

Chapter 10

My gaze was fixed on the stage. Luisa was talking about my project without any shame. I now comprehend the reason for her late arrival. Because she was preparing speeches for my project.

But how did she do that? Who supported her?

Nolan pulled my hand to make me sit down.

"Hey, what's wrong?" he asked.

"T-That's my project," I replied with an angry tone.

"What the hell!" Sara muttered.

"We should complain about it," Nolan said to me as he was about to stand up. But I stopped him by grabbing his wrist.

"We can't do anything now. No one will believe us," I told him while looking at the floor to hide my emotion.

What could I do now? I worked with my blood, sweat, and tears. Although I never entertained the idea of winning the competition, I did want to demonstrate that I am capable of doing it.

I took a glance at the volunteers to whom I had given my pen drive and everything else that I had brought with me. Out of nowhere, one of their eyes locked with mine. Without delay, he avoided making eye contact.

That time, I realized that he helped Luisa. I clenched my hands and stood up from my seat.

"Where are you going?" Sara asked me.

"I'm coming in a minute," I replied, and I approached the volunteer who was looking at the stage.

"How can you do that to me, sir?" I asked him in a tone that was filled with rage.

After turning his head in my direction, he frowned at me. "What are you talking about?"

"What am I talking about? You are the one to whom I submitted my things. How could you give them to Luisa? Why did you help her?"

"I don't know what you are trying to say. Stop talking with me and go back to your seat," he said to me, then went away from the spot where he had been sitting.

It was just as I was going to follow him, but I stopped when I heard my name.

"Sophia, please come on the stage." Professor Wilson spoke out.

I was confused. If Luisa had stolen my work, then what would I present there? Why was my name still there?

Attempting to keep my tears from falling, I made my way to the stage. In preparation for my appearance on stage, I signed my name.

My goal was to avoid making eye contact with the man who was sitting in front of me. When I heard the music coming from behind me, I took a deep breath.

I thought Luisa exchanged her project with me. There were a few occasions when I saw her in order to discuss her project with her new friends.

So I tried to control myself and thought,

'Sophia, it's okay. You can't bluff at this moment. You can just see the project and try to discuss it. At least it will save you from the humiliation of doing nothing.' I just tried to convince myself.

However, my eyes fell on the other people. They appeared to be in a state of shock, as if something was wrong.

My gaze drew to the man in front of me. His eyes darkened as he continued to look at the screen.

I felt breathless because of his fierce look.

What could happen if he behaved like this?

I slowly turned around to look at the screen.

With a loud gasp, I took a step back.

There were some texts displayed with bold characters.

"I LOVE YOU, BRUCE. I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU. PLEASE COME BACK TO ME."

Following the delivery of the sentence, Bruce and my photographs began to slide with gradual momentum.

The shocked look on people's faces changed, and it turned into a mockery. Suddenly, they started laughing at me.

"Such a loser!"

"Didn't I tell you? Bruce broke up with her."

"Yeah, how cheap she is!"

"No, she is a mastermind. In front of Bruce's brother, she wanted to gain sympathy so that Alpha would persuade Bruce to get back with her."

Heading their remarks, I just couldn't hold back the tears. They rolled down my cheeks.

I felt numb. I could not be in shock.

In a hurry, Professor Wilson made his way to the stage and grabbed my arm.

"How can you be so irresponsible, Sophia? I thought you were a brighter student. In front of Alpha, you made fun of us and this event."

As soon as I heard that, my eyes sprang wide. Then I switched my attention to Bryan.

His gaze remained fixed on the screen, which was in the process of presenting photographs of both Bruce and me. Those were the pictures we took when we were in a relationship.

I cast a quick glance over the crowd, and my eyes fell upon a smirking face.

There was a wicked sneer on Luisa's face as she looked at me, indicating that she had done everything in her power to embarrass me in front of everyone.

She believed that if she could insult me in front of Bruce's brother and prove to him that I was stupid, Bruce would never make another attempt to get back at me.

But I did not want Bruce.

I don't want anyone. I just wanted a peaceful life with my family.

"How dare you do such a nonsense thing?" Our dean spoke out with an angry tone.

I took one last look at Bryan, who was completely silent during the entire time and never once looked directly into my eyes. Next, I left the stage hurriedly with tears in my eyes.

I tried to leave the hall, but my friends Sara and Nolan stopped me.

"Sophia"

"Calm down. We will talk to the professors."

I shook my head.

"Please leave me alone for some time," I pleaded with them and dashed out of the auditorium.

I kept running in the hallways. I had no idea where I wanted to go right now. In no corner would I find peace.

As I walked past the students, most of them looked at my face in a bewildered expression because they were unaware of what had occurred in the auditorium.

I sobbed in agony. I felt a throbbing pain in my heart. What was the reason that my old wounds came back to me?

I wanted to move on and try to start a new life. How come everything seemed to be dragging me back?

Why couldn't I have a normal life like others?

I was about to go to the entrance area, but suddenly, a hand grabbed my wrist and pulled me to a hard chest.