

72 An Urgent Call

"It looks like Mr. Bennett Senior is being quite harsh on you these days," Amelie dropped her purse on top of the desk in her hotel suite and fell heavily into the comforting embrace of the chair. 1

Liam's call caught her on her way from the elevator and since both the time difference and the man's tight schedule made it almost impossible for them to talk anymore, she didn't want to risk losing an opportunity to talk to him while both of them were free.

The woman kicked the annoying heels off her feet and continued, now in a more relaxed tone, "How are the preparations going? I heard that the appointment ceremony would be held pretty soon, the whole country is buzzing about it."

Liam could not help but sigh.

"Don't remind me, Miss Ashford! My flight arrives back home in just a few days but I will still be pretty busy with both the appointment and other company matters. Even while we will

be living in the same city again, we won't be able to meet for quite a while."

The lamenting notes in his voice made Amelie let out a light giggle; his behavior never ceased to entertain her even during such serious times.

"Still," Liam spoke again. "Once all the hectic preparations are over, there will be a party to celebrate my becoming the company's president. I'd like you to come and congratulate me in person. Will you dare to say no?"

Even though Liam couldn't see her, Amelie nodded and smiled. "I would love that, Mr. Bennett. It would be my pleasure to congratulate you in person."

The man's response was preceded by a suppressed cough in an awkward attempt to conceal his soaring excitement. He tried to sound casual as he finally replied, "Well... I will make sure to send you an invitation then, Miss Ashford."

Amelie couldn't offer him a lighthearted yet slightly mocking answer as her main phone rang, diverting her attention to its screen. The incoming call was from the housekeeper of the

Clark's mansion.

She excused herself which greatly upset Liam but he let her answer it nonetheless, especially since Austin was already back to nag him as well.

The woman answered the call and heard Mrs. Geller's urgent voice. "Mrs. Ashford, I am sorry to call you so late and without a prior notice but you must come back to the mansion as soon as possible. We are having... There is a very urgent matter we need your help with."

Amelie couldn't help but feel extremely nervous. Previously, the housekeeper would only contact her in case of dangerous emergencies or when an important, although unexpected, guest would suddenly visit them unannounced.

Was it any of these occasions now as well? Unfortunately, Mrs. Geller didn't give her more information as she ended the call as soon as she asked Amelie to come back.

The woman had no choice but to go and check it for herself.

As her car approached the mansion, the driver had to park outside the gates as the road leading directly to the house was blocked by an ambulance and Richard's personal car.

Amelie's insides shook while her brain rushed to make premature conclusions.

'An ambulance? Did something happen to Richard? Mrs. Geller did say it was an emergency...'

She exited the car and rushed inside the mansion where she, once again to her surprise, was greeted by the staff, all gathered in the living room as if waiting for an impromptu staff meeting that was about to start.

"What is going on here?" Amelie asked one of the maids who stood closer to her but Mrs. Geller rushed to explain the situation.

"Mrs. Ashford, you're back! The mansion has been in chaos for the last several hours! Miss Blackwood got food poisoning and has been so sick, we had to eventually call both an ambulance and Mr. Clark."

"Food poisoning?" Amelie arched her eyebrows.



"She ate in this house and got food poisoning?"

Her confusion was reasonable; the chef cooking every meal in this mansion had been working for their family for the last ten years and there hadn't been even a single case of food poisoning ever since.

The mere thought that he had prepared something that would make Samantha feel so ill was something she couldn't accept so eagerly.

The housekeeper offered Amelie a distressed look as she wasn't done yet.

"That's what Miss Blackwood claims but one of the maids and I have eaten the same dishes and we are feeling completely fine, Mrs. Ashford."

"I see. Why is everyone gathered in the living room, though?"

"When Mr. Clark came back home, he fired every single member of the staff."

Amelie's expression was nothing short of shock.

"What?! He fired everyone because of that?"

Mrs. Geller nodded. "Yes, that's why I called you, Mrs. Ashford. He was livid and we don't blame



him but..."

She bit her tongue in fear that she might say something that would cross the line but Amelie didn't care for that. With a deep frown etched between her eyebrows, she looked in the direction of her husband's office.

'Why is he overreacting again? I better take care of this right away.' 1

"Mrs. Geller, is Mr. Clark in his study right now?" She asked the housekeeper and the latter nodded. "Yes, he was with that woman for some time but then the doctor asked him to leave and wait outside so he has been in his office for about an hour."

"Thank you. Please tell everyone that they are dismissed for the evening. I will let you know the final verdict once I'm done talking to Mr. Clark."

Amelie rapped her knuckles on the door to Richard's study and waited for his response. His cold voice invited her to come in and she accepted the invitation. 1

"Oh, it's you..." His cold and disappointed greeting didn't bother his wife; she took a



mental note of his disheveled appearance and immediately dismissed it.

Instead, she approached his desk and asked, "Was it necessary to fire every single member of the help?"

"It was long overdue," Richard answered, his voice growing colder with each word. "You have been way too negligent with them ever since you started living in the hotel and that was what caused all of this. If these people cannot do their jobs properly without us controlling their every step, they shouldn't be here in the first place."

Amelie didn't let his crude words get to her this time. She had already figured out where it was all leading to and she didn't want to be a part of a mess he was about to create.

"I am away because of you and you know it. I understand that you are worried about that woman but I highly doubt that her condition was the result of our staff's negligence. It's just food poisoning, nobody was trying to kill her, Richard. Ask Dr. Bavel to take care of her and in no time--"

"I can't help but worry, Amelie, this is not a

simple situation!" His loud and somewhat angry voice made Amelie take a small step back in surprise. Richard let out a long sigh and wiped his pale face with both hands before adding.

"She is pregnant, Amelie. Samantha is pregnant." 3

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