

Chapter 63 Give Him To Me

Eliam didn't force Rhonda to answer him right away. He wanted to give her ample time and space to think about it. Therefore, he slept in the study that night.

Rhonda lay on the bed, examining the ring. She slid it back and forth her finger and realized the size was perfect.

She had no idea what Eliam had told Diana. But from what Rhonda knew of her, she was sure Diana wouldn't give up without a fight.

Eventually, Rhonda drifted off to sleep. That night, she had a dream where Diana asked her out to meet and humiliated her in front of everyone.

Rhonda woke up in a fit of anger.

However, little did she know the nightmare would come true.

It was Monday the next day. Rhonda went to her company to attend the weekly meeting.

As soon as she stepped into the company's gate, she received a call from Diana. She wanted to meet her at a cafe in the shopping mall at noon.

Rhonda wanted to refuse, but Diana warned her that she would come to her workplace if she didn't come to see her.

Although Rhonda felt Diana wouldn't know where she worked, she feared the latter might somehow show up at the company and cause trouble. It would be too embarrassing if that happened.

At noon, Rhonda arrived at the cafe on time.

Diana was wearing a milky white dress and exquisite makeup.

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 +120 Points at most

Her black curly hair loosely cascaded down her shoulders, which made her look sexy and elegant.

She cast a contemptuous look at Rhonda, her nose scrunching up with disgust.

"Miss Horton, what would you like to drink?" Diana asked haughtily, looking like a regal princess. Diana had ordered a cup of coffee. She tossed some sugar into the cup and stirred it leisurely.

"No, thanks." Rhonda came straight to the point. "I know you didn't call me just to have coffee with me."

"Of course not." Diana took a sip of coffee and said, "I want to talk to you about Eliam. Are you aware of our past?"

"Yes. I am aware."

"Did Richard speak ill of me?" Diana asked bitterly. "If it weren't for him, I would have married Eliam."

"Grandpa has never said anything bad about you."

"He always supports you. You will obviously defend him." Diana sneered. "I grew up in an orphanage. I had a tough time there. Do you know what the caretaker told me? Never trust people's words. That's the biggest lesson of my life."

"Are you an orphan?" Rhonda's eyes widened. She thought Diana was from a wealthy family but didn't expect her to be an orphan.

"You seem surprised. Eliam's uncle adopted me when I was seven years old. Eliam's parents were still alive then. I used to play with him all the time. Unfortunately, his parents passed away in an accident. I lived with the Sloan family to be with Eliam. Later, my adoptive parents decided to emigrate. I didn't want to leave Eliam, nor did he want to leave me. The adults discussed it and finally agreed to let me stay with the Sloan family."

She paused before continuing, "All the members of the Sloan

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family were kind to me -- especially Auntie Miranda. She wasn't married then. She always took me and Eliam out to play. She bought us many toys and new clothes."

While she recalled the past, the happy smile never left her face. "I remember once I was ill and had a high fever. Eliam stayed with me for three days. He didn't leave my side and had lost a lot of weight. Eliam was terrified. I still remember his words vividly. He said he wouldn't live if I died. We grew up together, and our bond became stronger. Some boys in school chased after me. Eliam beat them up and warned them not to bother me. He said I was his girl and that he would only marry me."

Suddenly her face fell. "If it weren't for that fateful summer..."

Diana's eyes dimmed. She took a deep breath and continued, "I participated in a beauty pageant and won the championship. A famous playboy was interested in me then. He asked me out and wanted me to be his girlfriend, but I rejected his proposal right away. He became angry and sent people to kidnap me, took naked photos of me, and posted them online."

Diana broke down crying.

"Back then, I was preparing for the wedding. After the fiasco, Richard came to me and said I no longer deserved his grandson. He gave me money and asked me to leave Eliam."

Rhonda quietly listened to Diana.

Ultimately, Diana's sadness turned into anger. Her face reddened. "You know what? Richard's men forced me to board the plane. After that, he cut off all ties between Eliam and me and made it impossible for me to contact him. Later, Auntie Miranda found me. She gave me Eliam's e-mail address and phone number. But it was too late!"

Diana closed her eyes and let out a weary sigh.

"Auntie Miranda told me everything about you and Eliam. I know you married him for the money and don't love him. But I love him. I hope you understand how important he is to me. Please give him back to me. I've waited for him for five years. I don't

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want to wait any longer."

 +120 Points at most

Diana was back to her arrogant self.

The drastic transition of her countenance made Rhonda uncomfortable.

Although Diana had been through a lot, it wasn't right for her to use that as an excuse to boss people around to get things done.

"Sorry. I can't promise that." Rhonda crossed her arms over her chest.

"Why not?"

"Because I don't want to." 1

"What sort of an excuse is that?" Diana looked into Rhonda's eyes. "I didn't tell you all this to beg you to let go of Eliam. I'm warning you to stay away from me and Eliam."

"Look, I'm not interested in your past. Eliam is my husband now; that's all that matters to me. I don't care about his past or what he did before marrying me, and I don't want to know about it either."

Rhonda's determination infuriated Diana. She angrily pounded the table.

"Rhonda, you better be nice to me when I show you respect. Don't force me to make your life difficult."

"All right. Let's wait and see." Rhonda stood up and left without looking back.

Rhonda's reaction startled Diana. Usually, girls from humble families wouldn't handle such threats. They would surrender to avoid problems. However, Rhonda was eerily calm.

Diana wondered if she was pretending to be calm.

She eventually left the cafe and got in David's car. Since Diana's servant was at the Sloan family's residence, looking

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after Richard, Eliam appointed David to look after her.

"Was it you who called Eliam last noon? Or did he come to the studio on his own?" asked Diana.

David remained silent, implying he did call Eliam.

"What did you tell him? Why did he say he wanted to draw a clear line with me? It was out of the blue," Diana barked.

"Miss Leslie, you should ask Mr. Sloan." David was expressionless as usual.

"If he is willing to tell me, why would I ask you?" David's poker face infuriated Diana. "I really don't understand why Eliam appointed you in such a crucial position. You're like a mute person."

"Mr. Sloan doesn't like chatty people," David retorted.

"You!" Diana was annoyed. She took deep breaths and tried luring David, "Just tell me. Even a hint is fine. I'll ask Eliam to give you a house. What do you think?"

"I appreciate your kindness, Miss Leslie. But Mr. Sloan has already arranged a place for me to stay." He didn't appreciate the bribery.

"What should I do to get a hint?" Diana asked anxiously.

"Miss Leslie, did you do anything to Miss Horton or her family lately?" David asked.

"What? I didn't do anything." She denied it, but her flustered face betrayed her.

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David offered a faint smile.

"Miss Horton's brother was left disabled after an accident. Miss Leslie, have you heard about it?"

"Disabled?" Diana's expression shifted immediately. "How could this happen?"

"He's only 21 years old. His life has been shattered." David watched Diana's expression in the rearview mirror as he spoke.

He noticed that after a moment of surprise, Diana secretly smirked.

David was taken aback and slammed on the brakes suddenly.

"What on earth are you doing?" Diana was startled.

"Someone suddenly crossed on the road."

Diana looked at the street but saw no one.

Fifteen minutes later, they reached the villa.

After dismissing David, she promptly called Diego.

At the hospital, a nurse was packing Leonard's belongings. He was due to be discharged today.

Suddenly, a stern-looking middle-aged man entered.

"You must be Leonard Horton, correct?" The man cast a quick glance over Leonard's entire body.

"Who are you?"

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"I'm a friend of your sister. She informed me that you'd be leaving the hospital today and asked me to pick you up."

Half an hour later, Rhonda arrived at the hospital to pick up Leonard.

Upon reaching his room, she discovered that someone had already taken him.

Rhonda tried calling Leonard, but his phone was switched off.

At that moment, Amanda walked in. "Why are you here? Someone already picked up your brother."

"Who took him?"

"A stunning woman. She claimed to be your friend." Amanda pondered, "I feel like I've seen her before. She looks somewhat familiar."

Rhonda immediately thought of Diana. She found a picture of Diana online and showed it to Amanda. "Is this the woman you saw earlier?"

"Yes, that's her."

Rhonda's heart dropped, wondering why Diana would take her brother away.

She quickly dialed Diana's number. Diana admitted to visiting Leonard but denied taking him away.

"Diana, confront me directly if you have an issue with me. If you dare hurt my brother, I will never forgive you!"

"If you don't trust me, you can call the police." With that, Diana hung up.

Without hesitation, Rhonda contacted the police. When they reviewed the hospital's security footage, they saw Leonard leaving the premises unaccompanied in a wheelchair. No one was around him, and there was no evidence of a kidnapping. In the end, the police advised Rhonda to continue searching for

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him on her own.

 +120 Points at most

Rhonda tried to reach Eliam, but the line was busy.

She spent the entire afternoon searching the hospital vicinity without success in finding Leonard.

She shared her brother's picture on her Facebook page, asking friends for help in locating him.

After seeing her post, Robert took leave from work and drove Rhonda around to search for Leonard.

By midnight, there was still no news. They arrived at a gas station on the outskirts of town, near the border between two cities.

Robert exited the car, showing a gas station employee Leonard's photo and inquiring if he had seen the man in the photo.

The employee hesitated before shaking his head, saying he had never seen anyone like that.

Rhonda shuddered as her concern for Leonard turned into fear. What should she do if something had happened to him?

Robert comforted her and guided her back to the car.

At that moment, Eliam finally returned Rhonda's call.

"Have you found your brother?"

"No." Rhonda sounded dejected.

"I just finished work. Where are you now? I'll come to you."

"No, thank you. Dr. Coyle is with me. We've been searching for Leonard for over ten hours. Just focus on your work. I'll update you if we find anything."

Eliam could sense the accusation in her voice. He understood Rhonda's feelings.

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"Send me your location. I'll come to pick you up right away." Eliam spoke with an exhausted tone.

He had been swamped since morning, not even having time for a sip of water. After more than twenty meetings, he finally finished organizing the new project.

"I told you I don't need you. I'll head back with Dr. Coyle soon." Before Eliam could respond, Rhonda ended the call.

"Was that your husband? He seems quite worried about you," Robert said.

"Really? I don't feel that way. Every time I need him most, I can never reach him." Eliam called her again. Rhonda instantly hung up.

He tried four or five more times, but Rhonda didn't answer his calls. She blocked Eliam directly on her phone out of fear that it would run out of battery.

"Have you fallen in love with him?" asked Robert, a tinge of jealousy in his voice.

"Why would you ask that?"

"A girl wouldn't get so upset with someone she doesn't care about. You ignored his calls just now and even blocked him. It seems like you're getting back at him for not answering your calls earlier. You're mad at him, aren't you?"

"No, I'm not." Rhonda stubbornly denied it.

"Alright. I hope that's true." As an onlooker, Robert had a clearer perspective and felt a bit disheartened.

At that moment, his phone rang. It was Eliam.

Eliam's tone grew more assertive when speaking with Robert.

He demanded the location from Robert and said he would be there shortly.

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Robert had no choice but to send him the location.

Half an hour later, Eliam showed up.

He mentioned that he had reviewed the security footage, and the car Leonard got into had headed in this direction. It appeared they had left the city.

Eliam approached the gas station staff and asked about Leonard.

The staff shook his head once more.

Rhonda believed Eliam was wasting time.

Seeing this, Eliam pulled out a stack of bills and handed it to the man.

To Rhonda's astonishment, the man suddenly admitted to seeing Leonard. He provided a license plate number and described the driver's appearance and traits.

Rhonda was thrilled and prepared to call the police.

Eliam stopped her, explaining that contacting the police would be futile in this situation. If they continued driving, they would cross into another jurisdiction, resulting in a lengthy bureaucratic process before the police could offer assistance. He was afraid that Leonard might not have that much time.

As a result, he asked Robert to take Rhonda back, while he pursued the car himself.

However, Rhonda refused. She insisted on going with Eliam.

Left with no other choice, Eliam took Rhonda along. Robert didn't leave either, following them in his car.

The three of them drove ahead. After exiting the city, they reached a fork in the road. They decided to split up and search for the car that had taken Leonard.

Eliam drove for over an hour, periodically stopping to ask locals

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for information. Eventually, they arrived at a deserted courtyard.

The car they sought was parked there.

Eliam and Rhonda hurried over and spotted Leonard, seemingly unconscious, slumped in the back seat.

"Leonard, wake up!" Rhonda frantically pounded on the window.

Eliam searched the house but found no one.

He grabbed a rock from the ground and hurled it at the window.

At last, they opened the door and carried Leonard out.

It was then that Robert showed up.

He examined Leonard and determined that he had been drugged with a sedative but was not in any immediate danger.