

Chapter 73 Show Herself In Her True Colors

In the hospital room, Richard lay back against the pillows, his face grave and eyes piercing. He hardly resembled someone who had recently suffered a stroke.

His personal attorney stood beside the bed, updating him.

"Have there been any developments regarding Leslie Group?" Richard asked in a cold tone.

"Lately, there have been frequent changes among Leslie Group's top executives. Charlton Leslie is looking to expand into Timhoom and is covertly investigating Sloan Real Estate's operations and shareholders."

Richard scoffed, "He just can't let go. Sloan Real Estate is nothing more than an empty shell now. No matter how much he digs, he won't find anything."

Richard had founded Sloan Real Estate. At the time, Eliam's parents were also shareholders, and Eliam's uncle, Charlton Leslie, served as the company's financial director.

Later, due to contract fraud, Sloan Real Estate faced a crisis when a small developer swindled them out of three hundred million dollars, causing severe capital turnover issues. Eliam's parents were attempting to locate the developer when they tragically died in a car accident at sea.

Charlton chose to leave the company and emigrate instead of staying to share the company's failure as its financial director. He quickly established the Leslie Group overseas and a few years later, the company went public and raised funds, eventually becoming a first-rate real estate enterprise with a market value close to ten billion dollars.

Based on Richard's investigations, Leslie Group's initial capital was a staggering five hundred million dollars. Richard suspected Charlton had

a hand in the contract fraud. Otherwise, how could Charlton have amassed such a substantial sum to establish Leslie Group?

"Back then, Charlton wanted a piece of Sloan Real Estate's shares. He didn't give up until the company went bankrupt." Richard sneered, "He's nothing but a despicable scoundrel. I shouldn't have held him in such high esteem."

"Mr. Sloan, do you plan to transfer all shares of Sloan Real Estate to your grandson, Eliam?" the lawyer James asked.

Richard nodded.

Although Sloan Real Estate appeared to be a shell company, it was, in reality, the controlling entity behind quite a few listed companies. With its market value, Richard could acquire ten Leslie Groups.

"When would you like to proceed with the formalities?"

"After Eliam sees Diana's true colors." Richard gestured toward one of the surveillance cameras, instructing, "Move me to a general ward and install a hidden camera there."

"Are you attempting to draw the snake out of its lair?" James expressed concern. "Aren't you afraid the Leslie family will harm you?"

"In the Leslie family's point of view, I'm just a helpless old man. They believe I no longer pose a threat to them."

Richard looked out of the window.

"As long as Eliam can see Diana's true nature, I can rest easy."

"Why not just tell Mr. Eliam Sloan the truth?"

"If I reveal it to him outright, he might not believe me. Don't forget that Charlton is his uncle, and Diana is a girl who grew up alongside him. The Leslie family holds significant sway over him."

The next morning, Richard was moved to a general ward.

Diana didn't show up in the ward until noon.

As she looked at the frail old man lying in the bed, she felt the thrill of vengeance.

"Grandpa Richard, I have some great news for you. My father is planning to return and expand his business here. He highly values Sloan Real Estate and wants you to transfer its shares to him. He's willing to pay double the price."

Although Sloan Real Estate had been struggling for years, it remained a prestigious name in the real estate industry. Its reputation guaranteed the quality of the homes it built, and many homeowners were loyal to it.

Richard, enraged, shook his head vehemently. "No, no..."

"I'm not asking for your affirmation, I'm merely informing you. The decision is not in your hands. As long as your guardian, Eliam, agrees, the deal is settled."

"You... Impossible!" Richard uttered indistinctly.

"Why are you so stubborn? Sloan Real Estate is a shadow of its former self. Why cling to such a small and shabby company? Do you plan to take it to your grave?"

"You... Get the fuck out!" Richard snapped.

"Humph, I won't leave. I'll stay here to piss you off!" With that, Diana grabbed a cup of hot water and, without a moment's hesitation, threw it in Richard's face.

"You, you..." Richard's face twitched in pain, but he couldn't say anything.

Simultaneously in Eliam's office, James held an iPad in his hand and displayed the live surveillance footage to Eliam.

Seeing Richard mistreated, Eliam slammed his hand on the table and stood up. He never expected that Diana, who appeared gentle and charming, could be so malicious.

However, he quickly composed himself. He looked at James and asked, "My grandfather is only pretending to be ill, right?"

James nodded.

"I understand." Eliam was moved by his grandfather's sacrifice to reveal the truth but didn't want Richard to take unnecessary risks.

"I want to know the truth behind what happened back then." Eliam had always believed that Diana's nude photo was accidental, but now he realized there was more to the story.

"Alright, but I think it's best if Mr. Richard Sloan tells you himself."

Eliam sat down and rewatched the surveillance video. He noticed Diana attempting to force Richard to sign a document using his fingerprint.

He frowned and called Diana.

Diana was startled by the caller ID.

She hurriedly stuffed the contract into her pocket and picked up the call.

"Hi, Eliam. What's going on?"

"Where are you right now?"

"I'm at the hospital taking care of your grandpa. Is something wrong?" Diana detected something off in Eliam's voice. She glanced around and only relaxed when she was certain there were no cameras.

"Nothing. I just wanted to invite you to lunch."

"Now?"

"Yes, now."

After Eliam ended the call, James presented him with a small pill, saying, "This is the medication Diana instructed the nurse to give Richard. I consulted a medical expert. This drug is a type of mental suppressant. After taking it for a week, Richard will become delirious. If taken for a month, he'll be too far gone to comprehend anything."

Eliam accepted the pill and stowed it in a drawer, his expression dark.

"I'll arrange for Grandpa's discharge from the hospital tonight." Eliam didn't want Richard to endure any more suffering in the hospital.

"Mr. Sloan, I suggest waiting another two days. Mr. Richard Sloan wants to find out what their intentions are."

Eliam fell silent for a moment.

"I see."

After James left, Eliam dialed Rhonda's number.

Rhonda was reluctant to pick up, but Eliam persistently called her multiple times. Finally, Rhonda had no choice but to answer.

"What do you want?"

"I... I'm sorry about what happened yesterday." It was rare for Eliam to apologize to anyone.

"Perhaps you're right."

Diana might not be as innocent as she appeared.

"What are you talking about?" Rhonda was in the middle of a meeting at work. "Don't beat around the bush. I'm busy."

"Could you visit Grandpa when you have time? We'll discuss the rest when you get home."

"Fine, I'll come after I finish work." With that, Rhonda ended the call.

"What's going on?" Seeing Rhonda's troubled expression, Margret inquired with concern.

"Nothing. Let's resume the meeting." Rhonda apologized.

Margret cleared her throat and continued, "To ensure fairness, the company has decided to select participants for the Sloan Corporation project through an equitable competition."