

Chapter 28 Annabel, Thank You

Annabel bowed and said politely, "I'm sorry. I have to leave for a while."

"Where are you off to?" Rupert asked with a slight frown.

"Lunch will be served soon."

What was so important that Annabel wanted to leave at this time?

"Something just came up." With that, Annabel stood up and walked out of the door.

She called the doctor at the veterinary hospital. "Hello, Annabel Hewitt speaking. I dropped off a dog for treatment a few days ago. How is it now?"

The veterinarian's voice came from the other end of the phone. "I was just about to call you. The dog has fully recovered."

"Oh, that's good to know. I'm on my way to pick it up now," said Annabel, breathing a sigh of relief.

The dog Annabel saw Bruce holding in the picture shared a striking resemblance with the stray dog she saved some days back. More so, the collar was exactly the same.

She could feel it in her guts that the stray dog was the long-lost Dolly.



Judging how sad Rupert looked when he spoke about the dog, it seemed that it meant a lot to Bruce. Annabel wanted to get the dog back to the old man right away.

Erica was fuming. "What's wrong with Annabel? She just walked out on all of us!"

Heather echoed, "I can't believe she left us all to wait for her before having lunch. Who does she think she is?"

Rupert glanced at Bruce and said, "I guess there's an emergency at work, so she went to deal with it."

He made an excuse for Annabel even though he didn't know why she left in a hurry. He just couldn't sit back and watch these women badmouth her.

"Oh, stop making up excuses for her. What's so important than spending time with your grandfather?"

Erica raised her voice. "She's such a rude lowlife! Heather is much more respectful and decent than her."

A smug smile appeared on Heather's face. She feigned shyness and said, "I'm flattered, Erica."

Bruce's face darkened. "I'm not offended at all. Since Annabel rushed to the company to solve a problem once she received the news, it shows she's hardworking. That's commendable."

Erica was rendered speechless by the old man's words. Similarly, jealousy ravaged Heather's insides.



She bit her lower lip and cursed Annabel out in her mind.

She hated that bumpkin! Why did Bruce value her so much? In terms of family background and appearance, Annabel was no match for her. Why didn't Bruce like her instead?

Despite the questions Heather badly wanted to ask Bruce, she put on a worried expression and said, "Annabel should have told us when she will get back. It's already lunchtime. Bruce, you shouldn't go hungry. You need to be fed so you can recover faster."

"Let's just eat." Rupert frowned.

He knew why Erica and Heather came here today.

Although his engagement to Annabel was just for convenience, he couldn't allow anyone to sling mud at her.

"Jaxen, serve the dishes," Bruce ordered.

"Yes, sir," Jaxen said respectfully and ordered the servants to serve the food.

"Please have a drumstick. It is good for your health." Heather picked up a drumstick and put it on Bruce's plate.

Bruce nodded, but he moved the drumstick aside and continued to eat like nothing happened.

Embarrassed, Heather turned to look at Rupert.

Today, Rupert wore a white shirt. The blue tie was loosened a little, and his sleeves were rolled up. He looked more easygoing. However, his handsome face was still cold and alienated.

He was peeling a prawn at this moment.

He looked elegant, noble, and perfect.

Rupert made peeling a prawn look so exotic.

Heather wished she was the prawn. She had always fantasized about being with Rupert.

Why didn't he reciprocate her love even though she gave him several green lights all these years?

Heather quickly peeled a prawn and tried to put it on Rupert's plate. "Here, try this one I peeled for you."

Rupert moved his plate aside and said coldly, "No need. I don't eat what someone else has touched."

The prawn slipped from Heather's hand, fell on the table, and then to the floor.

Heather was stunned. She had swallowed her pride to peel a prawn for Rupert.

However, he turned it down without hesitation.

Her heart ached. "Rupert, I'm not just anyone."

"Don't be mean to her, Rupert. She peeled that prawn out of the goodness of her heart," Erica chimed in.

Rupert pursed his lips. Just as he was about to say

something, he caught glimpse of a familiar figure from the corner of his eye.

He showed a soft smile. He raised his eyebrows and called out, "Annabel!"

Following the direction of Rupert's gaze, Heather saw Annabel trotting back with a white dog in her arms. She screamed, "Annabel, why did you bring a dog here? We are having lunch. Get that thing away!"

"Woof! Woof! Woof!" The dog began to bark and struggled to get off Annabel's arms.

"You are in a hurry, huh?" With a smile, Annabel bent down and let go of the dog. It took to its heels, jumped on Bruce's legs, and rubbed against him intimately.

"Dolly!" Bruce's eyes lit up. He was so excited that his hands trembled slightly. He looked at the dog in his arms in disbelief.

"Woof! Woof!" Dolly barked as if it was responding in the affirmative.

"So good to see you, Dolly. I have missed you so much!" Bruce stroked Dolly's fur, tears welling up in his eyes.

The long-lost dog was finally home!

"Annabel, where did you find Dolly?" Rupert's inquiring eyes fell on Annabel.

Only now did it dawn on him that Annabel went out to

fetch Dolly.

She had only seen a picture of the dog a few minutes back. How she was able to bring Dolly back so soon? Where she did see it?

Rupert had so many questions in his mind.

Annabel had come back on foot, so she was a little out of breath.

She took a few deep breaths before answering with a smile, "Do you remember when I was late for work a few days ago and Nina almost fired me?"

Rupert nodded.

He remembered that day like it was yesterday. After all, he forced Nina to apologize to her after giving her a lecture for treating Annabel badly.

"Well, I was on my way to work that morning when Bernice almost crushed this dog to death. It got injured, so I took it to the vet for treatment," Annabel explained.

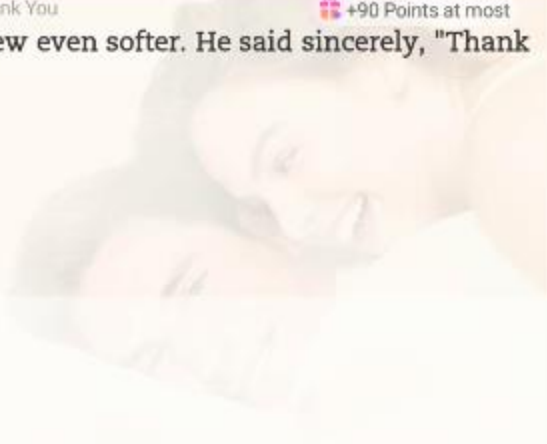
It turned out to be this.

She helped the vulnerable dog without knowing that it belonged to Bruce.

She got late for work because she went the extra mile to make sure the dog was all right. However, she was misunderstood and almost got fired.

This woman's kindness was rare!

Rupert's eyes grew even softer. He said sincerely, "Thank you, Annabel."



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