

100 Days 261

Chapter 261 Ambush

Day Twenty Nine...

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Abigail and Bam-Bam exchanged glances with one another. They wondered why Ethan offered his phone and laptop.

"May I borrow your laptop, Ethan," Abigail smiled shyly at the young boy.

Ethan just bobbed his head, setting the table and putting down the laptop for Abigail to use.

Bam-Bam was silently observing Ethan. He rubbed his chin using his paw. He tried to check if Ethan could see him by flying in front of his face. But Ethan's eyes were avoiding him.

Ethan switched on the laptop and entered the password. Abigail couldn't wait to message Nathan. She was afraid that Nathan would misunderstand once again.

If something bad happened to his team, Nathan would think that she was an accomplice of the Red Dragon Mafia. The Sanitarium was a trap. The team would be ambushed by the members of the Red Dragon Mafia.

Abigail immediately logged in to her account. Using her left hand, she tapped the keyboard with her usual typing speed.

[Cliste: August! Don't attack or send your team to the Red Dragon's Sanitarium. It's a Trap! The members of the Red Dragon are already expecting your team's arrival. They'll do an ambush!]

Abigail tapped the table using her fingers while waiting for Nathan's reply. Bam-Bam and Ethan were just silently watching her. They could tell that Abigail was anxious. Her eyes were fixed on the monitor screen as she bit her lips. She was silently praying that Nathan could read her urgent message.

But one minute had passed, and Nathan had yet to read her message. Abigail rubbed the space between her eyebrow. It looked like she had no choice left. She had to notify Nathan through his phone since he was not logged in with his account.

"Ethan, can you call your Dad and relay my message to him?" Abigail asked for Ethan's help to contact Nathan.

Ethan bobbed his head without asking her reason. He trusted Abigail that much.

"What do you want me to tell Dad, Miss Abi?" Ethan picked up his phone, getting ready to dial Nathan's number.

"Tell him that you received an urgent message from Cliste. He should open his account to check it." Abigail could only use Ethan's cooperation so that Nathan would never doubt her message. Who knows if Nathan would also ignore her message as his revenge for what she had done to him yesterday?

After a few rings, Ethan's call was answered by his father. Nathan was walking in the hospital hallway when he noticed that Ethan was calling him.

"Yes, son? Do you need something?" Nathan asked. He was heading to the Billing Section to pay the bill for Abigail's hospitalization. He would also process her discharge. He heard from Ethan that Abigail wanted to go home. (Not her home, but the Sparks Mansion)

"Dad, you have received an urgent message in your account. Check it now. It's from Cliste. Don't worry. I didn't open it but I just saw the word urgent message." Ethan was good at making an alibi. His words seemed believable. At the mention of Cliste's name, Nathan halted on his steps.

"Okay. I'm going back there. Did you bring your laptop with you? I'm going to check it using your laptop. I left mine in the car." Nathan changed his course. Instead of going to the Billing Section, Nathan turned around, proceeding to the elevator.

Meanwhile, Abigail waited for Ethan to finish his conversation with Nathan before speaking up.

"What did he say?" Abigail asked when Ethan hung up the phone.

"Dad is on his way here. He said he wanted to borrow my laptop to check the message."

Abigail gasped and her eyes widened at the realization. Nathan was now on the way to the VIP Ward. He was going to borrow Ethan's laptop which she was currently using.

"Gosh! I have to log out now. But before that, I have to send him a complete message with full details because I won't be able to reply once Nathan used this laptop.

Using only her left hand to type her message, Abigail's fingers moved quickly to compose her message.

[Cliste: Phantomflake was transferred to...] Abigail paused for a moment and glanced at Bam-Bam meaningfully. With their eye-to-eye contact, Abigail was asking Bam-Bam about the exact location and address where her body was taken to.

"St. Benedict Memorial Hospital." Bam-Bam dictated to Abigail as she tried to complete the necessary information she should share with Nathan.

As she continued composing her message, Nathan was inching closer and closer to the VIP Room.

[Cliste: Phantomflake was transferred to St. Benedict Memorial Hospital. VIP Room # 245 on the second floor of the hospital. You will find Phantomflake there. Four bodyguards are exchanging shifts. The Red Dragon's Sanitarium is just a trap. Several armed men are hiding in the different wards, pretending to be patients. Don't fall for their tricks.]

Abigail just finished typing her message when the door slid open and Nathan came into their view. Abigail looked surprised to see him. Their eyes met and Nathan saw the baffled look in her eyes. He shifted his gaze from Abigail's face to the laptop.

Not looking away, Abigail clicked the send button. As Nathan traced his steps toward them, Abigail immediately logged out of her account, hoping that Nathan won't be able to find out that she was Cliste.

When Nathan was about to take the laptop, Abigail reflexively folded it to hide the screen from him. Nathan frowned as he gave Abigail a questioning gaze.

"May I borrow the laptop? I have to check something. I have an urgent message from a friend." Nathan asked Abigail's permission because he felt like Abigail didn't want to give the laptop to him.

Meanwhile, Abigail was taken aback for a moment when Nathan called her 'friend'. She didn't expect to hear that from Nathan.

'Did he just call Cliste his friend? What had gotten into him?' Abigail blinked her eyes while observing Nathan's expression.

Abigail obediently handed the laptop over to him. When Nathan took it, she heaved a sigh of relief. She logged out on time and she already sent the message to SizzlingAugust08.

Nathan headed to the mini-living room and settled down on the sofa. He immediately logged in to his account and Cliste's message popped up right away. He received two messages from her.

The first message was shorter than the second one. Nathan furrowed his eyebrows as soon as he read the content of Abigail's message.

He slammed the table using his clenched fists. "Damn it! I already dispatched the team yesterday. Stephen, Violet, and others are already on the move. They are in danger!"

Nathan didn't waste any more time as he dialed Stephen's number. He had no time to doubt Cliste's message because he needed to warn them as soon as possible. The safety of his best friend and his subordinates depended on this so he didn't want to gamble. He wanted to believe and trust Cliste.

Unfortunately, Stephen's number couldn't be reached. Since they were on a mission, Stephen made sure to leave his personal phone. Nathan tried to contact them once more. This time, he called Violet's phone number. Her phone was ringing but no one was answering.

Nathan cursed inwardly. He had no choice but to track their location. With his computer skill, he could easily trace their current location. He just hoped that the team hadn't reached the Red Dragon's Sanitarium yet.

He dialed Axel's number and put his phone in loudspeaker mode. He was currently tracking their location when the call got connected.

"Hello, sir?" Axel's voice was heard.

"Axel! This is an emergency. Try to contact any members of our team who join Stephen and Violet in Country J. Tell them to abort the mission. Don't enter the vicinity of the Sanitarium. The place is filled with traps. I received intel that the Red Dragon planned to ambush our team."

"Okay, Master! I got it. I will contact them right away!" Axel immediately made a move.

After two minutes, Nathan finally tracked Stephen's and Violet's location. Nathan was surrounded by a chilly aura and his eyes showed a hint of worry for them.

The coordinates stated that Violet, Stephen, and the team were already inside the territory of the Red Dragon Mafia... the Sanitarium.

Abigail, Ethan, and Bam-Bam took a peek at what Nathan was doing in the living room. They could feel the eerie aura emanating from him. From his expression alone, the three already knew that something wrong was going on.

'Shit. Don't tell me Nathan already sent his troops to infiltrate the Red Dragon's Sanitarium. Are we too late?' Abigail had a nagging feeling about this.

"Dad... are you okay? Is there something wrong?" Ethan already approached his father. He grabbed his fist, gently rubbing it to calm him down.

Nathan gazed at his son. He didn't hide his worries from him. "Son... Your Uncle Stephen... I made a mistake. He is in danger..."

Abigail's body stiffened when she heard that. 'Why Stephen? Why did he become involved here? He is not a member of the Syphiruz Mafia.'

"What do you mean, Dad? Where is Uncle?" Ethan asked his father once more, feeling a little bit confused.

Nathan fell silent for a moment. He couldn't find the right words to tell Ethan about this. Abigail, on the other hand, grabbed Bam-Bam's foot, pulling him closer to her.

"Ouch, Master! Don't pull my leg," he complained.

"Bam-Bam! This happened because of your late updates. Now, go back there and find out what is happening. If you can save Stephen, then do it."

'Gosh! This is not my job. I am not allowed to meddle with other human lives except Abigail and Master Phantomflake.'

Bam-Bam wanted to complain and refuse but Abigail was giving Bam-Bam a deathly glare, making the magical flying creature bob his head in obedience.

"Master, I can find out what is happening in the Sanitarium, however, I can't meddle with their lives. I can't guarantee you that I can protect Stephen or whoever the person you want to save."

Abigail just pursed her lips, giving Bam-Bam another warning look. "Just go, Bam-Bam!"

Chapter 262 Under His Protection

Day Twenty Nine...

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[Country J: At Red Dragon Mafia's Sanitarium...]

A few minutes ago, Violet and Stephen were able to infiltrate the Red Dragon Mafia's Sanitarium together with thirteen men from their elite group. They divided their team into two groups. One was assigned to enter the Sanitarium while the other one would serve as a backup. They stayed on guard outside waiting for the other team to get Phantomflake out of the Sanitarium.

Violet and Stephen already felt strange since they easily infiltrated the Sanitarium without encountering any difficulties. Unknowingly, the Red Dragon Mafia intentionally lowered their security and made it less tight, allowing the members of the Syphiruz to enter their territory.

Stephen and Violet immediately searched for the location of Phantomflake's ward. They followed Nathan's instruction which was provided by Abigail when she used her account Cliste. However, upon entering the VIP ward, all they could see was an empty bed. That was the time the two realized that something went wrong with this operation. They fell into the enemy's trap.

~ Current Time...~

Violet's phone had been ringing. Nathan, Chantha, and Axel kept calling them but they couldn't answer them. They were in such a deadly situation that a simple move could cost their lives.

They fell into the Red Dragon's Trap. They were now surrounded by several armed men who were disguised as nurses and patients.

They also lost ten comrades after exchanging fire. The blood of their comrades had been spilled in that Sanitarium. It was already too late to retreat. They were like sheep cornered in the wolf's den. Several guns were pointing at them.

Stephen put his gun down on the floor and raised his hands while stepping in front to shield Violet. Violet appreciated Stephen's protective gesture.

She looked around and saw their comrades lying dead on the floor. The team who would infiltrate the Sanitarium was composed of fifteen people. Another team was on standby outside with twenty armed men.

But to their surprise, the Red Dragon Mafia trapped them inside the sanitarium. They could no longer send a message to warn the other group nor ask for backup.

Violet could tell that Nathan and others were calling her as her phone was vibrating inside her pocket. It was put in silent mode. However, she couldn't answer it under the watch of their enemies.

"Dr. Zhou," Violet called his name from the back. There was a gleam of worry in her eyes.

But Stephen just turned at her, giving her a reassuring smile. The doctor remained calm in this situation. He just motioned Violet to stay behind his back.

"Drop your weapons!" One member of the Red Dragon Mafia shouted at them. They didn't plan on killing everyone there. Someone must stay alive so that they could serve as their hostage.

The Dragon Lord ordered his underling to capture the team leader of the Syphiruz Mafia to be used as a hostage for exchange and negotiation. He had to rescue Jack and Spade. Two important subordinates were being held captive in the Syphiruz Headquarters.

"Who is the Supreme Leader among you?" Agustav finally stepped forward. He was looking for Nathan. The Dragon Lord expected that Nathan would come personally to reclaim Phantomflake's body.

Stephen heaved a sigh of relief when he heard that. 'I'm glad that I was the one who joined this team on behalf of Nathan. Nothing bad will happen to him.'

Violet saw the faint smile on Stephen's lips when he turned to look at her. She admired him for being so calm and composed in this kind of situation. She could also feel that Stephen was glad that he was there instead of Nathan.

'This man... I respect him so much. He cares so much about our Supreme Leader. He is a true friend. Our Supreme Leader is so lucky to have a friend like him.' Violet thought to herself. Before she knew it, she began to admire Stephen as compared to before. She had the urge to protect this guy.

"I'm the leader!" Stephen presented himself once more, catching the attention of everyone.

Agustav and others shifted their gazes back to Stephen. Agustav frowned because Stephen didn't look like the Supreme Leader of the Syphiruz. He didn't even wear his signature mask.

"Are you the Supreme Leader? Are you trying to fool us?" Another member of the Red Dragon Mafia spoke up. He had some doubts also since Stephen had silver-gray hair. The Supreme Leader of Syphiruz had black hair. Did he change his hair color?

Agustav walked closer to them, kicking the gun away from Stephen. He also commanded his members to take the weapons of Violet and the other three members who stayed alive. That was the time they noticed Violet's phone.

"Boss, someone has a phone. And her comrade is calling her!" the guy who confiscated Violet's phone reported to Agustav.

"Give me her phone!" Agustav extended his right hand, asking his underling to hand over the phone.

When Agustav answered the call, Chantha's worried tone reverberated from the other line.

"Sister! We have been calling you! Why did you just answer now?! Our Supreme Leader has ordered us to abort the mission! This is a TRAP! Leave the Red Dragon Mafia's territory NOW!"

Chantha tried to warn her twin sister but it was already too late. Agustav sneered slyly at them. He taunted Violet and Stephen by putting the phone into loudspeaker mode. They heard Chantha's worried voice.

"Miss, you are too late. We've already captured them and killed some of your members. This is our revenge for destroying our two hideouts in Country M, killing our brothers, and capturing two important people in our organization." Agustav mumbled in his chilly tone. He felt so proud of their achievement today. He knew that he also caught big fish from the Syphiruz Mafia.

"Don't you dare lay a hand on my sister, or else, I will send the head of your comrades and spread their body parts all around the world!" Chantha was not able to control her rage. She burst out because of her concern for her twin sister.

Violet facepalmed the moment she heard Chantha's threatening voice. She was not helping. Chantha shouldn't provoke their enemy. They were at disadvantage.

"Forgive my sister, Dr. Zhou. She might put us in deep trouble because of her sharp tongue. Sometimes, she couldn't control her blabbering mouth," Violet apologized to Stephen, feeling a little bit embarrassed. She was worried that Chantha's words might get them in trouble.

But Stephen just smiled at her and responded, "It's okay. Don't worry. I guess, they won't kill us just yet. They also need us to save their comrades." This was the advantage of being a psychologist. Stephen could read the situation. He could analyze the enemy's behavior. He could tell that the Red Dragon Mafia wanted to save their comrades as well so they didn't kill them all.

"It depends. You will see how we will deal with them soon. Tell your Supreme Leader to contact us for negotiation. Don't make us wait, otherwise, I can't tell you what I'm gonna do to your beautiful sister..." Agustav let out a sinister laugh. His underlings also joined him, laughing together.

Violet and Stephen were able to hear Chantha's loud curse before Agustav hung up the phone. Violet could already imagine her twin sister's angry expression. If she was there, she would have attacked Agustav already. Chantha was also very protective of her twin sister.

Two men approached Violet. They were about to grab her and touch her shoulders inappropriately but Stephen blocked them. He punched the tall guy and twisted the arm of the thin guy.

Violet gasped in surprise. She didn't expect that Stephen would suddenly step in the middle to intervene. He was protecting Violet against those men. But Agustav pointed his gun at Stephen's head.

"Stop! Do you want me to blow up your brain using my gun?" Agustav threatened him.

But Stephen met Agustav's gaze with a cold glint flashing through his eyes. "Don't touch the lady."

Agustav hated Stephen's guts and confidence. He should fear them but Stephen didn't show any weakness. Instead, he was acting so brave and calm in this situation.

Without a warning, Agustav hit Stephen's face using the tip of the gun magazine. "You are in no position to tell us what to do. I make the call here."

"Stephen!" Violet yelled his name and was about to move closer to Stephen to check on him when the two men grabbed her, holding her in place.

The left corner of Stephen's lips bled instantly because of the impact. He wiped it and spat some blood. Stephen didn't look mad. He just stared at Agustav with a blank expression. Because of that, Agustav became more annoyed by his reaction.

Agustav threw another punch, hitting Stephen on his stomach. Not yet satisfied, Agustav raised his leg and kicked him once more.

"No! Stop it!" Violet was struggling. She wanted to help him but the two men already pointed the gun at her thus stopping her from moving. Stephen just shook his head, signaling Violet to stay still and don't do something reckless. He could endure the pain.

"Where's Phantomflake? Where did you hide her?" Stephen asked Agustav, not minding the pain of those punches and kicks. He was not worried about his safety. He just wanted to protect Violet and at the same time, to see Phantomflake.

"Stop acting arrogant and brave. You are pissing me off!" Agustav barked at him as he continued to beat Stephen. He only stopped when Stephen finally fell to the ground, badly beaten up by him.

Violet clenched her fists and gritted her teeth. Her eyes turned red from both anger and worry. Her eyes were burned with tears. She could no longer watch Stephen in that state. "STOP! Please Stop! You might end up killing him! Please stop..."

Chapter 263 She Couldn't Remember Him

Day Twenty Nine...

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Violet didn't know what to do since Stephen was already badly beaten up. Bam-Bam also arrived at that time, seeing Stephen's sorry state. His gorgeous face received bruises from Agustav's punches.

But Agustav targeted his body specifically his stomach, causing Stephen to fall to the ground. He tried to get up, kneeling on his right leg. He just sneered at Agustav as he wiped the blood off his face.

"Oh no! Doctor Zhou is badly hurt. I wonder if Master will hold me responsible for this. I am not allowed to intervene." Bam-Bam flew back and forth, feeling anxious. He was worried that Abigail might scold him big time.

"Gosh! I have to inform Master about this. Maybe Nathan can do something for them." Bam-Bam couldn't save them. He could only watch what was happening there. In the end, the magical flying creature decided to come back and informed Abigail about this situation.

As of now, a magical creature like him couldn't use his power in this situation because it was against the rule of being a soul keeper. He had limitations.

In just a blink of an eye, Bam-Bam disappeared. He used his supernatural power to teleport back to Country M where Abigail was waiting for him.

Meanwhile, at Towerville City Hospital, Abigail was secretly watching Nathan and Ethan on the back. Abigail was reluctant to approach the father and son duo since Nathan's expression was very gloomy. It did not take long before Chantha contacted Nathan to report what happened to her twin sister and Stephen.

Nathan excused himself from Ethan upon seeing Chantha's caller ID. He knew that she had an important message to deliver to him. Not allowing Ethan to know his involvement with the Syphiruz Mafia, Nathan made sure to leave the ward before answering Chantha.

Little Ethan could only sigh helplessly. He could sense that his father was trying to hide something from him. What would happen to his Uncle Stephen now? Ethan was lost in his thoughts when Abigail finally made her presence known to him. She sat down next to Ethan.

She could move around the VIP ward after removing the IV drip in her left hand. "Don't worry too much, Ethan. Your Uncle Stephen will be safe. Your Dad will find a way to keep him safe." Abigail wanted to console the young boy.

Ethan just bobbed his head, flashing his adorable smile. "I know, Miss Abi. Dad will do everything just to protect the people close to him. I wish he would do the same to you. I hope that he will keep you safe starting today."

Abigail smiled faintly, a little bit embarrassed. Ethan was truly wishing them to be on good terms and get closer.

"By the way, Ethan... who called your Dad?" Abigail asked, feeling curious. She turned in the direction of the closed door where Nathan disappeared to.

Ethan shook his head as he didn't recognize the caller. "I don't know, Miss Abi. Branch Leader was the Caller ID."

Abigail became more curious. She could tell that this had something to do with the Syphiruz Mafia and the team who was sent to get Phantomflake back.

They were still talking when Bam-Bam showed up. He immediately waved his paws when he met Abigail's gaze. Abigail motioned Bam-Bam to go to the bathroom and she would follow. She couldn't talk to him in front of Ethan.

"Ethan, just stay here. I will just go to the comfort room." Abigail simply said goodbye to Ethan. The young boy obediently listened to her. He stayed in the mini-living room, waiting for both Abigail and Nathan to come back.

When Abigail entered the comfort room, Bam-Bam immediately pounced on her and began to report what he had seen in the Red Dragon Mafia's Sanitarium.

"Master! We are too late. The team that was sent by Nathan was cornered and trapped in the Sanitarium. Many of their comrades died."

"How about Stephen?" Abigail couldn't hide the worries in her tone.

"He was badly beaten up by the Leader of the Red Dragon. I immediately came back because Doctor Zhou was getting bullied. A ruthless guy made him a punching bag."

Abigail had already expected this. If they were in an enemy's territory, it was already given that they would experience some kind of torture. They would love to pick on their trapped and helpless prey and assault them, making them suffer. They would show their dominance to their target, telling them that they were at their mercy.

"The Red Dragon told the Syphiruz Mafia to contact them for negotiation, otherwise, they would kill their hostages. Only five people from the Syphiruz, including Stephen, stayed alive. But the members of the Red Dragon were also violent and unpredictable. Who knows they might kill the remaining members of Syphiruz one by one." Bam-Bam spoke spontaneously, reporting everything he had witnessed.

"There is a woman there, accompanying Stephen. He protected her while diverting the attention of the enemies from the woman to him. If he didn't provoke them, they would have touched the woman already. Thanks to Stephen's protective instinct."

Abigail's face contorted upon hearing that. When a woman was involved, Abigail couldn't help but feel the rage surging up inside her. She didn't want to see a woman being sexually assaulted and taken advantage of by those disgusting bad guys. She felt like she wanted to kill someone at this moment.

"If I were there, I am going to kill them!" Abigail mumbled through her gritted teeth.

Bam-Bam bobbed his head. "I understand you, Master. Nathan must make a move now before it becomes too late for them. They are demanding to talk to the Supreme Leader of the Syphiruz."

Abigail marched out of the comfort room. She would want to know if Nathan already had the plan to rescue his comrades.

Ethan: "Miss Abi, where are you going?"

Bam-Bam: "Master, where are you going?"

The two asked her in unison. But Abigail just raised her left hand, stopping the two from following her. "Just stay here..." She was referring to both.

Bam!

Abigail closed the door, leaving Bam-Bam and Ethan behind. She followed Nathan.

Meanwhile, Nathan was just standing in the corner near Abigail's VIP ward. He was talking to someone over the phone. Abigail silently traced her steps toward him and hid from him. She made sure to eavesdrop on their conversation.

"This is my fault. I shouldn't have let Stephen join the team..." Nathan started blaming himself. According to Chantha, the Red Dragon Mafia already captured Stephen, Violet, and others. She already reported that several members died during the ambush.

"I already allowed him because he was so determined to rescue Phantomflake..." Nathan added, clenching his fist. Nathan was expressing his feelings because he was now talking to Aiden.

Chantha was done reporting to him and he already ordered Axel to contact the Red Dragon Mafia for a negotiation.

"What?! What had gotten into him? Why did he do such a dangerous job?! He was supposed to treat his clients in his clinic, not go to a foreign land, surrounded by armed men!" Aiden reacted exasperatedly. With his loud voice, Abigail could even hear his voice from that distance.

"Because of Phantomflake. He did it because of her." Nathan mumbled, massaging his temples. He hadn't noticed Abigail's presence.

Abigail, on the other hand, arched her eyebrow in amusement. She was wondering why Stephen did the mission for her. She wanted to scold Nathan for allowing Stephen to do that dangerous mission.

'Are they both insane?' Abigail complained in her mind.

"Why her? Why is it my two best friends are so obsessed with Phantomflake?! I know your reason, but how about Stephen? I couldn't fathom his line of thinking at all! He is so hard to figure out sometimes!" Aiden kept on lamenting. He was acting like this because he was worried sick about Stephen.

"Because he was acquainted with her. Stephen knew Phantomflake!" Nathan revealed this to Aiden.

Aiden was taken aback for a moment. But not only him... Abigail was also stupefied when she heard those words from Nathan.

'What? Stephen knew me? How come? I can't remember talking to him before... Do I know him?' Abigail mused to herself. She racked her brain so hard but she couldn't remember meeting Stephen before.

Did she lose her memory? Or maybe, Stephen only mistook her for someone who looked similar to her.

"Aiden, let's talk later. I still need to do something. Rescuing Stephen is my priority right now. I have to go." Nathan hung up and was about to return to the VIP Ward when he bumped into Abigail. She was lost in her train of thought that she forgot to avoid Nathan.

"Aww!" Abigail hit her nose on Nathan's sturdy chest.

"Abi? What are you doing here?" Nathan asked her in disbelief, his hands were holding her shoulder and the back of her waist to support her. Their bodies were pressed at each other.

'Oh, Shit! I got caught again.' Abigail closed her eyes and bit her lower lip.

Chapter 264 She Might Wake Up Soon

Day Twenty Nine...

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"Are you okay? Are you hurt?" Nathan asked Abigail, instead of confronting her about eavesdropping on his conversation. He was worried about her but his expression remained indifferent.

Abigail just blinked her eyes while observing Nathan's face. For some unknown reason, their closeness made her heart race.

Badum! Badum! Badum!

Since she raised her head when she looked at him, their faces were just a few inches away. She could smell his masculine scent and it was delightful in his nose. She had the urge to lean closer to him and nuzzle her nose against his neck.

Before Abigail could lose her self-control, she gently pushed Nathan away from her using her left hand. She looked down, hiding her reddened face. She felt embarrassed with the way she was thinking of him.

"I'm alright. I'm not hurt," Abigail responded meekly.

Nathan stared at her for a long moment. He was contemplating what words he should utter. He was careful not to offend Abigail, his savior.

"Why are you here? Where's Ethan? You should be staying inside your room. Why are you wandering around here?" Nathan slightly scolded her. He was just concerned about her well-being. She was still a patient who was trying to recover.

"I followed you here," Abigail truthfully said, tugging the hem of her patient's gown sleeve. She lowered her gaze, hiding her embarrassment. Her heart was still beating so fast. She inhaled and exhaled to calm herself.

Nathan frowned upon noticing her strange behavior. She looked very tense.

"Relax. I'm not getting mad at you." Nathan held her shoulders once more. In his eyes, Abigail suddenly became a fragile woman whom he had to protect.

"Why did you follow me here?" Nathan asked her, intrigued. He raised his eyebrow, waiting for her response.

"Umm..." Abigail paused for a moment, searching for the right response. "I heard from Ethan that something bad happened to Dr. Zhou. How is he?"

Nathan didn't hide his troubles at the mention of Stephen's name. He breathed out with a complicated expression on his face.

"Yes. He is in danger. But don't worry about him and just focus on your recovery. I will solve this problem as soon as possible." Nathan sounded dejected. He thought Abigail followed him just to know whether Stephen was safe or not. He presumed that Abigail was worried sick about his best friend and she cared about him.

Abigail shook her head and said, "I am more worried about you. You look so stressed. I know Stephen is a very close friend of yours... like your own brother. I followed you here to check on you as well. Are you alright?"

Nathan was at a loss for words for a moment. He didn't expect that Abigail would ask about his feelings. He had been dealing with all those concerns for a while now. He had been through a lot of stress lately. And he was trying to cope with these unpleasant incidents.

He had a breakdown when Phantomflake was taken away from him. He had a major misunderstanding with Abigail. Then the shooting accident happened and Abigail got hurt because of him. And now, his best friend and comrades were captured by the enemy. Nathan was facing one problem after another.

"Honestly... I'm tired," Nathan absentmindedly mumbled while looking into her eyes. Deep inside, he felt like he needed to get this out of his system to ease the heavy burden in his heart.

Nathan's lips curled up but they didn't stretch out enough to create a full smile. He just felt glad that someone like Abigail asked him this question.

On the other hand, Abigail raised her left hand, reaching for his head. Before Nathan could react, Abigail was already petting his head. Nathan's body stiffened when Abigail's palm began rubbing his head and caressing his hair.

"Don't worry. Everything will be fine. I believe in you. You can solve this problem. You can save Stephen." Abigail surprisingly uttered some comforting words for Nathan.

Nathan remained silent, just staring at her emerald eyes. His heart skipped a beat when Abigail's gentle smile came into his view. She was consoling him and at the same time, encouraging him.

He didn't expect that Abigail's gestures and words would work like magic. For some reason, Nathan found himself easing up a little. He would like to believe her that everything would be fine and he would be able to protect his best friend and his comrades.

After a while, Nathan grabbed Abigail's hand, stopping her from petting his head. She thought Nathan felt annoyed by her action. However, Nathan reacted differently.

"Thank you, Miss Abi. Now, let's go back to your room. You shouldn't be wandering around here alone." Nathan gently pulled Abigail, guiding her back to the VIP Ward. Abigail just obediently followed him while gazing at their entangled hands.

'Nathan's palm is so warm,' Abigail thought to herself. Reflexively, Abigail gripped his hand tightly as if she didn't want to let go. Nathan smiled faintly when he felt that. However, since Nathan was walking ahead of Abigail and she was following behind, she didn't see the charming smile that formed on Nathan's lips.

When they entered the ward, Ethan was already standing by the door as if he was about to go out and check on them. Little Ethan's eyes sparkled in delight when he saw Nathan holding Abigail's hand. He smiled at his father meaningfully. He had a teasing smile plastered on his adorable face. Not only Ethan but also Bam-Bam had the same sparkle in his eyes when he watched Abigail and Nathan together.

'Their relationship is improving. My Master is making big progress with her mission. It won't take long before she could go back to her original body. I can feel that she might wake up soon. She just needs to keep this momentum up!' Bam-Bam felt so proud of Abigail. He even raised his paws and wagged his tail, congratulating his master.

Abigail just pretended not to see Bam-Bam's joyful look. She felt strange seeing Bam-Bam flying around them while Nathan and Ethan were present. She was used to talking to him alone and in private.

"Ethan, watch Miss Abi. Don't let her leave her room alone. She hasn't recovered yet. She still needs to rest and recuperate. Understand?" Nathan requested his son to watch and guard Abigail, not allowing her to wander around alone.

Nathan became more cautious especially now that Abigail's identity had been revealed. He already suspected that someone who wanted to erase her existence might be after the inheritance of the Yan Patriarch.

"I'm sorry, Dad. I promise. I will not leave her side. I will keep my eyes on her!" Ethan immediately responded, making a salute gesture at his father.

Abigail could only shake her head helplessly. 'I can protect myself. I'm not a child.' Then Abigail groaned inwardly when Nathan finally let go of her hand.

"I have to leave for now. I will send Abigail's bodyguards here. If you need something, just call me." Nathan was reluctant to leave but he had to confront the Red Dragon Mafia for the safety of Stephen and Violet.

"Where are you going, Dad? Leaving so soon." Ethan sounded a little bit disappointed.

"Your Uncle Stephen needs my help. Don't worry. I will come back as soon as I fix this. For now, just stay by Miss Abi's side. Look after her." He reminded his son once again. The young boy could only bob his head frantically.

Nathan turned to Abigail, glancing at her for one last time before he took his leave. He said goodbye to both of them and headed straight to the headquarters. Axel and Chantha were waiting for him. They needed their Supreme Leader's decision regarding this matter.

Twenty minutes later... Nathan arrived at the headquarters. Chantha and Axel welcomed him. The three of them headed to his office to discuss some things and strategize their rescue plan.

"Supreme Leader, let me go to Country J. I need to save and rescue my sister!" Chantha sounded very anxious. She kept pacing back and forth while cracking her knuckles. Axel tried to calm her down. If not for him, Chantha would have been at the airport now.

"Yes, prepare our troops. Gather fifty men. We are going to Country J now. Axel, check the availability of my company's private plane. We are going to use it." Nathan ordered them. There was determination in his eyes. He was exhausted but he got recharged after talking to Abigail in the hospital.

Meanwhile, Chantha felt grateful. Their Supreme Leader didn't forbid her to go to Country J to rescue her twin sister.

"What is your plan, Supreme Leader?" Chantha asked him expectantly. She was eager to know Nathan's strategic plan.

"We will do the exchange. Bring the hitman and the hacker. We will exchange them for Stephen and Violet. The Red Dragon Mafia demanded to free their men." Nathan explained to Chantha.

"Huh? What if this is another trap, Supreme Leader? Are you willing to trust those scumbags? They might betray us." Chantha had her doubts about this negotiation. But Nathan just gave her a reassuring look.

"I have my reason for doing this. The Red Dragon Mafia will be focusing on this exchange. While you are doing this negotiation, I will take Phantomflake back. We will do these two missions at the same time."

Axel and Chantha were startled when they heard that. "Supreme Leader, do you know where they hide Phantomflake? She was no longer in the Sanitarium." Chantha asked.

"Yes. Someone gave me her current location. This time we will get Stephen and Violet back along with Phantomflake," Nathan uttered with confidence.

Chapter 265 Brothers And Comrades

Day Thirty...

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[At Country J: Red Dragon Mafia's Headquarters...]

After confirming that the Syphiruz Mafia called the Red Dragon Mafia for a negotiation, the Dragon Lord immediately went to the headquarters to instruct his men on what they would do when facing the Syphiruz.

He could tell that Nathan would come personally to do the negotiation. He was surprised when he learned that Stephen Zhou was the one who was captured by his men and not the Supreme Leader.

"Get ready everyone. The Supreme Leader of the Syphiruz is someone we can't underestimate," Dragon Lord warned his subordinates. Though his counterattack against Nathan worked, the Dragon Lord was expecting Nathan to retaliate.

'His best friend was captured on his behalf, he would certainly save him. They failed to get Phantomflake back but I got the chance to free my comrades.' The Dragon Lord was referring to Jack and Spade.

"The location will be Orion Port," he responded. Orion Port was the oldest port of Country J. It already stopped its operation. The place was undergoing a renovation so the port was closed for four months.

"Master, are you going to watch the exchange of hostages, personally?" Agustav asked their leader.

"Yes. I want to ensure that Jack and Spade are safe." The Dragon Lord promptly responded. If Aiden and Stephen were important to Nathan, the Dragon Lord also had people he wanted to protect as he treated them like brothers. Spade and Jack.

Agustav's face darkened for a moment. But he was able to conceal his emotions right away. Agustav was jealous of the closeness between Spade, Jack, and the Dragon Lord. He favored them over him. Deep inside, he wished that Syphiruz Mafia would kill Jack.

He was just an assassin before, but now, Jack became a branch leader of the Red Dragon Mafia. Agustav took him a long time before he became a branch leader. Because of this jealousy, Agustav had the urge to sabotage this negotiation.

'Should I kill Jack by myself and put the blame on the Syphiruz Mafia? The Dragon Lord will not suspect me.' Agustav found a chance to eliminate his rival.

"Where did you set the location of this exchange?" the Dragon Lord asked, scanning his phone. He was checking the possible routes Nathan and his men would be taking once they arrived at Country J. He was already sent someone to monitor Nathan's movement. Several men were already waiting at the different airports in the country.

"I already heightened the surveillance that will monitor the Syphiruz men's arrival. We have to secure the perimeter. Our team should position themselves in different areas. We can't allow the Syphiruz to outsmart us." The Dragon Lord sounded very cautious when dealing with Nathan and his organization. He had to admit that Nathan was a powerful rival.

"I understand, Dragon Lord. I will now leave to take all necessary measures to avoid a mishap," Agustav mumbled meaningfully. When he turned around, a sly smile flashed across his face. He was up to something.

The Dragon Lord continued his briefing to the other members. He was getting ready to face off Nathan. And just like what Nathan had expected, the Dragon Lord mobilized several men, sending them to the assigned location where the exchange would happen.

It did not take long before one member of the Red Dragon Mafia called the Dragon Lord. "Our Lord, the Syphiruz Mafia has finally arrived. We saw their men scattered around the J-Pan International Airport," the man reported.

"Have you seen Spade and Jack? Did they bring them? We should ensure that the Syphiruz would not betray us and sabotage this negotiation." A chilly glint flashed through the Dragon Lord's eyes.

"Yes, our lord. We saw two blindfolded men getting on the black van. They were escorted by several men. They used the VIP passage of the airport, avoiding the public's eyes. Fortunately, one of our men

waited outside, on the other exit, and happened to see them." The man continued reporting the situation to their Dragon Lord.

"A masked man also appeared. I believe he is the Supreme Leader of the Syphiruz. I took a photo of him. I already sent the photos," he added.

"Okay. Keep your eyes on them. How many men have they brought?" The Dragon Lord wanted to know if their forces were enough to outnumber Nathan's group. Though he had no plan of ambushing them, he had to make sure that Nathan and his men would never go back to their words. He only wanted to free Jack and Spade from the grasp of the Syphiruz Mafia. Who knows Nathan had other tricks?

"At around thirty men. Rough estimate, our Lord."

"Alright. Make preparations. Continue to follow them. We are going to meet them at Orion Port."

After confirming the current location of Nathan and others, the Dragon Lord hung up and left. He was now on the way to the Orion Port. When he checked the photo, Nathan was indeed wearing a black mask, so many guards escorting him.

But little did they know, Nathan and Axel were both wearing the same clothes and masks. They were aware that Country J was the Red Dragon's turf so they already expected that the Dragon Lord's men scattered everywhere and were watching them.

Moving discreetly, Axel and Nathan already exchanged cars upon leaving the airport, deceiving the Red Dragon Mafia's watchers. Nathan drove his own car, proceeding in the opposite direction.

Unknown to Nathan, someone was following him behind. It was Kathleen. She heard the bad news from her cousin, Aiden. She was worried about Stephen. Aiden didn't tell her the full details. All she knew was that Stephen was in great danger and Nathan would try to save him.

It just so happened that Kathleen had another business trip in Country J. With her persistence and blackmail, she managed to get some information from Aiden, telling her where and when Nathan would be arriving at Country J. He even informed her about Nathan's car and plate number. Aiden was the one who arranged Nathan's car before his arrival. He had a few connections from the locals.

'Oh God, please keep Stephen safe. I don't want anything bad to happen to him,' Kathleen prayed silently as she focused on driving, her eyes following the movement of Nathan's car.

Kathleen shouldn't have followed Nathan. Because of this, she would discover Nathan's secret.

Chapter 266 The Patient Is His Secret Lover?

Day Thirty...

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[At St. Benedict Memorial Hospital...]

The Red Dragon Mafia and the Syphiruz Mafia were set to meet at 7:00 pm in Orion Port. They would exchange hostages. The Dragon Lord changed the time. Instead of meeting them this morning, he arranged to do the negotiation in the evening. This was favorable for them.

Since the scheduled time was changed, Nathan had to wait before implementing his plan. Little did he know, Kathleen was already following him secretly. Nathan stayed in the hospital where the Red Dragon Mafia transferred Phantomflake.

Nathan had been roaming around the hospital. The hospital was a public hospital. He could tell that this was the Dragon Lord's strategy to mislead him. If not for Cliste's intel, he wouldn't think that the Red Dragon Mafia would hide Phantomflake in this small and public hospital.

When he visited Phantomflake's ward, he observed that only two men were standing outside as guards. The Dragon Lord mobilized his men and sent them to the Orion Port, leaving only two guards in Phantomflake's ward. Only Nathan came to the hospital. He didn't bring anyone inside the hospital so that he wouldn't attract unwanted attention.

"The Dragon Lord is a cunny person as well," Nathan mumbled, smirking inwardly as he watched the two guards from afar. "However, I am wiser than him," he added.

Nathan turned around and looked for a hiding place in the hospital. He already familiarized the in and out of the hospital. He already took note of the possible escape route.

He went to the hospital cafeteria and spent his time planning for his next move. He pulled out his phone from his pocket to check Axel and Chantha. He knew that his team was also preparing to meet the enemy.

Nathan typed his message for Axel.

[Nathan: Is everything fine on your end?]

Axel responded right away.

[Axel: Sir, we are all set. We are going to follow your instruction. If we can't avoid confronting them and have to fight, we will make sure to protect Dr. Zhou.]

Nathan ordered his men to cooperate with the Red Dragon Mafia's demand. They only wanted Jack and Spade. He knew that the Red Dragon Mafia would be more cautious about possible sabotage and tricks since they couldn't trust each other. Same with the Syphiruz Mafia. Nathan already made Plan B and precautionary measures to protect his men.

The Red Dragon Mafia only saw the thirty men they mobilized. But Nathan brought fifty men to Country J. The twenty men stayed hidden from the eyes of the Red Dragon Mafia. They would serve as his secret weapon against the Red Dragon Mafia. The teams got separated. The twenty men were sent here last night. They were now in position around the vicinity of the Orion Port.

Two members of the Syphiruz Mafia were already sent to this hospital last night, infiltrating it successfully. They would help Nathan in getting Phantomflake out of the hospital.

[Nathan: Once I finish here, I will go there myself. Tell the team.]

Nathan wanted to boost the morale of his comrades so his presence would reassure his men that he got their back. He knew some were feeling anxious because they were in the enemy's territory. He couldn't deny the fact that Country J was the Red Dragon's turf. They had to be more careful.

[Axel: Thanks, Sir. I will relay the message to them.]

[Nathan: One last thing... Make sure to watch Chantha and comfort her. I know she is having a hard time just thinking about Violet's safety.]

Nathan seldom showed kindness and expressed his concern for his comrade. Axel was surprised since Nathan was also worried about Chantha. He was about to respond to him when he received another message from Nathan.

[Nathan: Be good to Chantha. Don't fight, argue and provoke her. I encourage you to control yourself and be patient with her. Have a TRUCE.]

The next message he got from Nathan made Axel choke and cough. He didn't expect that Nathan would say those words. He sounded like he was teasing Axel. He knew that the two always fought and argued.

[Axel: Yes... Boss.] Axel felt like his eyes were burned from embarrassment. He didn't expect that their Supreme Leader would notice and remember the bickering between Chantha and him.

Reflexively, Axel tossed a look at Chantha who was silently sitting next to him. Chantha was unusually quiet. He could tell that she was nervous and so worried about her twin sister, Violet. Chantha was always jolly and lively but today, her expression was sullen.

Axel could only sigh helplessly. He was worried about her. He was not used to seeing her acting like this. He wanted to see her bright mood. He just hoped Violet was safe, otherwise, Chantha would be affected greatly. She loved her twin sister so much.

"Stop looking gloomy. Trust me... we will save them both." Axel softly mumbled, trying to comfort her. Chantha just looked at him with a sad expression. "If you don't trust me then just trust our Supreme Leader..."

After saying that, Axel raised his phone and brought it in front of Chantha's face, showing Nathan's message to her. He thought maybe Nathan's worries and concerns for Chantha could cheer her up. As far as he knew Nathan was Chantha's ultimate crush.

Chantha's lips immediately curled up into a smile after reading Nathan's message. She felt touched seeing Nathan's message. Just like Axel, she had never expected that Nathan would worry about her and express his concern.

'I knew it. Our Supreme Leader is the only one who can cheer her up. When I asked her to trust me... she just gave me a sad look. But when it comes to our Supreme Leader, she immediately smiles...' Axel didn't know why but he felt disappointed just thinking about this. 'Can't she rely on me?' he lamented in his mind.

"Thanks, Axel..." Chantha said in a low voice.

Axel could only bob his head. "You're welcome."

The two were engulfed in an awkward silence once again after Axel spoke up.

Meanwhile, back at the hospital, Nathan was still waiting for the exchange to happen. After contacting Axel, he stood up and left the cafeteria. He searched for the two members of the Syphiruz who were already in disguised.

After a few minutes, Nathan received a message from his subordinate. They were in the Staff Locker room. Nathan headed to their location right away. He was not aware that Kathleen had been observing him for a while now.

"What is he doing here? Is Stephen hospitalized here?" Kathleen kept walking while hiding her presence from Nathan. She kept looking around but she didn't see Stephen at all.

"I wonder why he kept passing through the same ward a while ago. And I saw two men guarding the ward. I will check who is the person admitted to that ward." With that thought in mind, Kathleen had this crazy idea to find out who was the patient in that ward.

Kathleen stole a nurse uniform and disguised herself as one of the hospital staff. Pretending to be the nurse in charge of the patient in VIP Room #245, the two bodyguards allowed Kathleen to enter the room.

Upon seeing the patient, Kathleen gasped in surprise. 'What?! The patient is a woman?! Is she related to Nathan? A secret lover perhaps?'

Chapter 267 Taking Her Back!

Day Thirty...

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Kathleen walked closer to the sick bed to see the patient's face. She frowned as she noticed that the patient was sound asleep with an oxygen mask.

"Is she gravely ill?" Kathleen murmured to herself. She wanted to have a closer look at her. Then she was surprised to see the beautiful woman in her patient's gown.

"Ahuh, she is beautiful. Don't tell me Nathan took a liking of her. But something is strange. Nathan didn't enter this room and the guards didn't know him at all," Kathleen kept murmuring to herself.

Kathleen searched for the patient's name. But the nameplate on the sick bed was empty. She was about to check her body when someone entered the room.

She jolted and her heart jumped when another person suddenly entered the ward. Did she get caught? Damn!

She froze in her spot, waiting for the guard to say something. But to her surprise, the guy didn't say a word. She just turned around to leave. However, she came to a halt as soon as she saw the man's face.

"Nathan?"

"Kathleen?"

Nathan and Kathleen were both stunned to see each other.

'Gosh! Nathan is here. He looks suspicious to me. But he is so damn hot in this doctor's uniform,' Kathleen thought to herself, eyeing Nathan from top to bottom.

Nathan scanned her as well, wondering why Kathleen was also there inside Phantomflake's ward.

"What are you doing here?" Nathan asked her coldly.

Kathleen smiled sheepishly, scratching her face. She didn't know what to say. She couldn't tell him that she was there as a nurse since Nathan knew she was not a nurse in profession. She was afraid that Nathan would get mad once he learned that she followed him there.

"I am on my on-the-job training. I'm an intern here. How about you?" Kathleen said meekly.

Nathan raised his eyebrow and said, "I'm a resident doctor here," Nathan lied as well. He already knew that Kathleen was lying. He just copied her reason.

Kathleen tried to hold her laughter. Nathan didn't bat an eyelid. If she didn't know him, she would have believed his lies. Kathleen tiptoed and raised her head to look outside. She wondered why she could no longer see the figures of the two bodyguards outside.

Nathan moved and blocked her view. It looked like he was preventing Kathleen to see what was happening behind the door. The two members of the Syphiruz who were also disguised as hospital employees were currently dealing with the two guards.

They injected them with sedatives. When they fell unconscious, the two men moved the guards to the stockroom. Now, they were preparing for a stretcher to move Phantomflake.

"Supreme Leader!" Someone pushed the door open and called Nathan. Kathleen automatically turned to the guy, giving him a puzzled look.

'Who is this? Another personnel? Or just a fake one?' Kathleen was being suspicious of them. 'What did he say? Supreme Leader? What kind of a strange name is that?'

When the guy saw Kathleen, he immediately moved closer to her and grabbed her by her neck. The man was going to attack Kathleen and injected her with the sedative, thinking that Kathleen was a real nurse.

"Hey, what are you doing? Stop that! Nathan! Help!" When Kathleen sensed that the guy planned on doing something bad to her, she immediately asked for Nathan's help.

Nathan just massaged his temples and waved his hands nonchalantly. "Release her. I know her." Nathan didn't want to hurt Kathleen. He knew that Kathleen was there for a reason. He needed to bring her back. He wondered if Aiden had something to do with this.

When the guy released Kathleen, she ran in Nathan's direction and hid at his back. She used him as a shield. She was so scared when she saw the syringe and the long needle. She hated injections.

"Just come with me. And stay silent. We have no time to spare. We should leave now!" Nathan motioned his men. The other guy entered while pushing the stretcher. They had to transfer Phantomflake and get her out of the ward.

"Come, help me," Nathan ordered Kathleen. She just obediently followed him. Nathan let her hold her oxygen mask and the monitor. Then Nathan was the one who carried Phantomflake, transferring her to the stretcher. He was handling her well.

Kathleen just watched his every movement. She was still trying to figure out what Nathan was doing there and his relationship with the patient.

'Damn! Don't tell me he is going to take this patient without permission and consent. Is this abducting?' Kathleen's wild imagination began to act up.

They were about to take her out when Kathleen suddenly stopped them. "Nate, what is the meaning of this? Are you abducting this patient?" Kathleen was not able to hold her curiosity. She confronted

Nathan, making the three men stare at her sharply. They were in a rush and here she was stopping them from leaving.

"Don't ask, otherwise, I will leave you here and make you lay down on that bed!" Nathan warned him, pointing his finger at the sick bed.

Kathleen immediately shook her head and closed her mouth. She didn't want to offend Nathan. She regretted asking him that question. Nathan's subordinates were just waiting for his go signal. If he would order them to shut this woman, they would surely obey him.

"Let's go!" Nathan's authoritative voice echoed in the room. Kathleen and the two men immediately followed him.

The four of them began to take Phantomflake out of the ward. Nathan took the alternate route and exited the gate without facing any difficulties. The Red Dragon Mafia made a great mistake. They overlooked this kind of situation.

The Dragon Lord became overconfident in himself. He thought Nathan would not be able to find this hospital. He focused on this negotiation wherein a confrontation between two organizations would happen in the Orion Port. While the Dragon Lord was busy preparing to meet Axel's team, Nathan accomplished his goal of reclaiming Phantomflake back!

Chapter 268 The Exchange

Day Thirty...

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[Country J: At Orion Port: 7:00 pm]

Axel and Chantha together with the other members of the Syphiruz Mafia already arrived at the Orion Port. Three vans stopped in the middle of the port. It was an old port so no people were using it at this moment. Only a few construction workers were staying in the area since the port was undergoing renovation.

But little did they know, the men wearing protective gear and construction uniforms were members of the Red Dragon Mafia. They were scattered in the area, hiding their weapons. Some snipers positioned themselves in dark places where they could easily conceal their presence from the enemies.

Agustav and others alighted from their respective cars to welcome the newcomers. Stephen and Violet were still inside the black van, being guarded by five armed men.

"What's going on here?" Violet murmured, asking Stephen. She couldn't see anything as her eyes were also blindfolded.

"I think... Cough~ Nathan's group is here," Stephen calmly said in his hoarse voice. He already felt sick. He got a high fever after he suffered severe beatings from Agustav yesterday. "Don't worry. I trust my best friend. He will do something to save us."

Violet folded her hands, which were tied by a rope, into tight fists. She was touched since Stephen could still comfort her despite his current situation. He was very calm at times like this. She truly admired her for being composed in any given situation.

They were still talking when from a distance they suddenly heard a very familiar voice.

"Where is my Sister? Bring them out now! I will kill you all if I find out that my sister got hurt!" Chantha's loud voice echoed in the area. She was too fierce and bold, declaring war as soon as she stepped out of the car. She could no longer wait to see her twin sister, including Stephen.

Axel could only grab Chantha's shoulder. He couldn't let her run wild and fire a shot at anyone out there. They were supposed to deal with this in a peaceful manner. 'Hmm, it seems like Supreme Leader already envisioned this. He already expected how Chantha would act in front of the Red Dragon Mafia. No wonder he reminded me to watch her over and control her emotions.'

"Chantha, just calm down. We are here to negotiate and do the exchange. This is their turf. We need to be more careful." Axel warned her in a low and gentle tone. He didn't want to trigger her emotions further so he tried to be as gentle as possible.

"No! I have to threaten them now. I will definitely kill anyone who dares to touch my twin sister," Chantha stubbornly said.

Axel took a deep sigh while rubbing the space in between his brows. Nathan asked him to be patient with her but Chantha was acting very stubborn tonight. He had to control her no matter what. "Can you stop talking for a few minutes? Let me handle this negotiation. Just stay put."

"No—" Chantha was about to argue with Axel when suddenly her lips were sealed by his mouth. He pressed his lips against her to stop her from talking. And it was effective!

Chantha: 'What the hell?! Axel kissed me?! Did he?! Aaaah~!'

Agustav: "..."

Red Dragon Mafia's members: "..."

Syphiruz Mafia's members: "..."

Axel already released her mouth but Chantha was still stupefied in her spot. She was blinking her eyes in utter disbelief, trying to process what had just happened.

On the other hand, Axel turned to face Agustav and his men, starting the negotiation.

"Where are my comrades?" Axel used Nathan's usual authoritative tone. He was pretending to be the Supreme Leader in front of their enemies. In front of their enemies.

Agustav and others snapped out of their stupor when Axel's voice was heard. Agustav stepped forward and spoke, "Show us our comrades as well. Spade and Jack... bring them out first!"

Axel motioned his subordinates to open the door of the white van in the middle. Spade and Jack were sitting there. When Agustav saw the two men, he also instructed his men to open the car door of the black van. Axel and Chantha frowned deeply when Stephen's figure came into their view.

He didn't look well. The corners of his lips and some parts of his face had bruises. He was badly beaten up. His clothes were untidy. Axel, who was wearing his mask, narrowed his eyes at the sight. He knew that Nathan wouldn't be happy to see Stephen's sorry state. Axel clenched his jaws.

'Dr. Stephen Zhou... didn't deserve this treatment.' Axel thought to himself.

But Agustav also noticed that Jack was in a similar situation as Stephen. He was also badly beaten up by Nathan's men. Agustav tried his best to conceal the satisfaction in his eyes. He thought that Jack deserved it. He didn't feel sorry for him at all.

The two factions got their hostages out of the vans simultaneously. While this exchange was ongoing, the Dragon Lord was watching the scene from a secluded area in the port. He was watching it through the screen monitor. The live video was being transmitted to his laptop.

The Dragon Lord was leisurely sitting on his chair while staring at the monitor. He ran his finger on the surface of his lips as he tried to assess Axel. With the action he did and the figure he had, the Dragon Lord could tell that the person behind the mask was not Nathan. He was a fake Supreme Leader.

'Ahuh! So this is your trick, Nathan Sparks. You are still hiding from me. I thought you were a brave man who wouldn't be scared to infiltrate your enemy's territory. But I was mistaken. You chose not to show up.'

The Dragon Lord sat up straight and rubbed his palms together, his eyes not leaving the monitor screen. "Perhaps, you are here... but you just blended with the crowd."

The Dragon Lord was searching for Nathan among the group of men whom he could see in the live video. He hadn't spotted Nathan yet.

"Where are you... Nathan Sparks? Where are you hiding? Are you scared of me?"

Chapter 269 [Bonus] First Gunshot

Day Thirty...

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The men present in the Orion Port were on high alert. The heavy tension could be felt around them. Both factions were getting ready for the worst-case scenario. A shootout between the two parties might happen at any time.

The snipers were already in position. They could get a clear shot from their hiding spot. Axel and Chantha were exposed to them. They were just waiting for the go-signal of their leader... the Dragon Lord. With just one call from him, they would start shooting the enemies.

"Sister! Are you okay? Did they hurt you? Did they touch you?" Chantha yelled, asking Violet.

"No. I'm fine," Violet responded, smiling faintly. She was glad to hear her twin sister's voice. She could feel her genuine concern for her.

Chantha bobbed her head. She felt relieved now after hearing that. Setting aside Axel's strange action a while ago, Chantha was able to divert her attention back to their mission.

"Let's exchange now!" Chantha uttered impatiently. The stolen kiss made her distracted a while ago. But she returned to her focus as soon as she saw her twin sister, Violet.

Agustav gazed up, sending a secret signal to someone before he turned to Stephen and Violet. "Remove their blindfolds now," he ordered his underlings.

Syphiruz members also removed the blindfolds of Spade and Jack. Spade was overwhelmed to see the two rival factions facing each other in this place. This was a confrontation between the Red Dragon Mafia and the Syphiruz Mafia.

"See, the Dragon Lord will not let us die," Spade whispered to Jack. Spade believed that the Dragon Lord knew how to value his comrades and friends.

"Yeah, I know," Jack replied weakly. Between them, Jack was the one who received torture from Nathan's men. He felt so weak at this moment. Spade had to hold his body, making him stand on his feet.

Kacha!

The cocking sound of the different guns reverberated in the area. Each man cocked their gun and aimed at their enemies. Both factions were ready to shoot. But they were holding their fire as they waited for the hostages to exchange.

"Don't you dare make a sneaky move, or else, I will annihilate everyone here!" Chantha had spoken once more, showing her fierce personality.

"Haha. Have you forgotten that you are in our territory, Miss? We can bury you alive here," Agustav spat back at her.

Chantha just rolled her eyes skyward and glared at him. Axel already stepped in front of Chantha, blocking her view. "Stop that, Chantha. If you will say another thing, I will seal it again."

Chantha scowled at Axel but she immediately pouted her lips, trying to restrain herself from talking further.

"We can exchange now," Agustav also declared.

"If you fire first, we will not hesitate to shoot," Axel sneered at him. He made sure to stand in front of Chantha to serve as her shield whenever a shootout would happen.

"We know. We are just here to take our comrades!" Agustav responded meaningfully.

He raised his hand and waved to the guards who were holding Violet and Stephen. He signaled the guards to let them go. Axel also did the same. The hostages should walk toward their allies.

"I have a bad feeling about this. I can feel like the Red Dragon Mafia is going to sabotage this," Chantha murmured, tugging the hem of Axel's jacket from the back.

"Don't worry. I got you. Just stay focused," Axel mumbled, reassuring her.

Spade, who was assisting Jack, began to walk toward their comrades. Violet and Stephen did the same. The surrounding was engulfed with deafening silence.

Everyone's attention was focused on the four people walking in front of them. The heavy tension grew further when both hostages were inching closer and closer to their comrades.

It looked like the Syphiruz Mafia was obedient and following the rules of this negotiation. Following Nathan's instruction, the members had no plan of shooting the enemies first. They would stick to their Supreme Leader's rules as necessary.

Just when they thought that the situation was under their control and everything was going smoothly, suddenly they heard a gunshot when the four were almost reaching their allies' sides.

Bang!

"What the hell?"

"Who fired the shot?"

The place was suddenly put in chaos especially when someone among the four hostages collapsed. Among them, Spade was hit in the back.

"Fire!!! The Syphiruz Mafia fired the first shot!" Agustav shouted, ordering his men.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Bang! Bang! Bang!

"Violet!"

"Chantha!"

The exchange of hostages became the exchange of gunshots between the two factions. Someone fired the gun and they blamed the Syphiruz Mafia for that since one of the members of the Red Dragon Mafia was hit.

Everyone tried to take cover, avoiding the bullets. Axel made sure to protect Chantha while Violet pulled Stephen, making them drop on the floor.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

"Kill them all!"

"The Syphiruz Mafia can't leave here alive."

"Protect our Branch Leaders!"

"Target their Supreme Leader!"

Several screams and orders from the commanding officers could be heard. The Red Dragon Mafia thought they already cornered Syphiruz.

There were several shots coming from different directions. Violet was helping Stephen to take shelter as they crawled going to the van.

Chantha kept on shooting the enemies to take cover for her twin sister and Stephen. "Sis! Dr. Zhou, come here! Faster! Get inside the van!"

Their vans were not ordinary vans. Nathan paid so much to get this armored van! Its parts were bulletproof, a good hiding spot, cover, and shelter during the shootout!

Looking after each other, Violet and Stephen were finally able to reach the van. Chantha extended her hand to reach for her twin sister's hand. But snipers were everywhere. Another gunshot was heard.

Bang!

That gun was aimed at the twins— either Chantha or Violet.

"Nooo!"

Violet screamed when she saw the red spotlight coming from the sniper's rifle directed at Chantha.

Bang! Bang!

But before the bullet could hit Chantha's chest, someone stepped forward, hugging her as he used his body as the shield. It was Axel!

"Aah~" Axel groaned when the bullets hit his body.

"Axel..." Chantha mumbled his name.

Chapter 270 There Is A Traitor

Day Thirty...

~*****~

Axel has been hit by the bullets after protecting Chantha. Everyone got worried about him. Stephen and Violet approached Axel and Chantha immediately.

"Get inside the car now!" Violet urged her twin sister who was holding Axel.

The other members of the Syphiruz Mafia took cover for them. The Red Dragon was rejoicing, thinking that the Supreme Leader was hit. Only the Dragon Lord knew that the Supreme Leader was fake. It was not Nathan.

When they entered the van, Chantha tried to find Axel's gunshot wounds. They had to leave that place as soon as possible but the exchange of fires continued

The construction workers began moving, revealing their true identities. At this moment, the Syphiruz Mafia looked like they were outnumbered by their enemies. They came out from different directions, launching an attack.

The Syphiruz members were surrounded. Since Syphiruz's vehicles were armored, many men targeted the wheels so that they couldn't leave the area.

"Who fired the gun, hitting the guy?" Chantha asked the other members through the communication devices. Nathan ordered them not to fire first. How would they explain this? Someone broke his rule.

"Branch Leader, we didn't do it! No one fired that gunshot among ourselves!" One member answered her, denying the accusation.

"Yes, Branch Leader. You know us! We will never disobey our Supreme Leader's order!" Another member supported his comrade's claim.

While Chantha was talking to the other members, Stephen helped her in checking Axel's wound. Axel was still conscious but his breathing was ragged. He was glad that Chantha wasn't hurt by that gunshot.

"We need to leave this place ASAP!" Chantha said with urgency in her voice. She looked at Axel with a worried expression.

"We are surrounded! Our wheels were damaged. It's hard to drive a car with a flat tire! Let's wait for our backup!"

On the other hand, Jack was holding Spade in his arms. He pressed his palms against his gunshot wound to stop the bleeding. Jack was enraged because the Syphiruz Mafia made a sneaky move by targeting Spade.

"Don't sleep, Spade. Please stay awake!" Jack tapped his face.

Spade just smiled at him faintly. He coughed some blood. Then he motioned Jack to move closer to him as he had something important to tell.

Seeing Spade's request, Jack leaned over, bringing his face closer to Spade. After a while, he heard his weak voice telling him, "There's a traitor. Be careful, Jack... I saw someone from our team... pointing a gun at you."

Jack was taken aback when he heard that. He thought the person who fired the first shot came from the Syphiruz Mafia. But it turned out it came from their comrade. And the most shocking revelation was that... he was the target. This only meant Spade protected him and took the bullet for him.

"You stupid man! You shouldn't have done that." Jack said through his gritted teeth. He was angry with himself. "Do you wanna die?" He wanted to scold Spade because he was worried about him.

Spade just let out a soft chuckle and groaned. "Don't get mad at me. I saved your ass, bro! You should thank me instead!"

"I'm getting you out here!" Jack mumbled. "Hey, what the hell are you doing?! Bring the car here quickly! Spade got shot!" He turned to their comrades who were busy firing shots at the Syphiruz Mafia.

Agustav, who was not happy with the result, came to approach them. It was not his intention to hurt Spade. Jack was his initial target but something went wrong. He didn't expect that Spade would sacrifice himself for Jack.

"Let's get them out of here!" Agustav ordered his men.

It did not take long before a black car rushed in their direction. When the car window in the driver's seat was rolled down, their Dragon Lord came into their view. The Dragon Lord wouldn't allow Spade and Jack to get hurt in this encounter. They were precious comrades.

"Get inside now. We will go to the hospital!" The Dragon Lord couldn't stay put. He already gave them a hand to rush those two men to the nearest hospital. Both of them needed to be treated.

Without delaying any more time, the other members carried Jack and Spade, bringing them inside the Dragon Lord's car. "Deal with them! Kill them all," he ordered Agustav before speeding off.

Agustav's face contorted seeing the three leaving the Orion Port. He thought it was so unfair that the Dragon Lord was showing more affection to Jack and Spade. They were currently in the middle of a battle but their leader already left just to protect those two men!

"Fuck them! I want them all dead!" Agustav yelled, ordering his men but his eyes were fixed on the Dragon Lord's car which was speeding off.

When the Dragon Lord left, the Red Dragon Mafia continued attacking the members of the Syphiruz Mafia. The bullets were raining in their direction, not allowing them to leave the port.

"Throw a grenade to destroy their vehicles. Don't waste your bullets on their armored vans!" One team leader commanded his subordinates.

"Yes sir!"

"Blow them up!"

"Yees!"

"Let's kill them!"

"Don't spare them!"

The members of the Red Dragon Mafia were already having fun, rejoicing with their so-called victory. They thought they already cornered the members of Syphiruz and could annihilate them in no time.

But before they could use some explosives to attack Chantha's team, the Syphiruz's backup finally showed up! Eighteen members who stayed hidden made their grand entrance. They were done eliminating the snipers of the Red Dragon so they revealed their presence to help their comrades who were trapped in the middle of the shootout!

"Oh Great! They are here!" Chantha heaved a sigh of relief.

"I hope our Supreme Leader succeeded in his mission..." Axel mumbled in his low voice. He was losing more blood. He received two gunshot wounds. It's just a matter of time before he would lose consciousness. He was just fighting it because of Chantha and others.

"Nate is here as well?" Stephen asked them worriedly.

"Yes... and he is there!" Violet replied after seeing Nathan driving the other car.

"Supreme Leader?!!"

"He is here!!!"