

## Chapter 145

"You are becoming stubborn because you believe in Ryan Walker?" he gritted his teeth.

"You think he can stop me? That man has no idea what he's up against. I am going to destroy him, do you hear me, Claudia? Destroy him piece by piece. I'll strip away everything he has until he's nothing but a memory. And you..."

He grit his teeth, "you will watch it happen. You will stand there and watch as I tear him apart."

Claudia's voice trembled as she spoke, her body trembling in fear she couldn't hide.

"Please, Bobby," she whispered hoarsely.

"Don't hurt him. I'm begging you. Whatever anger you have with him, don't take it this far. Please, don't touch him."

Bobby chuckled again, the sound low and dark, as though her desperation entertained him.

"You beg so sweetly, Claudia," he murmured, brushing the back of his hand across her cheek in a gesture that made her recoil.

"But begging isn't enough. If you want me to even think about sparing Ryan, then you'll give me what I want. Stay here tonight. With me. Do you hear me? I miss your body, your touch, your warmth. Let me have you, and maybe, then maybe, just maybe, I'll consider letting him walk free." 1

Claudia's eyes widened in disgust. She slapped his hand away instantly, her voice rising with raw anger.



"Don't touch me! Don't you ever touch me again!" she snapped, her words trembling but it still sounded sharp. "If this is what you wanted, Bobby, if this is all you called me here for... then I would rather call Ryan right now! I'd rather face your threats than let you lay a finger on me!"

She reached for her phone on the table, her hand shaking.

Bobby's reaction was instant. His eyes flared with anger as he lunged forward, his hand shooting out to snatch the phone from her grasp.

His fingers dug into it like claws, and he ripped it from her hold with such force that the device nearly flew across the room.

"You dare defy me?" Bobby's voice roared, sounding deep and thunderous.

He stood over her with his eyes filled with anger. "You think you can call him? Do you think Ryan Walker can come running to your rescue? Foolish woman! Even if he tried, he wouldn't make it to this door. I have two men stationed outside—two thugs who answer only to me. Nobody, and I mean nobody, enters this room without my permission."

Claudia froze, her body stiff from horror. Her lips parted, but her voice was only a whisper.

"No... no, that can't be..."

Ryan, outside, ground his teeth so hard it was a wonder they didn't crack.

His vision blurred with rage, his heart pounding in his ears.

Two men outside? Ryan thought. Then let them try.

At that very moment, it turned out that the two men Bobby was speaking of had already seen him.



The two thugs Bobby had spoken of approached as they spotted Ryan's figure near the door. Their eyes widened briefly, then narrowed with aggression.

"There he is!" one of them barked. "You're not supposed to be here!"

Without hesitation, they lunged at him.

Ryan didn't back away or run.

The first man swung a heavy punch at Ryan's face, but Ryan ducked and drove his fist into the thug's gut with such force the man staggered backward, gasping for breath.

Ryan grabbed him by the collar and slammed him into the wall so hard the plaster cracked. The thug groaned, collapsing to the floor.

The second thug roared and swung wildly, but Ryan was faster. He blocked the hit with his arm, countered with two quick jabs to the man's ribs, and then finished with a brutal uppercut that sent the man crashing onto his back.

Inside the room, Claudia and Bobby both heard it.

Bobby's confident smirk faltered instantly. His eyes darted toward the door, confusion flashing across his features. "What the hell was that?"

Claudia's eyes, however, widened in hope. Her heart leapt as she whispered, "Ryan... it has to be Ryan..."

Another CRASH! followed, and this time louder and closer.

Bobby cursed under his breath. He hurried toward the door, but before he reached it, Ryan grabbed the second thug by the throat and smashed him through the door itself.



The entire door shuddered violently, rattling on its hinges.

Claudia gasped, her breath catching in her throat. Her gaze locked on the trembling door, tears forming her eyes.

Then, all of a sudden, the door burst open, swinging wide with a thunderous crack.

There, in the doorway, stood Ryan Walker.

His chest was heaving from the fight, his shirt slightly torn, his eyes blazing with a fury that silenced the entire room. His fists were clenched at his sides, and the air around him seemed to burn with the weight of his anger.

Claudia's lips parted, "Ryan..."

Bobby's face twisted, first with shock, then with rage. He stepped back in disbelief.

"You..."

Ryan stepped forward. His voice was cold, "Yes. Me."

"You dare trick me, you filthy..." Bobby said through his teeth as he spoke to Claudia.