



Chapter 20 Where Have You Been

Rhonda's promise comforted Richard. He felt he had bet on the right horse. But at the same time, he was worried that Eliam would regret if he missed such a wonderful girl.

Just then, Rhonda's phone rang. It was a call from Robert, asking her to sign the consent form before the surgery.

Only then did Rhonda realize that Leonard hadn't come to the hospital this morning.

Seeing the anxious look on her face, Richard asked her to finish the formalities first and that he would wait here alone.

The international department was pretty close to the inpatient building. Rhonda felt she could return early if she left now. Therefore, she asked the nurse to look after Richard and left.

Nora's surgery was risky, so Robert tried explaining the procedure to her in more detail. Half an hour had passed.

Suddenly, Rhonda's phone rang.

She hurriedly picked up the phone. Before she could say anything, Eliam's cold voice interrupted her.

"I don't care where you are now. If I don't see you here in five minutes, don't set foot into my house ever again!"

With that, he hung up the phone.

Rhonda sprang up to her feet and bolted out. She could hear the suppressed anger in his voice and therefore, understood something must have happened to Richard.

Unaware of what was going on, Robert quickly followed her.

The two came to the international department, gasping for breath. They saw Eliam standing at the door of the resuscitation room.

"What's wrong with Grandpa?" Rhonda asked anxiously.

"Where have you been?" Eliam's jaw tightened, and his face darkened. "I asked you to look after my grandfather, but you left him alone. Do you know that he fainted in the lounge? If I hadn't arrived on time..."

"I just left for a while. How could this happen?"

"A while?" Eliam scoffed, shaking his head. "The nurse said you were gone for at least forty minutes." His eyes reddened with rage. "Rhonda, if you are not competent enough, you should have made it clear to me at the beginning."

"Sir, no one would want such a thing to happen. Don't blame Rhonda for it," Robert defended Rhonda.

Eliam glared at him. "Was she with you all this while?"

"Yes, she is my patient's granddaughter. I was explaining the risks of the surgery to her."

"Oh, really?" Eliam recognized that Robert was the man who had dropped Rhonda home the other night.

"What are you doing here then? Are you trying to be a hero rescuing the beauty?" Eliam's anger had reached its pinnacle. "What's your relationship with her?"

"Eliam, don't get me wrong. It's all my fault and has nothing to do with Dr. Coyle." Although Eliam barely spoke, Rhonda felt he had a gentle temperament. She had never seen him lose his cool before. He was a ball of fury now.

Eliam had fought with her regarding the prenuptial agreement last time. But he didn't seem frightening then.

Rhonda was terrified of him now.

"I'm asking what's your relationship with her!" Eliam's voice reverberated across the silent corridor. Rhonda recoiled in fear.

Robert was also a little scared, but he tried his best to explain, "I am the doctor assigned to treat Miss Horton's grandmother. I followed her because I was worried about her. She got a phone call and ran out of the office. I thought something had happened."

"Who are you to worry about her?" Eliam grabbed Rhonda's arm. "Look, I'm her husband! I hope you stop meddling with other people's affairs in the future."

"You are married?" Robert looked at Rhonda, visibly appalled. The disappointment was evident on his face.

"Yes." Rhonda couldn't understand why he looked frustrated.

"I am sorry. I shouldn't have interfered in your business." Robert turned around and left resentfully.

As soon as he left, Eliam let go of Rhonda. Then, he turned around and walked to the door of the resuscitation room.

Just then, a German doctor walked out of the room. He was Richard's attending physician, Dr. Smith.

Dr. Smith talked to Eliam in German. Eliam's German was limited to basic daily communication, but he couldn't understand the medical terms.

However, Rhonda surprisingly spoke to the doctor in fluent German. After all, she learned German in college.

Eliam watched Rhonda with wide eyes as she found out Richard's condition.

"What did he say?" Eliam asked her desperately.

"Dr. Smith said that Grandpa's vitals look good for the time being, but his condition doesn't seem optimistic, so we shouldn't build hopes up. There is a specific medicine in Germany that can slightly relieve..."

"Can we go inside to see Grandpa now?" Eliam asked worriedly.

Rhonda translated it for him.

Dr. Smith nodded and led them into the resuscitation room.

Richard had regained consciousness. He smiled as Rhonda and Eliam walked in together.

"I'm fine. Don't worry."

Dr. Smith's interpreter hadn't arrived yet. Therefore, he invited both Eliam and Rhonda to his office and asked if Rhonda could translate for him.

Dr. Smith took out Richard's medical records, pointed out several key points to Eliam, and explained the subsequent treatment plan.

Rhonda's accurate translation enabled the conversation to proceed smoothly.

She was humble and calm while seamlessly translating Dr. Smith's words. She astonished Eliam.

Finally, he confirmed the date of Richard's surgery and the follow-up treatment plan with the doctor.

Dr. Smith appreciated Rhonda's exceptional translation skills and also praised her beauty in poor English. He asked if he could hire her as his personal interpreter during his work in the hospital.

Before Rhonda could say anything, Eliam politely declined the offer.

Dr. Smith felt sorry and exchanged phone numbers with Rhonda.

Considering Richard's physical condition, Dr. Smith suggested he stay in the hospital for a week for a thorough physical examination.

However, Rhonda couldn't simultaneously look after Richard and her

grandma. Therefore, Eliam hired a nurse for his grandfather. That way, Rhonda had time to take care of Nora.

After they came out of the ward, Eliam stopped Rhonda.

"Thank you for your help today. I... I was a little agitated this morning..." Eliam hemmed and hawed. He wanted to apologize but couldn't find the right words.

Rhonda found Eliam adorable and wanted to tease him.

"Why were you so rude to Dr. Coyle in the morning? Are you jealous?"

"No." Eliam denied it right away.

Rhonda felt a little disappointed.

"Don't get me wrong. I just lost control of my emotions back then. Well, even if you really like that doctor, I won't mind. I just hope you don't leave my grandfather alone next time."

The blood on Rhonda's face drained in an instant.

She wondered if Eliam hadn't forgiven her yet or if he had misunderstood her. Rhonda wanted to explain, but her mind flitted to the photo she saw in the morning.

Therefore, she swallowed her words.

Rhonda felt since she didn't have a place in Eliam's heart, there was no point in explaining herself to him.

Eliam deliberately slowed his pace, but Rhonda didn't utter a word. For some reason, he felt dejected.

During the next few days, Rhonda stayed with Richard during the day and accompanied Nora in the evening. Eliam seemed to avoid her for some reason. He would visit Richard only after she left his ward.

Soon, it was time for Nora's surgery.

The surgery was scheduled for three o'clock in the afternoon, and Robert would be performing it. ①