

Chapter 30

The Maybach pulled into the driveway and stopped. Ryan got down from the car but stood still for a moment.

Something didn't feel right. He paused before heading toward the entrance, his brows furrowing as a strange feeling hit him.

Claudia, who had been beside him the entire time, noticed his hesitation and stopped as she became worried.

"Sir?" she asked, placing a hand on his shoulder. "What's wrong?"

Ryan turned his head slowly to look at her, his expression looked like someone who was confused. "I... I don't know," he murmured, his voice now sounding very low. "Something feels off. I can't really place a finger on it yet."

Claudia tilted her head, her brows knitting together. "Off? Like what? What do you mean something feels off how?"

"I can't explain it," he said, resting his palm lightly on his chest. "Just a strange feeling in here... like something bad is about to happen."

Claudia studied him for a moment as she also became worried, but before she could respond, Ryan's phone started ringing in his pocket. The screen lit up with a strange number and there was no contact name, just an unfamiliar sequence. He stared at it for a while without being able to recognize the number.

Claudia leaned in a bit. "You should probably answer it. Might be important. Maybe it is from someone who you met but forgot to save their number."

He nodded, hesitantly sliding his thumb across the screen to pick up. "

"Hello?" he answered, pressing the phone to his ear. "Who am I speaking with?"

What followed was not a familiar voice or any polite introduction. It was gravelly, deep, and cold. It sounded terrible from the very beginning.

"I'm going to crush you," the voice said coldly. And then a slight pause came in.

Ryan's face tensed immediately. "Who is this?"

But the voice didn't answer his question. It only continued, becoming even colder now. It was a female voice, but sounded like it was somehow enhanced with a machine or something to mask the voice.

"You've been walking around too confidently, haven't you? Acting like you've made it. Don't get too comfortable. Watch your back, Ryan Walker ... and the people you care about."

A chill raced down Ryan's spine. He looked at Claudia instinctively, his expression looking blank but also a bit alert. His hand clenched tighter around the phone as he started to become agitated.

"Who the hell are you?" Ryan snapped. "Why are you threatening me?"

"Stop asking stupid questions," the voice growled. "You'll find out soon enough. Just know... I'm watching. And when I strike, you'll regret ever thinking you could rise."

Ryan's teeth clenched. "Coward. Hiding behind a call—"

"Tell me something," the voice interrupted calmly. "Have you checked on your mother today, poor mommy on the sick bed?"

Ryan's blood ran cold.

"What did you just say?" he asked, his voice falling low from shock. Whoever this was, knew his mother and where she was.

But the line went dead.

Ryan froze for a second, his heart suddenly thundering in his chest. His hand trembled as he looked down at the phone screen. The call had ended. The threat kept echoing in his ear.

Claudia stepped closer, her eyes narrowing as a lot was going through her thoughts. "Sir? What happened? Who was that on the phone and what threat are they laying?"

But Ryan didn't answer. Instead, he immediately dialed Dr. Jerry to check on his mother.

Claudia watched with bated breath as Ryan pressed the phone to his ear, pacing slightly.

Dr. Jerry picked up quickly. "Ryan! I was just about to call you."

Ryan's eyes widened. "Doctor, is everything okay? Is my mother—?"

"I have good news!" Dr. Jerry interrupted, sounding excited. "Your mother just regained consciousness. She's awake!"

Ryan's knees nearly gave way in relief. His breath caught in his throat as he exhaled deeply. "Oh thank God. Thank you, Doctor... thank you so much."

"She's stable now," Dr. Jerry continued. "We'll still need to monitor her closely, but it's a great sign. The next time you come you can come and see her at will, you can also talk to her now."

Ryan nodded vigorously even though the doctor couldn't see him. "I'm

on my way."

He hung up and turned to Claudia. "My mother's awake. I have to go see her." 

Claudia's face softened with a smile. "That's wonderful, Mr. Walker. I'm so happy for you."

But her tone quickly turned serious again. "What did the caller say, though? You looked... shaken."

Ryan's expression darkened. "He said he was going to destroy me. Told me to watch my back—and everyone I care about."

Claudia's face froze.

Ryan added, "And then he asked if I had checked on my mother. That's why I panicked."

Her jaw tightened as she reached for her phone. "Do you want me to send someone with you? I can get a security team—"

"No," Ryan said quickly. "No time. I need to go now. I'll take public transport—it's faster than waiting for a driver."