

Chapter 33

Ryan walked out of the hospital in anger. His jaw was clenched, and his eyes were blood red. His guts told him somehow, the McCarthy's were involved in this and he had sworn to make them pay if his suspicions were right.

Behind him, Detective Mark and Detective Kelvin followed silently. Both men were still recovering from the shock, this man, whom they'd initially dismissed as just another desperate civilian, was in fact the CEO of Nova.

They couldn't stop whispering to themselves as they followed him behind. "Can you believe that? The CEO of Nova," Kelvin muttered under his breath, glancing at Mark.

Mark shook his head slowly. "And to think we almost yelled at him earlier. The man got Julian Knight fired with one phone call. I mean with that whole power we thought Julian Knight had, he was still employed under this young man."

"I've never seen anything like it," Kelvin replied. "Just one call. Boom Julian night was out of Nova, completely Gone without warning."

As Ryan reached the police car, he paused, his hand resting on the car hood. He looked down, trying to steady his breathing. But the anger in his chest hadn't eased. His mother had just been taken, and someone had the audacity to threaten him over the phone. Someone powerful, someone who knew exactly how to hurt him.

"First of all... the reason I suspect the McCarthy's and Julian Knight is so many, but one important thing you need to know is that they threatened day ago to use their influence to kick my mother out of all hospitals. That didn't seem to work, and instead it backfired. I believe they must have

found another way to retaliate by taking her," Ryan explained and Mark nodded.

The detectives caught up to him.

"Sir," Mark said, more respectfully now, "we'll do everything we can to bring your mother back safely."

Ryan turned to face them, his eyes filled with impatience. "Please," he said, his voice cracked slightly. "Please, find her. She's all I have. I can't lose her. Not after everything."

"We understand, Sir," Kelvin added. "And we'll do our best. But we'll need to start with some questions. We want to visit the McCarthy residence and speak with Julian Knight. They're our first leads now."

Ryan nodded quickly. "Yes. That's exactly where we should go."

As Mark walked over to open the car door for him, Ryan suddenly stopped him. "Wait," he said, holding a hand up. "There's one more thing I need to make very clear."

The detectives turned back to him, giving him their full attention.

Ryan's voice lowered slightly, "You now know who I am. I'm the new CEO of Nova. But... no one else can know that. Not yet. Especially not the McCarthy family." [1](#)

"Understood," Kelvin said immediately, nodding. "We won't say a word."

Mark furrowed his brows. "May I ask why, sir?"

Ryan looked him straight in the eyes. "Because that title comes with power and enemies. The McCarthys already hate me enough as it is. They

failed in exercising their power towards me and they hate it. If they find out I'm the one sitting at the top of Nova now, they'll retaliate harder. This has to be played smart."

Mark exhaled through his nose. "Got it. But let me ask, what if they get aggressive or try to intimidate us? They'll think we're just walking in with a nobody."

Ryan narrowed his eyes. "Then let them. Let them underestimate me. If they get out of hand, I'll step in myself. Just keep playing your part."

"Yes, sir," both men echoed almost in unison, now completely aligned with Ryan's plan.

They all got into the car. Ryan sat in the back seat, staring out the window as the city blurred past. His mind was racing. His mother's face kept flashed in his memory.

His head was filled with thoughts of Elizabeth's cold face and how they had failed in humiliating him so far. He thought of how he also couldn't let the win this time.

As they drove, Detective Kelvin turned slightly in his seat. "Sir... if I may ask, do you believe it's just Julian and Elizabeth involved? Or the entire McCarthy family?" 1

Ryan kept his gaze fixed out the window. "I'm not sure. But knowing them, it could be all of them. Julian is desperate. Elizabeth is vindictive. And her parents... they think they're untouchable."

"And we're driving straight to their house," Mark muttered.