her, yet not for her sake, but for the sake of his company. That humiliation was deeper than if she had been dragged away. 1

Julian lowered his head, his entire body stiff with humiliation as the whispers in the restaurant continued.

Edna turned back to Ryan with a warm smile. "When I finish speaking to my designer," she said, "please show me your table. I would love to discuss business with you."

Ryan nodded politely, guiding her with a small gesture.