

Chapter 38

Elizabeth swayed, almost fainting from pure embarrassment. Her face swollen as she turned sharply to Julian, her voice shaking as if she would break down in tears in the next moment.

"Wait... all that money, you mean it wasn't yours? You were making all those promises with money that didn't even belong to you?"

Julian ran a hand through his hair, guilt written all over his face. "Elizabeth, I didn't say that..."

"You did!" she cut him off. Her eyes burned with anger and what looked like embarrassment. "You said we were going to get a one billion dollar house after our wedding. Was that all lies too?"

Julian looked helpless. "Look, I just need you to be positive right now, okay? I'm going to bounce back somehow."

"Somehow?!" Elizabeth yelled, her voice echoing through the large mansion. "How are you going to bounce back when you just got fired? You didn't just lose a job, Julian. You lost your entire position at Nova!"

Julian opened his mouth to respond, but no words came out. He had no excuse, no plans whatsoever, nothing.

"I'm still rich!" he finally blurted. "If I weren't, would I have spent a hundred million dollars today to buy the house I promised your father?"

Elizabeth looked at him like he'd completely lost his mind. "Exactly, Julian. You spent that today. You're not a billionaire anymore. You have only less than a billion now. Congratulations," she added bitterly and slapped her own forehead in frustration.

Detective Mark, who had been silently observing with tired eyes, finally

stepped forward and cleared his throat. "Alright, lovebirds, you can have your couple's argument later. Right now, we're dealing with a missing person, Ryan's mother. And as of now, you both are suspects in the investigation."

He looked at Elizabeth and Julian. "So I'm going to say this once more. You both need to come with me to the station for questioning."

Before anyone could respond, Mr. McCarthy's thunderous voice shouted at form behind Elizabeth.

"That is never going to happen!" Mr. McCarthy said with authority. "Not under my roof."

Without hesitation, he pulled out his phone and began dialing. He placed it to his ear and paced across the floor. As soon as the call connected, he hit the speaker button.

A stern voice came through the phone. "Yes, Mr. McCarthy?"

"This is completely unacceptable," Mr. McCarthy said coldly. "Your men are in my house harassing my daughter and her fiancé. I told them they're not responsible for any missing person, yet they're refusing to leave. I'm warning you directly, this ends now or your entire team will suffer the consequences."

There was a pause on the other end of the line.

"Mr. McCarthy," the voice responded, now clearly belonging to Mr. Leo, the head of the police force in the state. "I apologize for any inconvenience. Please hand the phone to the officer in charge."

With a satisfied smirk, Mr. McCarthy handed the phone to Detective Mark. "Speak to your superior."

Detective Mark stepped aside and turned off the speaker. He walked a few paces away from the group before speaking up to Mr. Leo who was the head of the police force in that state.

"Sir, the person who laid the allegations against Elizabeth McCarthy and Julian Knight is Ryan Walker, the new CEO of Nova."

In that very moment, there was a long silence.

When Mr. Leo finally responded, his tone was different, sounding more serious. "I see... Please proceed with the questioning."

Detective Mark nodded and returned to the group. He handed the phone back to Mr. McCarthy and turned the speaker back on.

Mr. Leo's voice came through the phone once more, this time he was sounding bold. "Mr. McCarthy, I'm afraid your daughter must go with them to the station. The man whose mother is missing is not just anyone, he is a key figure in the state. This is standard procedure. That is all."

The line went dead. Mr. Leo didn't even explain further than that. Mr. McCarthy growled in anger and confusion.

"What the hell did he mean by this church rat standing here is an important figure?" he asked, but no one answered.

For a few seconds, no one moved, the entire McCarthy family were in deep confusion from Mr. Leo's definition of Ryan, none of it made sense, they thought he was drunk.

Elizabeth stood frozen, her lips slightly parted, the sting of reality sinking in fast. Mr. McCarthy stared at the phone in his hand like it had betrayed him.

Julian took a small step forward. "Wait, did he just—"

"Yes," Detective Mark cut in, his voice sounding super confident. "The head of the police force turned down your father in-law's request. You're both coming with me, now!"

Elizabeth let out a deep sigh, her earlier rage now dulling into frustration. She looked at her father, who still seemed stunned. Julian reached for her hand, but she pulled away and walked toward the gate, looking defeated.

"Let's just get this over with," she muttered.

Behind her, Mr. McCarthy slammed his phone onto the wall. He was not used to being turned down or lose in a battle.

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