

Chapter 122 A Sudden Explosion

"Alright, then. Let's go." Rupert cast a cold glance at Judson, motioning for him to lead the way.

Soon, their car pulled to a stop in front of No. 1 factory.

"Who's in charge of purchasing raw materials?" Rupert suddenly asked, leafing through the documents Judson had handed to him.

Judson replied, "Sadie. She purchased all the materials for the French branch."

"All the raw materials were purchased by her?" Raising her head to look at Judson, Annabel frowned. "If this was a problem with purchasing, why is it that only No. 1 factory has a problem?"

"True. Sadie has been working with us for ages, and she has been in charge of purchasing for a long time now. I don't think this is her fault." Judson pursed his lips and shrugged.

Annabel asked, "Where is Sadie? I want to see her."

Judson promptly summoned Sadie to his office.

A few minutes later, a stocky, middle-aged woman with curly hair came in.

"Sadie, this is Mr. Benton and Miss Hewitt," Judson said to Sadie with a faint smile. "They want to know all about the

purchasing of the raw materials for the Ice and Fire collection."

Judson then introduced Sadie to Rupert and Annabel. "This is Sadie. You can ask her anything about the purchasing process."

Sadie looked at Rupert apologetically. "I'm sorry, Mr. Benton. I'm the one responsible for purchasing the raw materials. But I can guarantee that there wasn't a problem with any of the material I purchased, and all the procedures were done in accordance with the company's standards."

Rupert nodded and then asked, "Where did you buy these raw materials?"

Sadie brought over the purchase contracts and explained everything to Rupert in detail. "All the raw materials in France are purchased from these three companies. We've been in cooperation with these companies for over three years now, and there has never been any problem before."

"Did you routinely quality check the raw materials when they were purchased?" Annabel asked, leafing through the purchase contracts.

"Yes, all the procedures were done in accordance with the company's standards," Sadie reiterated firmly.

"Okay. Sadie, you can go back to work now." Rupert looked over all the documents and then dismissed Sadie.

Sadie nodded respectfully. "Okay, Mr. Benton. Call me if you need anything."

After Sadie left, Annabel looked at the file in Rupert's hand and asked, "Find anything out of the ordinary?"

Rupert turned to Judson and said in a cold voice, "I need a list of all the people who have access to the raw materials."

"Okay, I'll have someone make the list right away." Judson quickly made arrangements. Soon, the list was sent to them.

It turned out that in addition to the employees in charge of the warehouse, the workers in transportation and production also had the chance to tamper with the raw materials.

Staring at the list of people, Rupert fell into deep thought. "Where are the suspicious raw materials now?"

Judson pointed out the window and said, "They're all in the warehouse over there."

"Just that one warehouse?" Following Judson's gaze, Annabel saw that there were a dozen warehouses in a row.

Judson nodded affirmatively. "Yes."

"Take us to the warehouse," Rupert ordered coldly.

The warehouse where the raw materials were stored was a few dozen meters away from the factory. Normally, there would be employees dedicated solely to the transportation of the raw materials from the warehouse to the factory.


In other words, the materials could've been tampered with during its transportation.

"The warehouse is right over there." Judson pointed at the warehouse ahead of them while leading the way.

Annabel and Rupert walked closely behind Judson.

Just as they were about to reach the warehouse, Judson's phone suddenly rang.

He looked at the caller ID and turned to Rupert apologetically. "I'm sorry, Mr. Benton. I have to take this."

"Okay." Robert waved his hand dismissively and walked on with Annabel. 

The closer Annabel got to the warehouse, the more uneasy she became. She couldn't shake off the feeling that something bad was about to happen.

Suddenly, there was thick smoke coming out of the warehouse in front of them. A burning hot air wave rushed out, and bright orange flames flashed before Annabel's eyes.

"Jesus! It's going to explode!" Stunned, Annabel stopped and urgently started pulling Rupert back.

There was a deafening bang, followed by tremors in the ground.

Thick smoke soared into the sky, forming a mushroom cloud, and the red flames roared to life.

"Annabel, watch out!" Amidst the chaos, Rupert's nervous and anxious voice sounded.

When Annabel raised her head, she saw that a sheet of metal broke off from the roof because of the air waves. It was flying straight toward her.

It all happened so fast. In the blink of an eye, Annabel was

grabbed and shielded by Rupert. The sheet of metal rammed into him with a bang, but he still held her tightly in his arms. ③

The two fell to the ground together, with Annabel's back slamming into the hard concrete.

She gasped in pain.

Before Annabel passed out, she vaguely heard Rupert saying, "Don't be afraid, Annabel. I'm here with you..."

When Annabel woke up again, she was already in the hospital. "Rupert?" Her last memory made Annabel shout subconsciously.

But she was met with silence.

Annabel struggled desperately to peel her heavy eyelids open, only to see the bare, white walls of the hospital ward.

Where was she? And why did her back hurt so much?

Annabel rubbed her temples, trying to gather her bearings.

The last thing she remembered was that she and Rupert went to the warehouse to check the suspicious raw materials, but then the warehouse suddenly exploded.

In that critical moment, it was Rupert who shielded her from harm.

Rupert...

Enduring the pain, Annabel struggled to sit up. Just as she was about to get out of bed, the door to the ward opened and a young woman in a nurse's uniform came in.

"Where is Rupert?" Annabel grabbed her and asked anxiously.

"Huh?" The nurse looked visibly confused.

Annabel asked again, "Where is Rupert? Who brought me here? Is the man I was with okay?"

"I don't know," the nurse replied with a shrug.

Annabel was getting anxious. Was Rupert okay?

She wanted to get out of bed to look for Rupert, but the nurse stopped her. "Miss, you're injured. You need to stay in bed."

"I'm fine!" Frowning, Annabel became more and more agitated.

She needed to make sure Rupert was fine.

However, a strong sense of uneasiness took hold of her.

If Rupert was fine, he would be with her now. So where was he?

Rupert... He must've gotten badly hurt!

