

Chapter 26

Before she could speak, the main door to the executive room clicked open.

All heads turned toward the entrance immediately.

Ryan walked in, looking composed and calm, dressed in a clean white designer T-shirt and dark jeans. He held a file in his hand, and he walked confidently, not rushed or nervous. His eyes scanned the room briefly before landing on Claudia, who immediately stood to her feet in acknowledgment.

Everyone else rose to their feet to acknowledge the presence of the new CEO, Ryan Walker.

Jessica was the first to break the silence. Her finger shot forward, pointing directly at Ryan.

"There!" she laughed, tapping Claudia by the shoulder. "That's the janitor we saw! What's he doing up here? did he get lost or something?"

Matthew laughed along. "Maybe he's cleaning the executive bathroom this time."

Their voices echoed through the room.

But Claudia didn't laugh.

Instead, her face turned stone cold, and she slowly turned toward Jessica and said the words that shattered everything they thought they knew.

"Are you insane?! That..." she said calmly, "That is the New CEO of Nova."

The silence that followed could shatter glass.

Jessica's laughter stopped instantly. Her smile vanished. Her hand dropped to her side as if it was too heavy. Color drained from her face, making her look pale.

Her phone slipped out of her grip and hit the floor loudly, its screen cracking from the impact immediately.

Matthew's jaw hung open, frozen in shock, unable to process the words.

Ryan stood still, his eyes were calm but he didn't say a word yet. He didn't smile or make any move towards them. He only moved to his chair at the head of the table and took his seat, placing the file in front of him. Every step he took made Jessica feel like the room was spinning.

"This.. this isn't true. It isn't real.. there must be something wrong somewhere!" she said like a brat.

"There must be a mistake.... This man. He is poor, he.. he.. he cannot be the CEO of Nova, he is just a ..."

Claudia sat back down and her expression changed instantly as she raised a hand to stop Mathew from completing the statement. She turned briefly to Jessica and Matthew.

"There is no mistake here," she said slowly, "Ryan Walker is the new CEO of Nova. That Maybach you saw out there belongs to him, and I, Claudia Duval, is his personal assistant."

Jessica opened her mouth, but no words came out. Her throat was dry. Her heart raced quickly as the truth started to settle in her mind. Her head spun with confusion and disbelief.



Ryan finally spoke.

"I see we have two new secretaries," he said, not looking at them, but speaking calmly as he flipped open the file. "I hope they're ready to work."

Matthew tried to speak. "Mr. Ryan...sir please, we... we didn't—"

"Didn't what?" Ryan interrupted without raising his voice, as he kept flipping through his file calmly.

Jessica tried to step forward. "We didn't know it was you. We... we thought—"

"That I was a janitor?" Ryan asked simply.

The silence pressed down heavily on them, they had nothing to say, words failed them. The person they had mocked for years and even that very morning was their boss.

Jessica's lips quivered.

Ryan looked up at them finally and they both lowered their heads in shame, they couldn't look at his eyes.

"I remember how it felt being mocked," he said, "and how it felt to be humiliated in public. Seems like not much has changed with some people."

Jessica looked like she might faint, her breath sounding ragged like the air was not enough for her. She held on to Matthew for support.

Claudia turned to Ryan. "Shall I proceed with the onboarding documents for them, sir?"

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Ryan leaned back slowly.

"No," he said. "walk them out of my presence."

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