



## Chapter 78

Ryan looked back and stood motionless for a moment, his gaze fixed on the screen as his mother was led down a different hallway, away from the auction hall.

Relief washed over him. The plan had worked, at least for now.

He turned toward Anton and said in a low voice. "Thank you, you don't know what this means to me."

Anton didn't say anything at first. He was still grappling with the fact that he had just defied Lord Ryder, the most feared figure in their world.

But then he finally looked up and said, "You don't owe me thanks. That money you promised, it'll save my daughter. For that, I'll be forever in your debt."

Ryan placed a hand on Anton's shoulder. "And I always pay my debts. You'll get every cent right now."

He pulled out his phone and quickly accessed his banking app and transferred the promised \$1,000,000 to Anton's account. Then another \$500,000 to Kane.

Anton's phone buzzed in his pocket. When he looked at the screen, his eyes widened. "It's really there. One and a half million... You're not just rich. You're something else."

Ryan offered a small smile. "Wealth means nothing if I can't use it to protect the people I love."

Anton dropped to his knees in gratitude as he was overwhelmed by emotion but Ryan immediately pulled him back up.



"No need for that," Ryan said gently. "What you can do now is take me to my mother."

Without hesitation, Anton nodded and led Ryan through a series of corridors. The tension in Ryan's chest grew.

They reached the secluded backyard exit of the Lord's Villa. Kane had already brought Ryan's mother there, wrapped in a thick shawl.

Her wrists were still red from the restraints, and she looked so much smaller, so much frailer than Ryan remembered. But her eyes lit up the moment she saw him.

"Son!" she cried out.

"Mom," Ryan whispered as he saw his mother.

They ran into each other's arms and she sobbed into his chest as her fingers dug into his back.

"I thought I'd never see you again," she choked. "They said such terrible things..."

"I'm here now, and no one will ever lay a hand on you again," Ryan promised. "It's over."

She looked up at him then, taking in the expensive fabric of his tailored suit, his designer watch and polished shoes, she became confused.

"How..." she began. "How did you afford all this?"

Ryan gave her a soft smile. "I didn't tell you earlier because there wasn't time but now you need to know the truth."

He took out his phone again and opened his banking app and then turned



the screen toward her.

Her mouth fell open when she saw the nine-figure balance.

"That can't be real," she whispered.

"It is," Ryan said, a proud smile forming on his lips. "And there's more. I own a mansion in Central Town now, the kind of house people only dream about. I drive some of the most expensive cars in the country. But more than all that," He paused then said in a soft tone. "I'm now the CEO of Nova."

The words hit her hard. Her knees buckled, and Ryan caught her just in time, wrapping his arms around her fragile frame. She gripped his shoulders like she needed to make sure he was real.

Tears spilled down her cheeks. "You did it," she whispered in a trembling voice. "You really made it."

Ryan held her tighter as he smiled. "I had to," he murmured. "For you."

"And for those who dared to hurt you," he said slowly as his jaw tightened. "they will pay. Lord Ryder and the McCarthys, will regret the day they crossed me."

Ryan's mother became concerned when she heard this. She reached up and brushed his cheek with her trembling fingers. "Revenge will only make things worse, Ryan. You don't need to fight them anymore, you've already won. You've risen above them."

"I haven't won until they're destroyed," he said. "And I'll start with the McCarthys. They tried to buy you like property and that alone is enough to bring them down."

She opened her mouth to protest again but hesitated.

Instead, she swallowed hard and said. "Then be careful," she said softly. "Promise me you'll be safe."

"I promise," Ryan said in a gentle voice.

He turned toward Anton, who had been silently standing nearby and watching the reunion quietly.

"Get her out of here," Ryan said. "She's not safe in this city anymore. Not while Lord Ryder or the McCarthys are breathing."

Anton nodded and straightened up. "Where to?"

Ryan pulled out his phone, his fingers flying over the screen as he made a quick call. "Nova Concierge," he said. "I need a mansion, top of the line. Half a billion dollar listing in Frizen City, East Country. Full private security, State-of-the-art surveillance and get a private jet ready for takeoff tonight."

The agent on the other end was stunned as he stumbled over their words, but eventually confirmed the request nervously.

Ryan ended the call and handed the phone to Anton. "You'll accompany her and make sure she gets there safely."

Anton blinked in disbelief with wide eyes. "You trust me with this?"

Ryan smiled. "You proved yourself. Besides, I've got no reason to doubt a father who just got a second chance to save his daughter."

Anton's voice trembled slightly as he placed a hand over his chest. "I won't let you down, I swear it."

Ryan turned back to his mother and pulled her into one last embrace.



"I'll see you soon," he whispered against her hair. "Once this is over."

She nodded slowly. "I love you, Ryan."

"I love you too, Mom."

As Anton gently guided her away, Ryan stood alone, watching them disappear into the corridor. Then, slowly, he turned his gaze toward the Lord's Villa. His jaw clenched as he took in the sight. It wasn't over yet.

Inside, chaos had begun to unfurl.

Lord Ryder stood on the stage at the auction hall. She turned toward one of her guards and her face was filled with anger. f

"Where the hell is Kane?!" she snapped. "I sent him over thirty minutes ago!"

The guard looked pale and sweat beading along his forehead. "I'll check, my lady," he stammered before bolting down the hallway.

The guests murmured, looking around as they sensed something was off.

The guard returned minutes later, panting. He was out of breath and clearly afraid. "He's not there. The room is empty, the woman is gone."

Lord Ryder's face twisted into pure rage. "Gone?!" she screeched. "What do you mean gone?! Did she vanish into thin air?!"

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