

Chapter 23 Cristina's Plan

"All right. Since Cristina is pleading for you, I'll give you another chance. You go back and think about where you kept the money. If you remember where it is, put it back in the safe, and we all can pretend this has never happened. What do you think?"

Rhonda became furious. After all, he was indirectly stating that she had taken the one hundred thousand dollars.

"Mr. Marshall, I don't need to think about it. I didn't take the money. Call the police if you want."

Rhonda turned around and walked out of Stewart's office. She went straight to the monitoring room to check the surveillance video of the past few days after she had taken leave. But they told her that the surveillance video was deleted. She couldn't find anything.

Rhonda returned to her office and checked the safe. As expected, the one hundred thousand dollars was gone.

She checked other items in the safe and found that all of them were still there.

After thinking for a while, Rhonda picked up her phone and called Sandra.

The latter finally answered the phone after a long time.

Rhonda asked her why she resigned. Sandra said it was because she had found a better job. Then, Rhonda asked her about the one hundred thousand dollars. Sandra was with her when she opened the safe last time before asking for leave.

Sandra stammered. She couldn't even finish a complete sentence. Finally, she only warned Rhonda to be careful about Cristina and that the latter might have the key to the safe.

Just then, Cristina came in.

"Rhonda, I advise you to put the one hundred thousand dollars back in the safe as soon as possible. Otherwise, if Mr. Marshall calls the police, you will not be able to prove your innocence," she threatened.

Rhonda put down the phone and glared at Cristina. "Why can't I prove my innocence? You go to Mr. Marshall's office daily and have access to the key to the safe. That makes you a suspect too."

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

"That's bullshit! You are the financial manager, and you were the last one to see the money. Don't sling mud at me."

"Okay, let's call the police now and ask them to investigate. Even if the surveillance video is deleted, there must be fingerprints and other clues left," Rhonda barked.

"You want to call the police? Think about it carefully. You are the main suspect in this issue. The police will investigate you first. Even if you didn't do it, you might have to stay at the police station until the investigation ends. Isn't your grandmother in the hospital and has just undergone surgery? Aren't you afraid she will have no one to look after her?"

Rhonda was stunned. Cristina suddenly seemed to think smart and make calculative statements, which reminded her of Santino.

She also remembered the surveillance video of the office was deleted. Santino had once hacked into the college's system and helped his classmates change their grades.

Seeing that Rhonda was silent, Cristina assumed she was afraid. "Rhonda, we have been classmates and colleagues for so many years. Now that you are in trouble, I can't just stand by and do nothing. I have a solution to your problem."

"What's that?" Rhonda was sure that Cristina had prepared everything in advance.

Cristina pretended to think for a while and said, "I have saved some money over the years, which is about two hundred thousand dollars. I would like to give it to you. That way, you can not only pay the missing one hundred thousand dollars back to the company but also remit the hospital fee to cure your grandmother."

"What's the condition?"

"Well, in return, I want you to sell your apartment to me."

"Do you want to buy my apartment for two hundred thousand dollars?" Rhonda didn't expect that Cristina was coveting her apartment. Bile rose in her throat.

"If that's not enough, I can give you another one hundred thousand dollars, but I have to make an IOU note, so I will only be able to pay you two hundred thousand dollars now."

"How come you have so much money?" A few days ago, Cristina paid sixty thousand dollars for Santino. As far as Rhonda knew, that must have been her entire savings.

"It's none of your business. Just tell me if you are willing to sell the apartment to me," Cristina said arrogantly. "If yes, we can sign the contract right away."

Rhonda narrowed her eyes. "No! I don't want to. Like I said earlier I would never sell my apartment to you and Santino."

"Rhonda, don't be so ungrateful. I'm only trying to help you!"

"Thanks for your kindness." Rhonda stepped closer to Cristina and smiled. "Cristina, go back and ask Santino not to think too highly of himself. I already taught him a lesson, and I might do it again if he tries to mess with me!"

"What do you mean, Rhonda?" Cristina shuddered when she saw the knowing smile on Rhonda's face. But the latter left without saying anything else.

On the way to the hospital, Rhonda wondered if Santino had deleted the



surveillance video remotely and if there was a way to restore the footage.

Just then, her mind flitted to Patrick.

Rhonda came to the ward. Nora just had an operation last night and was a little weak. But her face beamed with joy when she saw Rhonda.

Nora told Rhonda that Leonard had visited her with his girlfriend in the morning. She also asked if Santino had been busy lately and why Rhonda had stopped talking about him.

Rhonda didn't want Nora to worry about her, so she told her that Santino had gone abroad and would only return the next year.

Nora kept asking Rhonda to urge Santino to come back soon. She was worried that someone might snatch him away.

Rhonda smiled bitterly.

Then, she went to visit Richard in the afternoon.

Just as she walked past the outpatient hall, someone stopped her.

Rhonda turned around and saw Santino and Cristina.

"What are you doing here?" They were the last people Rhonda wanted to see.

"We came to visit your grandmother. We called you several times. Why didn't you answer?" said Cristina.

"Who asked you to come here?" Rhonda's nose scrunched up with disgust. "That's my grandmother, not yours. Please leave now!"

"Hey, what's wrong with you? We are classmates, after all. Your grandmother is ill, so we came to see her. Is that wrong?"

Rhonda was astounded. She had never seen such a shameless person before.

"Cristina, our friendship ended the very moment you and Santino betrayed



me. You two are mere strangers to me. I don't want to be associated with you guys in any way."

"What happened?" asked a concerned voice. The three turned and saw Robert. He had just returned to work and was in casual clothes.

"Nothing. I met two acquaintances."

Cristina's heart skipped a beat when she saw the tall, handsome Robert. He was not only handsome but also gentle and chivalrous. She hated that Rhonda was always lucky with men.

"Rhonda, is this your husband?" Cristina asked, her voice dripping with jealousy.

"He..."

Before Rhonda could finish her words, Santino rushed over and grabbed her wrist. "Rhonda, you married this man after knowing him for a few days?"

"That's none of your business!" Rhonda grew irritated. "Who the hell are you to question me? You have no right to meddle in my affairs!"

"Rhonda, we just broke up two weeks ago. Have you known him all this while and kept it a secret from me?" Santino's roars attracted everyone's attention.

"So what? When you could hook up with my friend, why can't I have an affair?" Rage clouded Rhonda's mind. She spoke without realizing what she was saying.

Santino's anger reached its peak. He raised his hand to slap Rhonda.



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