

Chapter 45

"Okay," Ryan said calmly as though nothing bothered him. He glanced at the security guard, then looked back at Julian. "Send the security guard the 500 million dollars."

At that point, Julian narrowed his eyes, confused for a second. "And why exactly would I do that?"

Ryan shrugged lightly. "So I know you're serious. If I win, I need to be sure I'm getting what you promised. Let him hold the money, consider it escrow."

Julian scoffed and laughed dryly. "You really think you're going to win this bet? You're delusional. You, Ryan, on the list of guests? That's comedy. But fine, I won't let you use that excuse to back out later."

Ryan nodded slightly and muttered to Julian, "I will appreciate that."

Ryan turned to the security guard, who had been watching their conversation curiously. "Sir, please give your account number to Mr. Julian Knight. He'll be transferring five hundred million dollars to you to hold as the stake for our bet."

The guard blinked in surprise, as if unsure if he heard correctly. "I... Yes, sir... One moment."

He stepped forward, clearly intrigued now, and quietly read out the account details. Julian rolled his eyes as he pulled out his phone and started typing furiously.

"This is the most ridiculous thing I've done in years, betting with a fool," he muttered under his breath.

Ryan raised a brow and looked at Julian. "Yet you're still doing it."

"Yes, I am still doing it... because I want to humiliate you in front of everyone here," Julian snapped, still typing. A few seconds later, he looked up. "Done! I have transferred the money to the security guard. Now go ahead... Let's see you embarrass yourself."

Elizabeth couldn't hold in her laughter any longer. "This is going to be glorious. I hope the scanner beeps so loud when it rejects you that the entire hall hears it."

Ryan said nothing in response to Elizabeth's mocking words, he was as calm as ever with no energy to argue at all. Without a word, he walked calmly toward the scanner platform which was directly mounted beside the gate.

Guests began to take notice, some murmuring quietly, their curiosity piqued. A man had just bet half a billion dollars. That alone was enough to stir interest from the crowd.

Ryan stood still for a moment, then he slowly and confidently placed his thumb gently on the panel. The machine notified it would scan his thumb in the next two seconds.

BEEP!

In the next second, a very harsh beep sounded from the machine.

The screen flashed red.

Julian burst out laughing instantly, practically doubling over. "What did I tell you? You've lost already! Security, he's not on the list. Time to make that call to the police, Ryan, tell them to clear our name immediately."

Elizabeth clapped her hands, gloating. "Go ahead and admit it, you've been lying all along. I told you, you weren't invited."

But Ryan remained composed, his face still looked so confident like the machine hadn't just bounce him.

Ryan noticed something at the top of the scanner screen and his brows raised, realizing that the scanner was not properly set, Ryan turned to the guard. "This scanner is currently set to the B-list, isn't it?"

The guard nodded quickly. "Yes, sir. Most people on the event are on the B-list. There is only one person on the A-list and I don't think that person has arrived yet."

"The B-list is not the list I belong to," Ryan said calmly. "I'm on the A-list. Please reset the scanner to scan the A-list instead."

Julian's laughter died down slightly, but he still looked amused. "Flimsy excuse! The A-list is only other list besides the B-list. And it's meant for only one person—someone like the president, people with extreme power."

Elizabeth folded her arms and scoffed. "Exactly! You? On the A-list? Ryan, you don't even own a proper car. You're probably still using public transport. Don't fool yourself anymore please, just.. leave the platform and walk down with the little dignity you have left."

Ryan turned calmly to the guard. "Please go ahead, Reset the scanner."

The guard looked between them, hesitating on what to do.

Julian stepped forward again to stand in front of security guard. "Seriously, don't waste your time. Look at him, there's no way his name is anywhere in that system."

Elizabeth waved her hand. "Let him do it," she said, smirking again. "Let him embarrass himself. This will be fun. Security, please change it to the

A-list Scanner for him, so we can watch the machine bounce him again."

The guard gave a slight nod and pressed a few buttons on the scanner. The screen changed and a new prompt appeared.

"It's ready for A-list verification," the guard said, his tone now more cautious.

Julian folded his arms, whispering to Elizabeth, "This is going to be the funniest part. Press, please cover this humiliation." Julian directed the press to place their cameras to record Ryan's humiliation.

Elizabeth added with a smirk, "Record this. I want to watch it again later on the news."

Ryan stepped forward, his steps were slow but looked confident. The crowd around them was growing, onlookers drawn in by the tension, the money at stake, and the audacity of the person who was just labeled a pauper.

Ryan placed his thumb gently on the panel.

A second passed...

Then, a loud beep echoed and the screen suddenly flashed green.

RYAN WALKER – VERIFIED A-LIST GUEST.

Julian and Elizabeth both froze.

Their overconfident and arrogant expressions vanished in an instant.

A very intense silence fell over the nearby guests.

Elizabeth's mouth slowly fell open. "No... no way. This has to be a glitch."

Julian stared at the screen like it had personally insulted him. "Impossible! That's... That can't be right."

Elizabeth suddenly rushed forward and shoved Ryan aside, her hands slamming on the scanner screen as if she could change what she saw. Her eyes scanned the screen.

"No. No! This is a mistake. There must be an error," she muttered, hitting the scanner over and over again.

Ryan stepped calmly back into view and turned to the guard. "You can reset it to the B-list now, so the others can have access."

The guard stood straighter and nodded immediately. "Yes, sir."

The crowd that had gathered began whispering loudly.

"Is that Ryan Walker, Elizabeth's Ex-husband?"

"He's on the A-list?"

"How's that even possible? Oh my God," someone said from the crowd.

Ryan began walking toward the entrance as cameras flashed capturing the moment of glory.

"Sir!" the security guard called after him, voice loud over the murmurs. "What about the five hundred million dollars? You just won the bet!"

Ryan paused, turned slightly, and looked at the guard. "It's yours. Use it to take care of your family."

The guard's eyes widened in appreciation and shock. "Sir... I... Thank you. Thank you so much, sir!!"

Julian's knees buckled. He dropped to the ground in shock, his designer suit creasing under his weight. His mouth opened, but he made no sound, his brain went in total shock by what he just saw.

The pauper, Ryan walker was the only person on the A-list? How?

Elizabeth crouched beside him, looking more confused than concerned. " Julian... are you okay? Say something. You can't let him win like that."

But Julian couldn't speak, the shock had hit him like a truck, and Elizabeth? She was about to collapse.

Julian had just lost 500 million dollars...