Chapter 60

Claudia stormed into the mansion, her heels clicking with urgency as she passed through the grand foyer and into the corridor that led to the staff quarters.

She didn't stop to greet anyone or pause to explain. Her heart was racing so fast as if she would collapse in the next moment and her her hands trembled.

When she reached the end of the hallway, she banged on a door. "Isaac!"

The door opened moments later, revealing a young man with glasses, messy hair, and a hoodie. It was Isaac, the mansion's cybersecurity specialist.

"Ma'am?" he said, blinking in surprise. "It's late... I hope the is no problem."

"The boss has been kidnapped."

The words hit Isaac like a slap to his face and his jaw dropped.

"What? What do you mean kidnapped?"

Claudia pushed past him into the room, her voice rising from the panic. " Three men in a black van ambushed us right outside the Stallion Night event hall. They attacked him, he fought back, but there were too many of them. They beat him down and dragged him into the van. I screamed and screamed, but no one heard. By the time help came, the van was gone. They took him, Isaac. He's gone."

Isaac stood frozen for a moment. "Oh my God..."

Claudia gripped his arm. "I need your help. Is there any way... any way at

all you can find out where he is? Track him somehow? Please!"

Isaac rubbed his forehead, thinking fast. "Was he carrying the phone assigned to him by Nova? The one I configured for him personally?"

"Yes!" Claudia said quickly. "It was in his pocket. I remember. He used it earlier today."

Isaac rushed to his desk and flipped open his laptop. "That phone has a discreet tracking chip installed. It's off-grid, encrypted, and nearly impossible to detect. I can access it."

Claudia's heart pounded as Isaac typed furiously on the keyboard, his eyes darting across lines of code and software interfaces.

"Come on... come on..." he muttered.

After a tense minute, a green dot blinked on the screen.

"There!" he exclaimed. "It's pinging a location. He's somewhere northeast of the city."

Claudia gasped. "Thank God..."

"No time to waste," Isaac said, grabbing his laptop. "We need to go now."

Together, they jumped into a car and drove straight to the police station. Claudia burst into the building with Isaac follow her closely behind, heading straight for Detective Mark's office.

Mark looked up, startled. "Claudia?"

She didn't wait for pleasantries. "Ryan's been kidnapped and we think we have a location. This is Isaac, our cybersecurity personnel hired by

Nova Inc to serve Ryan. He tracked his phone."

Detective Kevin emerged from a nearby room, alarmed. "Wait, what happened?"

Claudia quickly recounted everything in detail. "It happened just after we left the event hall. A black van came out of nowhere. Three masked men jumped at Ryan. He fought them but there were too many of them, and in the process, one of them hit him in the head and they.. they dragged him into the van.."

Mark grabbed his jacket. "We're going. Kevin, grab the keys."

Within minutes, all four of them where detective Mark's car with Isaac in the back. His laptop was open on his knees, directing them as Detective Kevin drove. They drove through city streets, then into a quieter, darker highway outside of town.

"Just a little further," Isaac said, his eyes were glued to the blinking dot on the GPS screen.

The device led them down a lonely stretch of road.

"Stop the car, I think we are at the right spot," Isaac said suddenly.

After Kevin stopped the car, Claudia was the first to step out, then the rest followed.

Claudia looked around, her brows furrowed. "This place is empty. Are you sure this is where the signal stopped? Please be sure of what you saw, Isaac."

Isaac checked the screen again, his fingers hovering around the touchpad. "Yes, the signal is still active and I can assure you that it is right here."

Mark turned in a slow circle, scanning the trees and roadside. "Spread out, we need to look for anything, maybe tire tracks, footprints, or maybe anything unusual."

In that very instant, Claudia saw something on the floor a few feet from where she was standing.

She walked closer, her heart was pounding as she approached it. Kneeling down, she picked up a familiar object and she froze.

It was Ryan's phone, the exact phone that was given to him by Nova.

Her stomach twisted. She stood up and held it out for the others to see. " They dropped his phone here, that's how they tricked us. This location was a trap..."

Isaac looked frustrated knowing he was just tricked. "They used the phone as bait and left it behind so anyone trying to track boss would end up here instead."

Mark's expression hardened and his jaw clenched instantly. "They're playing with us, these people are more clever than we expected."

Claudia stared into the woods, her fingers gripping the phone tightly...