

Chapter 61 Diana's Trick

"Are you done shooting? We're in Room 6 of Atera Restaurant. Come here."

"Are you with someone else? Who is it?" Diana asked discontentedly.

"Rhonda is with me. Hurry up. I have ordered some of your favorite dishes." 2

Rhonda lost her appetite when she heard that. She had assumed he had ordered the best dishes in the restaurant for her.

Moreover, she didn't want to have lunch with Diana.

Noticing her displeasure, Eliam explained, "Diana may seem domineering and arrogant, but she is kind and sweet like you."

Rhonda scoffed. She didn't think so.

Diana was the opposite of kind and sweet.

Diana sauntered into the private room before all the dishes were served.

"Eliam, how could you invite me for lunch and eat without me?" Diana pouted and sat on the chair closest to Eliam's.

"We haven't started eating." Eliam picked up a prawn for Diana and smiled. "This is your favorite."

"That's more like it." Diana smiled at him. She didn't bat an eyelid at Rhonda and behaved like she hadn't noticed her presence.

Rhonda ignored her and ate in silence.

Chapter 61 Diana's Trick



+120 Points at most

Eliam nudged Diana's arm and said, "You always wanted to meet Rhonda, didn't you? This is a great opportunity for you guys to get along with each other. Why don't you talk to her?"

Diana glanced at Rhonda.

"Miss Horton, I want to ask you something. But I'm not sure if it is appropriate to ask you."

"Go ahead."

"I heard you have lived with your ex-boyfriend for three years. Have you ever had an abortion?"

"Abortion? No. Why would I have an abortion?" Rhonda was appalled by her humiliating question.

"Don't take me the wrong way. Isn't it normal for a woman to get pregnant while living with a man for a long time? Therefore, they opt to abort the baby." Diana shrugged nonchalantly. "I have a friend who lives with her boyfriend. She accidentally got pregnant and wants to abort the baby, but she is scared. She asked me for help yesterday. I have never lived together with a man, let alone have an abortion, so I didn't know how to help her. You're the only person I know who might have had the same experience, so I wanted to ask you," Diana said with a malicious grin.

Rhonda's hands trembled with rage.

She knew Diana was provoking her on purpose.

Eliam cast a suspicious look at Rhonda. It seemed like he was curious to know the answer. 3

"I am sorry to disappoint you, but I have no experience regarding abortion," Rhonda snapped coldly.

"Fine. I always thought accidental pregnancies are common among couples who live together, but it looks like you have used good protective measures."

Rhonda angrily put down her fork.

"Miss Leslie, I don't want to quarrel with you for Eliam's sake, but I won't tolerate you next time." With that, Rhonda sprang to her feet and stormed out of the private room.

Eliam immediately caught up with her. "Diana has always been outspoken and straightforward. She didn't mean to hurt your feelings. Why are you making a big deal out of this?"

"I don't care if she is straightforward. She has no right to insult others." Rhonda's shoulders slumped with disappointment. "I think I have overestimated you. You are no different from other men."

"What do you mean?"

"I said I overestimated you. I used to think you were intelligent, but you are dumb! You can't even see the truth that's right before you."

He was stupid to think Diana was merely being straightforward rather than comprehending her true intention.

After leaving the restaurant, Rhonda returned to her apartment. Amanda was packing her things. She had found a new place to live and was going to move out.

However, it was mainly to make room for Leonard. He would move here after getting discharged from the hospital. It would be inconvenient for Amanda to live in the same apartment.

Rhonda led Amanda downstairs. A middle-aged man got out of a Maserati and took the suitcase from Amanda's hand.

"Who is this?"

"He is my boyfriend, Edward." She shrugged nonchalantly.

"You have moved on so fast!" Rhonda could tell the man was at least ten years older than Amanda.

"I know what I want. I will be with anyone capable of offering me a wealthy life," Amanda said.

Back then, she pursued Robert because she liked him for his wealth.

Amanda had openly admitted to Rhonda that she worshipped money. She had been through a lot in childhood because of poverty. Only money gave her a sense of security. After the realtor cheated her, she felt nothing was more important than money.

Therefore, when someone introduced her to the CEO of a big company, she agreed to go out with him without thinking twice.

Before leaving, Amanda told Rhonda to cherish Eliam, saying he was a great man and that the Sloan family's residence was worth a lot of money. She reminded Rhonda never to miss such a great husband.

Once Amanda left, Rhonda went to the hospital.

Just then, Michelle came to visit Leonard.

She was meeting him for the first time after the two fought last time.

Michelle couldn't stop crying when she saw that Leonard was severely injured.

Rhonda comforted her, but Michelle blamed her instead.

"Leonard is hurt badly. It's all your fault. Why are you pretending to be innocent? He is unfortunate to have a sister like you."

"Michelle, this has nothing to do with my sister. Can you stop it?" Leonard roared.

Seeing the two were about to fight again, Rhonda hurriedly took Michelle out of the ward.

Michelle broke down in the corridor. She said her family was urging the two to get married. However, Leonard was bedridden, and it would take him a long while to recover. They wouldn't be able to get married under such circumstances.

Chapter 61 Diana's Trick

 +120 Points at most

Rhonda didn't want Leonard to delay Michelle's plans. She said she would understand if Michelle wanted to break up with her brother. After all, no one could blame her for that.

Michelle wiped her tears and said she didn't want to break up with Leonard. However, Leonard would graduate soon, and he hadn't found a job yet. And the worst part was they didn't even have a place to live.

Rhonda didn't know what to say.

However, to her surprise, Michelle asked Rhonda to transfer the ownership of her apartment to Leonard. She justified it by stating that Rhonda was married now and wouldn't need the apartment anyway. Therefore, it would be more useful for Leonard to start his own family.

Rhonda's heart leaped to her throat.

"Is it Leonard's idea?"

"It's my idea. I haven't told Leonard about it. I'm afraid he will be mad at me," Michelle replied.

"Michelle, your request seems reasonable. I would fulfill your wish if I could. But I recently loaned hundreds of thousands of dollars for my grandmother's surgery. I have decided to sell this apartment to repay the debt."

"So you're not going to give the apartment to Leonard?" Michelle glared at her. "Does it mean you wouldn't offer a place for us to live even if I marry Leonard?"

Rhonda nodded. "But this is only a temporary problem. Once Leonard's leg heals, he will start working and make enough money to buy your own house."

"How long will it take? How do I live until then? Do you want me to marry a cripple who has to pay rent every month? If you don't think it's a big deal, why didn't you marry a disabled person? Why didn't you marry a man who doesn't even own a house?"

Chapter 62 A Sudden Surprise

Hearing Michelle constantly calling Leonard a cripple, Rhonda became furious. She couldn't control her temper anymore.

"If that's what you think, I have nothing more to say. You better break up with Leonard."

"Rhonda, you are selfish! You always say you love your brother the most. When did you become stingy? Can't you transfer the ownership of the apartment to Leonard? He is your brother, after all. It looks like everything was a facade. You have been lying the entire time!"

Michelle returned to the ward and picked up her bag. "Leonard, I am breaking up with you!" With that, she stormed out of the room.

Leonard heard the two talking in the corridor, but their voices weren't audible. He only knew they were talking about the apartment.

After Michelle left, Rhonda told Leonard about her proposal. She promised Leonard to give him the apartment if he wanted.

Leonard fell silent when he heard that.

He neither wanted Rhonda's apartment nor to lose Michelle.

Noticing his embarrassment, Rhonda suggested Leonard and Michelle live in her apartment for a while. If she managed to return the five hundred thousand dollars to Eliam without selling the apartment, she would give it to Leonard as a wedding gift.

Rhonda was both physically and mentally exhausted when she returned to the Sloan family's residence. She wanted to talk to someone but had nobody to share her feelings with.

That evening, Rhonda logged in to her Twitter account and saw a post from her follower Sloiam, which said that he had been exhausted lately.

Without thinking much, Rhonda checked his homepage. Sloiam's profile picture was of a young, handsome man she had never seen before.

Rhonda's heart sank with disappointment. She realized the person who had chatted with her the other day wasn't Eliam.

She skimmed across the man's previous posts. Although he didn't show his face, judging from the places he had been to and the lifestyle he had in the pictures, Rhonda could tell he was not Eliam.

Just then, she heard Miranda's shrill voice from the yard. "Where is my silk scarf? Who took it away? Give it back to me now!"

"Ma'am, what kind of scarf are you looking for? Let me help you find it," Tess offered.

"It's a silk scarf with yellow and blue stripes. I bought it from Milan for ten thousand dollars. I saw it last night. But I couldn't find it when I packed my things today. It's gone!" 3

"Your room is usually locked. Logically, no one can take anything from your room," Tess said.

"Well, I'm not sure. Haven't you heard that guarding one's belongings against a thief in the house is more difficult than protecting it from outsiders?" Miranda deliberately shouted at the open window of Rhonda's room.

"What is missing?" Eliam asked.

"It's good that you're back. I lost the silk scarf I bought in Milan. Someone must have stolen it."

"Is it possible that you might have left it somewhere? Who would have stolen it from our house?" Eliam thought Miranda was making a mountain out of a molehill.

"Even I didn't think it was possible. Unless there is a thief in this house." Miranda glanced at Rhonda's room. It was obvious she was suspecting her.

Eliam scowled at Miranda.

"It's just a silk scarf. Auntie Miranda, why are you making a fuss about it and suspecting our family members?"

"I'm not suspecting anyone. If she is innocent, why is she still hiding in the room?"

Since Miranda had made it loud and clear that she was suspecting Rhonda, the latter turned off the computer and walked out of her room.

"Auntie Miranda, I didn't see your silk scarf. Why don't you go back to your room and look for it again?"

"Are you saying I have lost my mind? I looked for it everywhere. It is not in my room!"

"Why don't you ask Eliam to buy you another one?"

"Another one? It's easy for you to say. The scarf is worth ten thousand dollars. Are you going to pay for it?"

Eliam's frown deepened when he saw Miranda getting aggressive.

He suppressed his anger and asked, "Auntie, what do you want to do?"

"I want to check Rhonda's room to see if..."

"Auntie!" Eliam interrupted her.

"I trust Rhonda!" Then, he walked over and held Rhonda's hand. "I have work tomorrow, so I can't drop you at the airport."

The warmth of his palm made Rhonda feel safe -- as if she had someone to rely on.

Miranda became furious.

"She has wrapped you around her little finger. You haven't been treating me well since you married Rhonda. I can't stay in this house any longer. I will leave tomorrow and never set foot in this house again!"

"This is always your home. You can come here whenever you want. Both Rhonda and I will always welcome you."

"No, thanks! Diana has done so much for you, but you forgot her too soon. I'm no exception. I think you'll forget me as well after I leave. That's all right. I don't want to worry about you anymore!" Miranda growled.

Rhonda had never seen her get this angry.

Fearing that Eliam would say something more that might infuriate Miranda, she gently tugged at his sleeve.

Eliam gave her a reassuring nod and looked at Miranda. "Auntie, you are my family. I will never forget you. As for Diana, she is like a sister to me. I will try my best to take care of her. But I can't fulfill your wish by marrying her because Rhonda is my wife now." 

Rhonda was confused. She didn't know whether Eliam meant his words or said them to comfort his grandfather.

Despite the reason, her heart took a sprint in her chest.

Miranda didn't expect such a blunt response from Eliam. "Does Diana know about it? Have you made it clear to her?"

Eliam nodded.

"Yes, I made everything clear to her tonight."

Rhonda's heart skipped a beat. Her palms grew sweaty as a rush of happiness swept over her.

Miranda was too angry to even utter a word. She turned around and walked into her room.

Eliam took Rhonda back to their room.

The two sat on the sofa. Moments later, Eliam took out a beautiful jewelry box from his bag.

"What's this?"

"Open and see." Eliam handed the box to Rhonda.

Rhonda thought it might be a brooch. However, a startled gasp escaped her lips when she saw a diamond ring glistening before her.

The diamond was bigger than the one she wanted before. It looked exquisite, and Rhonda guessed it must be expensive.

However, she controlled her excitement and placed the ring back into the box.

"What's wrong? You don't like it?"

Rhonda shook her head. "It's beautiful. But are you sure it's for me?"

Eliam's face turned pale in an instant. "Are you doubting my sincerity?"

"I just think it's too sudden. You didn't give me a ring when we got married. What made you get this for me now?"

"Do you remember we went to a shopping mall when we returned from the sea last time?"

"Yes. You bought me an expensive outfit."

"We went to a jewelry store before that. You tried on a ring, and I remembered the size. I didn't buy it then because I thought it was too cheap, and I hadn't made up my mind then."

"About what?" Rhonda asked nervously.

"About you. About us. I didn't decide whether I should be with you or not."

Chapter 62 A Sudden Surprise

 +120 Points at most

"What about now?"

"I think I'm ready. Would you like to give me the chance to look after you?"

Eliam took Rhonda's hand and slid the ring onto her finger.

A wave of happiness consumed Rhonda. It felt surreal, like a beautiful dream she never wanted to wake up from.

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