

176- Welcome To Kanderton, Mom!

"I' ve been taking tours quite frequently. You name the place, and I was there," in the center of the hallway, Valerie was standing with a small crowd gathered around her.

Whoever was passing by, used to join the crowd. She no longer knew what to do with her time, so she started bragging about the tours she had been taking all these years.

" What places have you been, Mrs. Sinclair?" an employee asked her. Whenever an employee called her Mrs. Sinclair, she felt an odd surge of joy spreading through her veins.

" Oh. I can't even count them on my fingers. The latest tour I took was across Europe. Paris, Milan, Monte Carlo... there are so many places." Delinda and Denzel exchanged glances. For the last few days, they haven't communicated much.

The crowd was listening to her intently, with wide eyes.

" You must have done tons of shopping there. No?" Kate asked her excitedly," These places are a dream come true for every woman. Especially if one has money," Valerie could see longing in her eyes.

She chuckled, waving her hand, " You are so right, Kate. These places are a shopper's paradise," lifting her hand, she showed off an exquisite diamond bracelet that caught the light, "I didn't need to buy this as this was a little something from a friend in Monaco- an absolute gem," She giggled, showing it to everyone, " Don't you think?" Peter also leaned in slightly, the admiration was obvious on his face," That's incredible. You' ve got one hell of a friend!" Valerie was quite pleased by the reaction, " You people are talking about shopping and gifts. I want to add one more thing," she gave them a meaningful glance with a smirk, " Celebrities!" As expected, there were gasps around her.

" Oh, Goodness. Celebrities?" Valerie nodded, "I had dinner in Milan with Giorgio Armani. Can you believe it?

He was so adamant about designing something for me. Can you imagine?" She tossed her hair back, with a smug expression. She was enjoying, looking at their faces, which lit up with astonishment.

Delinda inhaled deeply, " Dinner with Armani? Unbelievable!" Valerie nodded enjoying every second of it, " And then there was the gala in Paris, and guess what!" she clicked her tongue and shook her head, "I was sitting right next to Leonardo DiCaprio." She giggled like a little girl, " Such a charming man he was. We had a meaningful conversation about Cinema's future. And we both agreed that there should be more modern cinema for the audience. It's high time..." They all were truly captivated by her tales.

" Mrs. Sinclair," Shang Chi spoke for the first time, "I must say you are so lucky." "I agree," a female co- worker said with a dreamy look, " Please let me know if you ever meet Justin Bieber. I love him so much." They all laughed loudly.

Nina came out of the office that was assigned to her by Dean and observed the little crowd for a moment with clenched fists.*ur*

Was Valerie crazy?

Who tells such things to the employees?

" Valerie," Nina began keeping her voice calm and composed, " We have important matters to discuss. Perhaps you can share the rest of your stories later?" Valerie's smile faltered slightly, her eyes narrowed as she registered the subtle way Nina was issuing her warning. The hall had gotten quiet and now the same employees were exchanging nervous glances.

Valerie forced a smile that didn't reach her eyes, " Sure, Nina," she kept her tone sweet with an edge of irritation and then waved a dismissive hand towards the crowd, " Later, people. Later." This time instead of going back to the office, Nina preferred to sit at a desk in the hallway.

" Nina. Don't you think it's high time that you talk to Rafael?" Valerie suggested to her once they were sitting in the hallway.

Valerie was getting irritated now. For some reason, Nina didn't want to go inside the office, where Dean last sent them.

"I feel like I'm sitting in a vegetable market. Everyone is passing by and giving us so weird glances," she started tapping the paper napkin on her face though AC was working fine.

Nina was trying to hold on to her patience. Valerie was continuously whining, and her tantrums were now getting to her head.

" Nina. Shouldn't we at least go and sit in that office? I'm thinking of ordering something from the food app," she started scrolling her phone.

" We are sitting here to keep an eye on everyone, Valerie," Nina whispered, " In that office, we won't be able to learn what is going on in this office. Have you noticed? I can't see Dean here. His desk is that one near Joseph's office, but he isn't here." Valerie nodded carelessly and kept going through social media pages. She had started getting bored of this office shit. Never in her life, had she worked in an office, nor she did any kind of job.

This was her love for Rafael that she was here, bearing this disrespect. Otherwise, she didn't even give a flying fu* ck for her mother- in- law.

Thinking of Marissa brought a bitter taste to her mouth.

Suppressing her yawn, she looked around and found Delinda trying to argue with Shang Chi. Though their voices were low, but it seemed like she was trying to convince Shang Chi of something he wasn't agreeing to.

At some distance, Kate was chatting with Peter in a hushed voice. Her eyes wandered around as she talked to him until they met Valerie's.

Kate nodded at her in acknowledgment and then got up from her seat. She started walking towards her, " Mrs. Sinclair. Why are you sitting here? Shouldn't you go back to your office?" Nina raised her face with a big smile thinking that Kate was talking to her but was thoroughly disappointed when found her looking at Valerie.

Her silly daughter- in- law didn't know why they were sitting there so Nina thought to answer instead, "I'm waiting for Dean. Plus, I think the air conditioning in that office isn't working. So, it's better if Dean opens the President's office for us." Kate thought for a moment and then shrugged, " Dean must be inside the President's office. I saw him going inside about an hour ago!" Nina was at once on her toes.

The office is open, and no one informed me. Instead of letting me go there, Dean preferred to get inside himself. Such a pathetic loser he is!

She was thinking of pouncing at the office door and raiding her son's office when a familiar voice reached her ears, " Hello, Mom. Welcome to Kanderton!" Valerie gasped before whispering, " Rafael?" Nina hurried over to her son and held his hand, " Oh, my dear son! Thank God, you are here," she tried to force tears to her eyes, " See! Nobody is allowed to enter your office but let me show you how Dean is taking advantage of his power."