

S2 Chapter 105

Henry's POV

That creep Reynold had completely lost his mind. He didn't even bother pretending to be a minimally caring father to his children anymore. Cornering me at the restaurant was incredibly bold of him.

I went back to the office and ordered something to eat here, just to avoid the displeasure of looking at his face again. While eating, I called Edward and explained what happened. He assured me that Reynold wouldn't go near Hebe, the kids, or my mother. Then I called my mother, and she asked me to calm down, saying things would work themselves out.

When Julia and Melissa returned from lunch, I called them into my office. I needed to warn them too, as they were always close to me and could be used against me.

"Girls, I might need to assign a security guard to protect you," I said after explaining the whole situation.

"Henry, relax. Your father hasn't threatened us; we're not his targets," Melissa tried to calm me down, but I noticed Julia was very tense. She always got nervous when the subject was my father.

"Julia, are you okay?" I asked, seeing that she was slightly trembling.

"Yes, Henry, don't worry," she replied, but she didn't convince me.

"Julia, be honest with me, why do you get so nervous when we talk about my father or when he shows up?" I decided to ask directly.



I had noticed this very recently, but thinking about it now, it had always been this way. Whenever Reynold appeared, Julia would get nervous and find a way to disappear. When we talked about him, she would get anxious. Yes, she had always despised him and made that clear, but I never knew why.

"I don't like him, Henry. You know that," Julia was emphatic.

"Yes, but there's something I don't know, Julia. I started to notice it's more than simply disliking him," I insisted.

"Julia, tell him. Henry needs to know," Melissa said, holding Julia's hand.

"My God, what did that man do to you, Julia?" I put my hand to my forehead, already expecting the worst. Julia sighed and looked away.

"I've worked here for many years, Henry. I started as a receptionist, you know that," her eyes welled up as she began speaking.

"Yes, Julia, my grandfather hired you, you were his secretary's daughter. I still remember him saying you would be trained to replace your mother when she retired," I commented with a smile.

"And that's what happened!" She gave a half-smile. "I'm very grateful to your grandfather; he was a decent man. But your father was nothing like him, he clearly took after those good-for-nothing brothers of your grandmother."

"They were indeed a bunch of opportunists." I remembered my paternal grandmother's family, whom I had struggled to get rid of.

"When your father came to work at the company, I was a receptionist.



He was always hovering around me with his cheap pickup lines," Julia huffed. "I was already engaged, Henry. And he was set to marry your mother. Back then, there wasn't so much sexual freedom; women married as virgins, and marriages were meant to last a lifetime."

As she spoke, tears fell from Julia's eyes. I could already imagine what she had to tell, and anger stirred inside me.

"What happened, Julia?" I encouraged her to continue.

"Whenever my mother needed to take time off, your grandfather would put me in her place," Julia explained, her eyes clouded with bitter memories. "That day, my mother had to leave right after lunch to take my younger brother to the doctor, and your grandfather told me to take over her position. But your grandfather had a meeting outside the company and wouldn't be back anytime soon. Your father called me into his office, locked the door, and wouldn't let me leave."

Julia was sobbing, breaking down in tears in front of me, then Melissa started speaking, without letting go of Julia's hand.

"Henry, your father raped Julia and threatened her, said she was just a poor nobody and that if she opened her mouth, no one would believe her, she and her mother would be fired, and he would have her and her entire family killed," Melissa continued speaking while Julia sobbed. "She believed he would do it; she was very young, and he had money and power, so she kept quiet."

"Son of a bitch!" I slammed my fist on the table; by this point, I was crying along with Julia.



"He destroyed my life, Henry," Julia managed to say.

"Julia told her fiancé, who didn't believe her, thought she had slept with the boss because she was an opportunist, and left her," Melissa explained. "Her mother Gertrude knew, that's why she took so long to retire."

"That's true, Gertrude only retired when I took over the company. That's when I brought Julia to the presidency; at the time, she was secretary to the financial director," I commented. "I always thought your mother enjoyed the work."

"And she did; your grandfather was a good man. But she stayed to protect me," Julia shared. "My ex-fiancé made a huge scene when he found out I wasn't a virgin anymore, but my mother believed me and did everything possible to keep your father from touching me again."

"Julia, I don't even know how to ask for forgiveness because this is unforgivable." I was devastated by this discovery.

"You're not responsible for the atrocities that miserable man commits." Julia held my hand.

"Does my mother know about this?" I asked.

"No, only my family, my husband, and Melissa, who's like a bloodhound when it comes to sniffing things out." She smiled at Melissa.

"Julia, may I tell my family about this?" I asked carefully.

"Of course, Henry. It's been so many years; maybe it's good for your family to know, since you're all exorcising demons now." Julia



consented.

"Julia, there's no way to repair the harm that monster did to you, but I'd like to do something for you." I wanted to make it up to her somehow.

"You already do, Henry. You're a good man who treats me with respect, always giving me presents, valuing my work. You're more than just my boss." Julia smiled, wiping away tears.

"We're partners, Julia!" I smiled at her. "You know I care about you deeply."

"I know, dear. And you know it's mutual. Besides, nothing could be better than the satisfaction I felt when you took over this company and recently when you banned that monster from entering here." Julia was genuinely happy about these things.

I stood up and hugged my secretary. I insisted about getting her security, but she assured me it wasn't necessary.

"You know what, I'm going to give you something and you won't refuse it." I said, thinking of something. "Mel, book Julia and her husband for next weekend at that amazing spa you took me to - the best couple's package with everything Julia deserves."

"Oh, I would never turn down a spa day. Is it the one you told me about, Mel?" Julia smiled.

"That's the one, Jules, you'll love it!" Melissa smiled at her and winked at me, clearly signaling that I'd chosen the right gift.

When this day ended, all I wanted was to go home and hug



Samantha for the rest of the night. I was exhausted, had no strength left for anything, was truly very tired. However, it would still be a while before I could get my much-desired rest.