

## Chapter 9

Christina stared coldly at Andrew, her eyes filled with disappointment, anger, and a hint of jealousy that she did not even realize.

"Andrew, I can't believe you found someone new so quickly after we ended things," she said bitterly. "How foolish of me to feel guilty all this time. I guess I was just fooling myself!"

Andrew shot back, "When it comes to moving on quickly, I could never match your efficiency, Ms. Stevens!"

"You... Fine, you win. I can't argue with you anymore," Christina stammered, at a loss for words.

Lauren's beauty, curvaceous figure, and commanding presence all made Christina feel incredibly insecure. If the woman by Andrew's side had been plain or unremarkable, she might have brushed it off. Yet, Lauren was different—she posed a real threat.

This woman did not fall short in any aspect compared to Christina. She even surpassed her in some ways, like her more prominent cleavage. Lauren was the complete package, oozing charm and sex appeal.

Shawn's lewd stare said it all.

Moreover, this gorgeous woman was now clinging to the man Christina had given up. It felt like a slap in the face, as if the universe was mocking her for being blind to Andrew's worth.

"Andrew, I think we need to talk privately," Christina said, taking a deep breath and looking directly at him.

Andrew remained unmoved. "I'm sorry, Ms. Stevens, but I have nothing



to say to you."

"Andrew, do you really want to embarrass me in public like this?"  
Christina snapped, her eyes starting to water.

Andrew's resolve wavered slightly when he saw her vulnerable expression. "Alright, maybe we should—"

Before Andrew could finish, Lauren tightened her grip on his hand and interjected sweetly, "Andy, some people may have looked down on you and pushed you away. But don't worry, I'm here now. Whatever you want, I'll give it to you!"

Her affectionate display made Shawn grit his teeth in envy. He wanted nothing more than to take Andrew's place. He wondered just how many lifetimes of good karma this bastard cashed in to have such a beauty throw herself at him. 1

Christina spun around and hurried away, her dress rustling as she moved. Only when she was out of sight did she finally let the tears she had been holding back spill down her cheeks.

Christina thought Andrew had gone too far. She had been worried about him all along, yet he was flaunting another woman right in her face. 3

"Christie, Christie, wait up!" Irene and Shawn called out, suddenly flustered.

Irene turned to Andrew, her face twisted with malice. "You little bastard, look what you've done to Christie! Don't get cocky. A loser like you who lives off women will get what's coming to you sooner or later. You'll be kicked to the curb in no time!" 1

Shawn glared at Andrew. "Miss, step aside. This piece of trash needs to



be taught a lesson today."

Feeling triumphant after driving Christina away, Lauren coldly replied, "I'm warning you one last time. My name is Lauren Rhodes. Andy is with me, and if you dare touch him, I'll make sure you regret it." 1

"Lauren Rhodes? You're the Rhodes family heiress, Jayrodale's most beautiful woman?" Shawn exclaimed, suddenly backing down. After all, the Rhodes family was too powerful for even the Fields family to mess with.

Shawn skulked away, but his envy and frustration were at their peak. He was in disbelief at how a loser like Andrew deserved such luck. He had just broken up with Christina, yet he immediately met a better, almost perfect woman.

"Dr. Lloyd, you're not upset that I interfered just now, are you?" Lauren asked with an innocent smile. 1

Andrew could not bring himself to be angry. He smiled wryly and said, "I know you meant well, Ms. Rhodes. You were trying to stand up for me." 1

Lauren's eyes twinkled mischievously. "What if I wasn't just standing up for you? What if I was serious?"

Andrew looked at her, puzzled.

Lauren leaned in close, her soft body almost pressed against Andrew's. "To be honest, Dr. Lloyd, I'm kind of tempted to... turn this act into reality, " she whispered, her warm breath tickling his ear. 2

With a playful giggle, Lauren walked toward the fundraising hall with her bodyguards. 2



Andrew shook his head, silently calling her a tease, but could not help smiling as he followed her inside. 2

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"Christie, do you still have feelings for that loser?" Shawn asked with resentment as the Stevens Corporation group entered the fundraising hall under the watchful eyes of many guests.

Irene chimed in, "Christie, dear, you saw how useless that good-for-nothing is. Now that he's left you, he's latched onto someone else. It's embarrassing just thinking about it!" 1

Christina had already regained her composure. "I've cut all ties with him. Whatever he does is none of my business. I just didn't expect him to be so disrespectful, bringing a woman here just to spite me." 2

Shawn gritted his teeth and said, "That woman is Lauren Rhodes, the heiress of the Rhodes family. She's Jayrodale's number-one socialite. I can't fathom what she sees in that loser Andrew."

Christina's face showed a flash of surprise, then understanding. "Of course, it all makes sense now." 1

When Shawn looked puzzled, Christina explained, "Think about it. Who here tonight can compete with Stevens Corporation for the orphanage property? Clearly, only the Rhodes family has that kind of financial power. Lauren's apparent intimacy with Andrew is just a ploy to throw me off my game." 6

Shawn slapped his thigh in agreement. "That's gotta be it! I knew there was no way someone like her would actually be interested in Andrew. So, he's just an idiot, unknowingly used by Lauren as a tool to mess with your



head. I've got to admit, she's quite sneaky!"

Christina's face lit up with a confident smile. "I went through a lot to bring Stevens Corporation to where it is today, and I'm not a fragile woman who's easily shaken. The Rhodes family may be loaded, and Lauren might seem perfect, but I'm no less than her." 1

Just then, the host announced the start of the fundraising. According to the rules, whoever donated the most would win the right to purchase the orphanage property.

"Christie, how much are you planning to donate?" Shawn inquired. 2

Christina's voice was filled with determination. "Enough to crush any competition. I've said it before — Stevens Corporation will have this property, no matter what." 1

Shawn was quick to flatter her. "Christie, you may be a woman, but you have more guts than most men! With the Fields family backing you up, we've got this in the bag!" 1

Irene beamed with pride. "Well said, Shawn! Christie has always been perfect. That's why that loser Andrew should stay far, far away from her!"



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