

Chapter 16 His Admirers

The whimpers of the dog pulled Annabel's attention away from the familiar woman. She rushed it to the vet. Its front leg had been hit by the car before she got it out of the way.

As Annabel waited in the waiting room, she saw from the clock that she was almost running late for work.

She thought for a while before dialing Rupert's number.

"What's up?" Rupert's low and cold voice came from the other end of the phone.

"Erm. I just called to inform you that something came up. I'll be some hours late this morning." Annabel asked for permission for late coming.

"And how is that my business? You don't have to inform me about such a trifle!" Rupert uttered irritably.

The next second, the call was disconnected.

Annabel pursed her lips. She wondered why he was behaving indifferent, yet so angry. Perhaps he was still not in a good mood.

Anyway, she had done her part by informing him. The vet examined the dog carefully and reported that it was just a small wound that would heal in no time.

"Oh, that's good to know, but can it be admitted here for further observation?" Annabel was still a little worried.

"Of course!" responded the veterinarian with a smile.

Annabel paid two thousand dollars for the treatment and left without the dog. She planned to find someone to adopt it once it completely recovered.

It was almost eleven o'clock by the time Annabel arrived at Benton Group.

"Annabel, do you have any idea what time it is? Why did you arrive so late?" Nina approached Annabel with a deep frown, not even giving her time to catch her breath.

"Good morning, Nina. It wasn't intentional. I had something to deal with this morning," Annabel said politely.

"It wasn't intentional?" Nina sneered. "Spare me your silly excuse, Annabel. You are just a newbie, but you are already skipping work. Are you doing this because you already consider yourself as the boss's wife?"

Despite her irritation, Annabel uttered calmly, "Let me get this straight. I'm late, not absent from work. Besides, I already applied for permission for late coming, so I'm not in the wrong here."

"Shut up! How dare you talk back at me? When did you ask me for permission? You know what? I can't tolerate your excesses anymore. You are fired!" Nina pointed at

Annabel, her anger shooting to the roof.

Sensing that the matter was getting out of hand, Annabel pushed Nina's finger away and said firmly, "I asked Mr. Benton for permission. You just fired me because I came late. Does that mean you have more authority than the owner of this company?"

Nina looked horrified for a second. When she saw that a crowd had gathered, she stuttered, "You are taking nonsense. Let's go to Mr. Benton's office so he can set things straight."

"Okay, let's go." Annabel readily agreed.

She had it in mind to expose Nina for how she made her stay at work overtime last night.

Pulling Annabel by the arm, Nina walked to the door of the CEO's office. She tidied her hair and clothes and looked at herself in the glass nearby before knocking on the door.

Compared to Nina, it could be said that Annabel looked a mess.

She had been through a lot just to save the stray dog earlier. Her neat suit was wrinkled, and there was a mud stain on her shirt from hugging the dog so tightly.

Seeing how Nina paid attention to her looks and put on a smile, Annabel finally understood why she was so mean to her.

Nina had a thing for Rupert.

Annabel happened to be Rupert's nominal fiancée.

No wonder Nina regarded her as a thorn in the flesh.

"Come in."

Nina's smile got more enchanting as soon as she heard Rupert's attractive voice. She opened the door gently.

Her smile froze the second she got into the office.

Annabel walked in. She peered over Nina's shoulder and saw a woman standing very close to Rupert.

This woman was beautiful, to say the least. Her long curly chestnut hair fell over her neck and reached her cleavage. The red short skirt she was wearing set off her curves and pretty legs.

Her made-up face was familiar. She was the same woman who almost ran over the stray dog and cursed Annabel this morning.

"Mr. Benton, this is the featured product for next season..."

The woman stood very close to Rupert. Her beautiful eyes gleamed with obsession.

Everything made sense now. It turned out that this woman was an employee here. No wonder she looked familiar.

And judging from her expression, she must be one of Rupert's admirers.

Crazy! How many women had a crush on this cold-blooded man?

Annabel frowned slightly and looked at the lofty man with dissatisfaction.

He looked dashing in the black handmade Armani suit. His bushy eyebrows were knitted. Under his high nose was a pair of thin lips that looked kissable. He looked like a Greek god.

It was no surprise that a handsome and rich man attracted the attention of countless women.

However, Annabel was not one of them.

She wasn't interested in him in spite of his looks and heavy pocket; his arrogance made him undesirable.

Anyway, they would break off their engagement in three months.

It didn't matter to her that there was a string of women trying to win his heart.

