

After All the Hurt, She Chose Herself

Chapter 11

“What’s all the noise about?”

Gideon came out to see the three of them talking.

Lilith’s eyes were red. Seeing Gideon was like seeing a savior. “Gideon, I made a mistake...”

Henry recounted the story, adding his own spin and conveniently leaving out the part about stealing the deal.

But Gideon was no fool.

He knew Aria was essentially blameless in this matter.

However, thinking of the way Aria had looked at him last night...

“Ms. Rowan, a contract you were responsible for has issues, and now you want someone else to take the blame?”

“If you can’t cover the damages, Ms. Rowan, you might have to speak with our lawyers.”

Gideon tapped on the desk.

The contract was negotiated by Aria, so signing it was naturally her responsibility. Now that there was a problem, she was, of course, also responsible.

A cold wave of shock paralyzed Aria, rooting her to the spot. She never imagined Gideon would say such a thing.

She couldn’t believe that to protect Lilith, he was now blind to Henry’s clumsy scheme.

Was he genuinely unable to see through such a low-level trick, or did he just want to torment her?

Aria closed her eyes.

The legal department at Evercrest Prosperity Holdings had never lost a case. If Gideon wanted to fight her to the bitter end, she would be the one to suffer.

“Gideon, it’s all my fault for not double-checking with Aria. But if only she had answered me when I called for her...”

Wasn't she just implying that Aria had neglected her duties?

"I'm not deaf. If I don't answer, why not just call my name again?"

Lilith bit her lip, wringing her hands pitifully.

"This is your problem, don't blame others," Gideon said. "Since you delegated your work to someone else, you have to accept the corresponding risks."

Aria clenched her fists.

She needed the money. She hadn't just quit on the spot because she didn't want to lose this month's bonus.

Taking a deep breath, Aria looked at Gideon.

"I will get the client to sign a new, correct contract. I guarantee the faulty one will be voided, and the company won't lose a single cent."

"But afterward, Mr. Evernight, you must approve my resignation."

Gideon scoffed. "You're in no position to negotiate. This isn't a place you can just come and go as you please."

"Aria, don't be impulsive... I'll just ask my dad to help us pay the money back. I've already sent a message to my mom!"

Lilith spoke anxiously, but a triumphant glint flashed in her eyes.

Aria's phone rang.

It was Roxanne.

Aria hesitated for a few seconds before stepping out to answer.

"I heard from Lilith that there's a problem with a contract you signed, and you have to pay thirty million in damages? Aria, you haven't forgotten what you promised, have you?"

"I haven't forgotten."

"Aria, we're family. Thirty million isn't an amount we can't come up with, but..."

Roxanne paused, not continuing.

But Aria knew what she was going to say.

She wasn't a real Rowan. After she married Gideon, there had been no business dealings between the Evernight and Rowan families. Why would the Rowans help her?

Besides, Roxanne knew all about the messy situation between Gideon, her, and Lilith.

Even if she offended Gideon and was no longer Mrs. Evernight, Roxanne's biological daughter, Lilith, could seize the opportunity to become the new Mrs. Evernight.

No matter how you looked at it, the Rowan family wouldn't lose.

Moreover, when Roxanne had forced her to break up with Charles years ago, Aria had wanted to leave the Rowan family and live on her own.

But Roxanne had said that although she wasn't her biological daughter, she had nearly lost her life protecting Aria once, and that was a debt Aria had to repay.

To leave the Rowan family, Aria had to pay Roxanne thirty million dollars.

That was why Aria had left the medical field and plunged into the business world, following Gideon and constantly entertaining clients.

Now, with the divorce imminent, once she received the twenty million from Old Mr. Evernight, combined with the money she had saved over the years, she would be close to having the thirty million she owed Roxanne.

"As family, we don't really need to talk about debts. As long as you're willing to come back, Mom will help you pay this money..."

"I don't need it," Aria cut her off coldly, repeating, "I don't need your help."

The memory of Roxanne pointing at her, calling her a seductress and a jinx, was still fresh in her mind.

Roxanne seemed to laugh, then hung up. "Suit yourself."

"I'd like to see what you can do on your own."

Lilith also received a message from Roxanne and sighed with a troubled expression.

"Mom wants to help Aria pay the money, but she refused. Where is she going to get that much money to compensate?"

Henry chuckled. "Oh, Ms. Rowan has her ways. Clients that are usually difficult to handle are no problem as long as she's there!"

Lilith secretly glanced at Gideon. Seeing his expression unchanged, she couldn't help but raise an eyebrow.

Gideon rubbed his fingertips together.

Since Aria had refused the Rowan family's help, she would have no way to pay back the money. It seemed she would be coming to him to surrender tonight.

Thinking of this, a rare, faint smile touched his lips as he returned to his office.

Henry, ever the observer, took note.

It seemed Mr. Evernight really disliked Aria.

That afternoon, Aria contacted the client to discuss the contract.

It was difficult. After all, they had signed a thirty-million-dollar contract for three million. Why would the other company so easily give up such a huge bargain?