100 Days 271

Chapter 271 Their Paths Crossed Again

Day Thirty…

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Agustav and his team were caught off guard when the backup of Syphiruz showed up. They wondered when they arrived. No one spotted them. They thought the Syphiruz only brought thirty men. Who would have thought that an advance party was sent and was hiding in that area with them?

The most shocking thing they had witnessed was that a person with a mask made a grand entrance. The real Supreme Leader made his presence known to everyone. His appearance boosted the morale of the Syphiruz. They got more excited to fight alongside their Supreme Leader.

And just like that, the Syphiruz was able to turn the table around, making the situation in their favor. The advance party secretly eliminated the snipers and gained control of the situation. Agustav and his team had no choice but to retreat before it resulted in more casualties on their sides.

"Retreat! Retreat! We already accomplished our mission of getting Jack and Spade back!" Agustav ordered his underlings.

The forces of Syphiruz couldn't be underestimated. They were skilled and talented, and most of them were sharpshooters. As the members forced the Red Dragon to retreat, Nathan alighted from the car and approached the van where Stephen, Axel, Chantha, and Violet were hiding.

"Is everything alright?" Nathan asked them worriedly.

"Supreme Leader! Axel got shot! We need to bring him to the nearest hospital!" Chantha was the first one who informed Nathan about the situation.

Nathan's expression darkened when he heard that. He searched for Stephen and saw his bruises. He felt the guilt deep inside his heart. His best friend got beaten up because of him.

"Let's go now." Nathan extended his right hand, assisting Stephen as they transferred to his car. Axel was feeling weak. Chantha, Stephen, and Axel moved to Nathan's car in the backseat. Violet accompanied Nathan in the front.

"Supreme Leader, we can leave now. We will be escorting you. We got your back!" the members of the Syphiruz assembled to take cover for Nathan and others.

Nathan just bobbed his head before starting the car. They had to leave the place now. Violet and Stephen were back. But they had to rush Axel to the nearest hospital.

"Nate, why did you come here? You should have stayed in Country M." Stephen didn't know if he should feel grateful or scold his best friend. This was their enemy's territory so he thought it would be best for Nathan not to show up personally.

"I came here because you failed your mission. You promised that you would get her back but you failed." Nathan blatantly said, making Stephen guilty.

"I'm sorry…" Stephen apologized right away.

"Supreme Leader… Don't blame Dr. Zhou. He did his best. His presence here made you safe," Violet defended Stephen.

"I'm not blaming him, Violet. What I wanted to say is that… I decided to continue his mission of getting Phantomflake back." Nathan uttered nonchalantly. He was blaming no one.

Violet bit her lower lip. She was not supposed to talk back to Nathan but she did it because of Stephen.

"I'm sorry, Master. I misunderstood you." Violet apologized.

While they were busy talking, Chantha's attention was focused on Axel. She was tapping his face, reminding him to stay awake. Stephen and Chantha were still pressing his wounds.

"How is it? Did you get her?" Stephen asked his best friend expectantly. He was eager to know if Phantomflake was safe.

"Yes." Nathan simply said.

That single word was enough for Stephen to feel relieved. He was glad to hear this piece of good news. Phantomflake was back in their hands.

"She can't escape from me. I will not allow this to happen twice. No one can steal her from me," Nathan added with conviction in his voice.

"Where is she? Who is watching over her right now?" Stephen didn't hide his concern for Phantomflake. Violet could only listen to their conversation quietly.

"I left her at the nearest hospital here along with someone…" Nathan rubbed his temples as he remembered Kathleen. She was not part of the operation. She was excluded from his plan. But that woman suddenly appeared from out of nowhere.

"Wait?! Nearest hospital? There were injured men from the Red Dragon Mafia. What if they also brought them to the nearest hospital here?" Violet raised her concern as she realized this situation.

Chantha and Stephen exchanged glances with one another and bobbed their heads in agreement with Violet's last remarks.

What would they do if they happened to meet the members of the Red Dragon Mafia in the same hospital?

Realizing this possibility, Nathan stepped on the pedal and sped off. Though he was confident that no one could take Phantomflake from that hospital, he wanted to make sure that the Red Dragon Mafia couldn't get near her.

While driving, Nathan called his two members guarding Phantomflake in the hospital.

"Bring her now to the airport. The private doctor and nurses are waiting in the private plane."

"Noted, Supreme Leader. But what are we going to do to the other woman?" The man was referring to Kathleen.

"Just tell her to stay in the lobby. Stephen and I are coming." Nathan used Stephen to make Kathleen stay in that hospital. He couldn't let her come and watch Phantomflake.

"Got it, Boss."

When Nathan hung up, Stephen asked him about the person whom he was talking about from the other line.

"Who is the other woman?"

"Kathleen… Aiden's cousin." Nathan replied.

Stephen: "..."

'What is she doing here? Why is she with Phantomflake?'

"Aiden's fault," Nathan mumbled as if he was able to read Stephen's mind through his expression

Stephen sighed helplessly. 'I knew it! Aiden will always create trouble for both Nathan and me.'

Meanwhile, at the hospital, the two men began to move.

"Hey, where are you going? We've just arrived here. Why are you taking her out once again?" Kathleen blocked the two men.

"Our Boss' order."

"You can't leave. Where is Nathan? I have to talk to him!" Kathleen insisted on stopping them.

"He is on his way now together with Stephen. He said that you should stay here and wait for them. And as for us, we need to transfer this patient."

At the mention of Stephen's name, Kathleen's expression changed. "Stephen? They are coming here?!"

"Yes. They are. So wait for them in the Lobby."

Without saying another word, Kathleen quickly turned around, going to the hospital lobby. The two men just exchanged glances with one another. They couldn't believe that the stubborn woman finally listened to them.

She truly cared so much about Stephen. She could forget other things and would always prioritize Stephen.

Kathleen was rushing to the elevator when she suddenly bumped into someone.

"Ouch!" Kathleen complained when she hit her face on someone's sturdy body. She almost fell but the man caught her hips.

When she looked up, she met a familiar pair of eyes.

"You?" Kathleen mumbled in disbelief. "What are you doing here?"

The shock on her face was replaced by worries and concerns when she noticed Jack's appearance. He was covered with bruises and his clothes had bloodstains.

"What happened to you?" Kathleen asked him.

But instead of answering her, Jack suddenly grabbed her, pulling her closer to him. He hugged Kathleen tightly.

Chapter 272 She Lied

Day Thirty…

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Kathleen was stunned for a moment when Jack suddenly grabbed her, embracing her tightly. She could sense that something was troubling him at this moment. She was also wondering why he had so many injuries. He looked untidy and his clothes were tainted with blood. She could even smell the iron scent of the fresh blood.

"What happened to you?" Kathleen asked him. She wanted to escape from his grasp because she felt awkward and uncomfortable with their closeness. However, Jack didn't let go of her.

"Please… just stay for a moment…" He pleaded. Jack didn't feel so well. He was quite shaken after knowing that there was a traitor from their comrades and Spade sacrificed himself just to protect him.

Spade was already sent to the operating room. He was blaming himself for what happened. Jack was afraid that Spade would not survive this. He bled so much and Jack thought he was hit in his vital area.

"Fine. Just ten more seconds…" Kathleen crunched her nose and mumbled. "You smell…" she paused.

When Jack heard that, he realized that he hadn't washed for two days now. The scent of his sweat and blood already mixed. Jack felt embarrassed so he pushed her away.

"I'm so sorry… I didn't mean to…" Jack was at a loss for words. He didn't know what to say. He felt ashamed for facing Kathleen in his current state.

Jack was about to leave when Kathleen grabbed his elbow thus stopping him from taking another step. "Don't touch me… I haven't washed yet…"

Kathleen just shook her head and smiled at him. "I'm just teasing you. I didn't mean to offend you."

Jack just fell silent. He lowered his head, hiding his embarrassment. "I'm not offended. I just felt ashamed…"

Kathleen let out a soft giggle. Then she moved closer to Jack, raising her hand to pet his head. She gently patted his head thrice and said, "It's alright. No need to be ashamed of it. I've done worse than this. Remember how I puked when I got drunk… but you still took care of me… That was so gross… right?"

Jack raised his head to look at her. He blinked his eyes several times, staring at her with amusement. Kathleen was still smiling. Jack's heart skipped a beat and he was mesmerized by her charming smile. Her presence could somehow ease his burden.

Kathleen bit her lower lip and contemplated for a moment. She couldn't decide whether she should leave him now and proceed to the hospital lobby to wait for Nathan and Stephen. But after some careful consideration, Kathleen couldn't leave Jack in his unstable state.

She was worried that Jack would suddenly break down if she would leave him alone. To return the favor, Kathleen decided to accompany Jack and entertained him for a moment.

"Come with me!" Kathleen immediately pulled Jack. She led him to the room where Phantomflake stayed. The room was already empty since the two men already moved her out and used the other exit.

"Where are we going?" Jack asked her in puzzlement. He didn't complain. He just let her pull him.

Confusion resurfaced on his face when Kathleen brought him to an empty ward. It was already a coincidence that he met her once again in this country. Last time, he accidentally met her in Country F. Maybe they were fated to cross paths once more. They always met at their lowest moments.

"Here… you can use this. Go, wash and clean yourself. I'm going to buy you a new set of clothes." Kathleen opened the bathroom door for him.

Jack didn't move from his spot. He just shifted his gaze back and forth between Kathleen and the bathroom. He couldn't move well. The Syphiruz also fractured his right hand as punishment for shooting Abigail. He couldn't wash his body properly without help from anyone

"Hey. Can't you hear me? Don't just stand there. Get inside and take a bath." Kathleen gently pushed him towards the door.

She was about to leave when Jack spoke again. "I can't do this by myself. Can you please help me wash?" Since they were already there, Jack wanted to grab this opportunity to ask her. He wanted to clean himself and wash so that he wouldn't feel embarrassed looking so dirty in front of Kathleen.

"I injured my hands… I can't move…" Jack put on a pitiful face.

Kathleen just watched him in disbelief. 'Eh? Seriously. Is he asking me to bathe him? So shameless.'

"You can't move? Then why were you able to hug me so tightly?" Kathleen questioned him.

"I just endured the pain. Besides, I didn't feel the pain when I was hugging you. So please… can you help me wash?" Jack requested her.

Kathleen could only sigh in defeat. "Fine. What do you want me to do? I can only wash your head and upper body. Take care of your lower body." She scowled at him after saying that.

Jack finally chuckled because of Kathleen's reaction. "Okay. I will do that. Can you please assist me… take off my shirt…"

Kathleen just pursed her lips before reluctantly reaching for his clothes. She didn't know where to start.

'Should I just pull his shirt up? Or just pull it down?' Kathleen's eyes began to survey Jack's body.

"You can tear my shirt off… besides, you planned on buying a new set of clothes for me… right?" Jack was back to his usual self. He tried to look less gloomy in Kathleen's eyes.

If not for his pitiful look, Kathleen would have hit him so hard already. She knew that Jack's first sentence had a double meaning. In the end, she just ignored it and began undressing Jack. Since she didn't want him to get hurt, she followed his instruction of ripping his shirt off using scissors.

As she was doing it, Kathleen saw how bad his condition was. His body was covered with cuts and bruises. "Oh My?! Who did this to you?!" She didn't expect his injuries were severe.

"How can you still stand and walk with your body beaten up like this?" Kathleen covered her mouth using both hands, her eyes wide open.

Her gaze roamed around his body, still assessing his wounds. "Who did this to you? We should report this assault to the police!" Kathleen didn't hide her concern for Jack.

"Calm down, Miss Kath… This is just normal to a man like me. I fought someone and I ended up being defeated."

"Are you a superman? How can you still be alive having these cuts and bruises?! I will call the doctor after this." Kathleen grabbed a clean towel and soaked it with warm water. She also mixed and poured body gel into the water. She began wiping his body. Her hand was so gentle, making sure he wouldn't get hurt.

Jack could only watch Kathleen. This scene felt so heartwarming. It was so good to have someone taking care of you. Jack's eyes were following her every move. Kathleen was so immersed in what she was doing. She even forgot about Stephen because she was so focused on tending his wounds and cleaning his body.

"Sit down. Let me wash your hair." Kathleen made him sit down on the chair and brought the shower on top of his hair. She began washing his hair and applied shampoo. After twenty minutes, she was done cleaning and bathing him.

"Hmm… That's it. We are finally done. You look like a person now," Kathleen mumbled, teasing him as she giggled. Jack was very silent when she was washing his body a while ago. She could sense that Jack was thinking about someone.

"A penny for your thought," Kathleen softly asked him.

Jack raised his head and glanced at her. He had complicated emotions on his face. "I am worried about my friend. He got hurt because of me…"

Kathleen covered his head using a dry towel. She began rubbing his wet hair with a towel. "Cheer up. Your friend will be fine. But for now, you have to treat yourself."

"I have to go now. You can wash your lower body while I get you some clothes…" Kathleen hung the towel around his shoulders as she said goodbye.

"Will you come back?" Jack was worried that Kathleen would never return after this. He knew she had her own reason why she was in this hospital.

"Of course. I will. Just stay here. I will send the doctor who will check on you. Just continue washing."

Jack bobbed his head and said, "Thank you."

Kathleen just smiled at him. "No need to thank me. I'm just returning the favor."

She turned around to leave. Jack could only watch her back until she vanished from his sight. Jack waited for her to come back. However, an hour passed, and Kathleen never showed up again in that ward. He was disappointed when someone entered the ward but it wasn't Kathleen. It was the doctor whom she sent. The doctor also brought a paper bag containing his clothes.

"Doc… where is Miss Kath?" Jack asked the doctor expectantly.

"Something came up so she couldn't return. She sent me here to deliver this and check on you." The doctor put the paper bag in the space next to Jack.

Jack gazed at the paper bag and grabbed it tightly. His expression turned grim while clenching the paper bag with his left hand. 'She lied to me. She said… she would come back… but she didn't.' Jack became more upset because of Kathleen's disappearance.

Chapter 273 Another Clue

Day Thirty One…

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[At Country M…. Syphiruz Medical Facility…]

After getting immediate treatment in the hospital of Country J, Axel and Stephen were transferred to Country M along with Phantomflake. The Syphiruz Mafia immediately escaped and left Country J. Fortunately, Axel got operated on and the bullets were removed.

Last night, Kathleen met Nathan and Stephen. Since they had to leave as soon as possible, Kathleen was not able to go back to Jack. Furthermore, her attention was diverted to Stephen.

Nathan ensured that Kathleen would go back with them. He would confront Aiden as to why Kathleen was present in the same hospital where he was going to retake Phantomflake.

Nathan was now in a room facing Kathleen and Aiden. The two cousins looked like they were in a principal's office, waiting to be interrogated by Nathan.

"Explain this." Nathan just said those simple words but Kathleen and Aiden could feel his authority. Nathan was a little bit mad.

What if the mission failed because of Kathleen's presence and something happened to her? It would be dangerous for her.

Kathleen and Aiden exchanged glances with one another. Aiden signaled Kathleen to defend him. It was her fault for secretly following Nathan to the hospital.

Kathleen already got her cue when she met Nathan's gaze. Since her cousin couldn't talk back to Nathan, she decided to take it over.

"Don't give me such a look, Nate. You should be the one to explain something. Why did you steal that patient? Who is she?" Kathleen confronted Nathan.

Aiden bit his lower lip. He was afraid that Nathan would erupt in anger. His cousin was truly fierce and bold to confront Nathan.

Nathan just gave Kathleen a sharp deathly glare. He had no obligation to answer that.

"It's none of your business," Nathan coldly said.

But Kathleen wouldn't back down. She kept on asking Nathan until the topic would be diverted away from her.

"It's illegal. Your action was suspicious. You pretended to be a resident doctor. Are you her guardian?"

"Yes, I am. I've been taking care of her for two years." Nathan could no longer stay quiet. He was annoyed by Kathleen's persistence. She kept on bugging him until she got the answer she wanted to hear.

Kathleen gasped and covered her mouth. She looked surprised. "OMG! I knew it. You have a relationship with her! Your secret lover!"

Nathan's expression darkened when he heard the word 'Lover'. In his thought, Phantomflake would never become his lover.

"She's my nemesis. Not a lover." Nathan declared. He rubbed his temples, trying to hold his emotions. Kathleen was very annoying.

Nathan turned to Aiden, motioning him to keep his cousin silent. Aiden could only shrug his shoulders, giving Nathan an apologetic look. Even he himself couldn't control his own cousin. Kathleen was always free-spirited. She would say anything that comes to her mind.

"Huh? You're lying! Why are you still denying it? You went to that extent just to get her out of that hospital. And what is this place? This seems to be a private hospital."

"Furthermore, you already said that you've been looking after her for the past two years now. If she is your enemy, why are you concerned about her well-being?" Kathleen threw more questions.

"Stop asking, Kath! This is enough!" Aiden stood up, grabbing Kathleen's elbow. He could already feel that Nathan was losing his patience with Kathleen.

"Hmmph! Are you a member of a gang? Those two men with you were frightening." Kathleen confronted Nathan once again.

Nathan squinted his eyes at her. He was supposed to be the one interrogating them but here he was being confronted by Kathleen.

Kathleen even put her hands on the sides of her waist, eyeing Nathan suspiciously. "Ahuh. Now you are speechless because you are guilty. If she is your lover, you don't have to hide it just because she is sick!"

A cold glint flashed through Nathan's eyes when he heard the word lover once more. "That woman… is not my lover. She was the person who killed Monica! She's an assassin!"

Kathleen: "..."

Kathleen was at a loss for words because of that revelation. She finally figured out why Nathan was enraged right now. He hated it when she was mentioning the word lover.

"W-What do you mean???" She turned to Aiden, asking him if he already knew about this.

Aiden just nodded his head, confirming and supporting Nathan's claim. Kathleen didn't know what to say to Nathan. It was her bad for making that wrong assumption.

'No way… Nathan is truly scary. Don't tell me he is the one who makes that woman sick. Is this his revenge? He is imprisoning her in this facility? I never saw her waking up. Is he torturing her to death?' Kathleen's wild imagination started to act up.

'Instead of handing her over to the police, Nathan chose to hold her captive. I already pity this woman.' Kathleen pitied Phantomflake more than Monica.

"I already answered your questions. Now, tell me the reason why I found you there. What were you doing in that hospital?" Nathan's expression could no longer be painted. He was annoyed since Aiden and Kathleen remained silent.

Aiden took a deep sigh. He had to confess now or else, Nathan would make things difficult for the two of them.

"I've mentioned to her about what happened to Stephen. It just so happened that she was in Country J. She didn't stop pestering me until I gave information to her about your arrival to Country J. I didn't expect her to follow you secretly from the airport going to that hospital. Forgive me, Nate. My cousin is always curious about you, Stephen, and me."

Kathleen just glared at her cousin. "You traitor! You just want to save your ass! Putting all the blame on me?!"

Nathan just stayed quiet for a moment, just darting his gaze back and forth between Aiden and Kathleen.

The two were waiting to lash out at them when Nathan's phone beeped. He got a message from Cliste. Nathan turned on his notification about the incoming messages for SizzlingAugust08.

[Cliste: Hey, Yow! How is it? Where are you? Have you accomplished it? Were you able to get her back?]

Nathan's expression softened after reading Cliste's message. Now, he was convinced that Cliste was not a foe. Thanks to her, he was able to take Phantomflake back.

'It's not bad to make friends with this stranger. Cliste is someone helpful.' Nathan's lips curled up into a faint smile. He was reminded again of Monica, or shall we say Shining_Star in particular.

Their friendship also started through the virtual conversation.

Meanwhile, Aiden and Kathleen were stunned upon seeing the changes in Nathan's expression. They wondered who was the person who messaged him at this moment, making his mood brighten up a little.

Nathan typed his reply, unaware that two pairs of eyes were already observing him and his every reaction.

[SizzlingAugust08: Yeah. I got her back. Thanks to you. If you ever need my help, don't hesitate to tell me. I will certainly return the favor.]

Nathan was this kind of person. He didn't want to be indebted for so long. He would make sure to return the favor. He could be good to people who deserved his kindness. But to people who wronged him, he could be as ruthless as the devil.

On the other side, Abigail felt her heart leap when she learned that Nathan successfully reclaimed her body. She was worried about him and his mission. She felt relieved after knowing that her body was back to Nathan's care.

She was about to be discharged today and Ethan was there to pick her up. Before leaving the hospital, she decided to message Nathan and asked him about his operation related to Phantomflake. She just heard a piece of good news!

"I knew it. He could take me back. He would do anything to have me…" Abigail smiled faintly. She glanced at the monitor's screen of Ethan's laptop.

She decided not to reply to Nathan's last message. She already felt glad that he was safe and the mission was a success.

When Abigail didn't respond, Nathan felt bothered. He felt like Cliste was always ignoring him as soon as she got what she wanted from him.

Nathan was just looking at his phone screen, waiting for Cliste's message. Aiden and Kathleen were silently observing him. It looked like Nathan had already forgotten about their existence. He was now so focused on his phone.

"Cousin… what are we going to do now? Should we leave him alone? Your best friend looks like he is occupied with something," Kathleen whispered at Aiden.

Aiden bobbed his head frantically and replied, "Yes. We should leave now and escape. Let's visit Stephen. He is resting on the second floor."

At the mention of Stephen's name, Kathleen immediately agreed. She even pulled Aiden hurriedly to leave Nathan's office.

Meanwhile, Nathan was still contemplating whether he should message Cliste again or not. Feeling annoyed and impatience, Nathan switched on his laptop and he began to trace Cliste's IP address.

Though Abigail used fake IP addresses to hide her real one, Nathan was able to decode it and he found Cliste's real IP address and location.

"What the hell… this IP… seems familiar to me…" Nathan frowned for a moment. After a while, his eyes widened at realization. In his baffled state, he mumbled, "Ethan's…"

Nathan clicked something and the location was revealed to him. [Towerville City Hospital]

Without saying a word, Nathan grabbed his car key as he marched out of his office. He had one destination in mind– Towerville City Hospital.

Chapter 274 Cliste And Black Rose

Day Thirty One...

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Nathan was about to leave the Medical Facility of the Syphiruz to check and verify Cliste's identity when Spider bumped into him at the entrance of the facility. Nathan stopped on his track when Spider called his attention.

"Supreme Leader!" Spider approached him.

"What is it?" Nathan was in a hurry. But Spider looked like he had something important to say.

"I already found out who was the woman who pretended to be our member. The one Spade mentioned to us whom he called SizzlingAugust08.

Nathan was stunned for a moment at the mention of SizzlingAugust08. He was curious who was the woman who pretended to be SizzlingAugust08.

"Tell me. What did you discover?" Nathan asked. He was now all ears on Spider. Though he wanted to leave as soon as possible, he had to hear what Spider would reveal.

"Miss Abigail Scarlett. She's the one who was spotted in the airport, having a conversation with Spade. They had an encounter in the said Cafe."

Nathan didn't expect to hear Abigail's name once again. 'Abigail again? She was involved in this incident again...'

But he wasn't as surprised as before since Ethan was close to Abigail. He thought his son was the one who let Abigail use his account as SizzlingAugust08. Besides, Ethan could access his account. Ethan was also the one who fought Spade when he hacked their security system in the facility.

"Does she know about your connection with the Syphiruz Mafia? What are you going to do about this, Supreme Leader?" Spider was troubled knowing that Abigail knew something about the Syphiruz Mafia.

"I don't know. I will think about it first," Nathan simply responded.

Nathan rubbed his temples. His head was aching once more. He could remember Spade's confession. Abigail was the one who threatened Spade not to contact Black Rose once again. He wondered if Abigail knew the real Black Rose.

With this revelation, Nathan rejected the idea that Abigail was Black Rose. There was another woman whom Spade met at the airport. Nathan's eyes lit up as he had an idea of how to find out Black Rose's identity.

"Spider... among the people in the Knight Cafe, find out who was the woman with him," Nathan ordered him.

Spider nodded his head and said, "I already got a copy of the CCTV inside the Cafe. Take a look at this." Spider presented his phone, showing the recording inside the Cafe.

Nathan watched the video for several seconds. After a while, he saw a familiar face. It was Cherry, the New Chief of his house. 'No way! This woman... is working for me.'

"Abigail and Cherry," Nathan mumbled their names. He could somehow connect the dots now. Abigail was talking to Cherry when she mentioned Black Rose and the Phantom's Assassin Guild. So that was the conversation he overheard in Aiden's place.

"Thank you for informing me of this. I will deal with them myself. Now, go and check Axel's condition first. I need to go somewhere." Nathan had more reason to go to Towerville City Hospital.

"Anyway, good job!" Nathan patted Spider's shoulder before leaving.

Spider could only smile in satisfaction. He knew that Nathan would give him another bonus for accomplishing this job. He had something to brag about with Joker. Joker failed to find a clue related to

Black Rose's identity. But Spider was able to kill two birds with one stone. He found out who pretended to be SizzlingAugust08. Then this led to the discovery of Black Rose's identity.

"I wonder what our Supreme Leader is going to do with those two ladies. One is related to Phantom's Assassin Guild while the other one knew something about the Syphiruz Mafia. Tsk Tsk Tsk. Our Boss will not be forgiving at this moment." Spider mumbled while clicking his tongue.

Unknown to him, there was a person secretly eavesdropping on their conversation. It was Veronica. When Nathan left, Veronica came out of her hiding place.

"What did you just say? Abigail already knew about Nathan being a member of the Syphiruz Mafia?! Does she know that Nathan is the leader?" Veronica sounded annoyed. She didn't hide her hostility towards Abigail. She felt threatened by Abigail's presence.

For the past few days, she noticed that Nathan was always spending time with Abigail. She knew that Abigail saved Nathan's life. This made her more upset because she couldn't accept the fact that Abigail was the one who was there. Now, Nathan felt indebted to her.

"Yes, Lady Veronica. Upon my investigation and the facts I gathered, it looks like Miss Abigail has a connection with Black Rose." Spider shared the information with Veronica.

He didn't hide anything from her since he was thinking so highly of Veronica. Veronica was Monica's sister so he thought this woman held a special place in their Supreme Leader's heart. Some members were speculating that Veronica might become their Supreme Leader's wife in the future. Sometimes, Veronica was acting as if she was the Queen of the Syphiruz Mafia.

"Who is Black Rose again?" Veronica asked him curiously.

"Black Rose is a member of Phantom's Assassin Guild. The assassin guild established by Phantomflake."

Veronica was taken aback for a moment when she heard that. That was Phantomflake's assassin guild so Black Rose was a comrade of the woman who killed her sister.

"So aside from Phantomflake, there is another survivor! Wait... Abigail is connected to Black Rose?! Does it mean she is friends with an enemy?!" Veronica said expectantly.

Spider didn't know whether to confirm it or not. He wasn't sure about the degree of the relationship between Abigail and Black Rose.

"I knew it! There is something suspicious about that woman! Nathan should not trust her. He should kick her out of the mansion. She might be spying on him!" Veronica burst out. "That woman is pretentious. What if she was an accomplice to Nathan's assassination? What if this was part of their strategy to gain his trust?!"

"We are not yet certain about this, Lady Veronica. So far, with Joker's digging, we didn't see Abigail's involvement with Phantom's Assassin Guild. Only now that we see the connections between Abigail and Black Rose. She was the one who threatened Spade not to communicate with Black Rose once again. But this doesn't prove that Abigail is connected to Phantom's Assassin Guild."

"She might be Black Rose's friend but not a member of the Assassin Guild..." Spider added. He could already feel that Veronica was unhappy to hear this news.

"Member or not, Nathan should stay away from her. He should ban her from getting close even to my nephew!" Veronica couldn't control her emotions. She was venting out her frustrations. She couldn't understand why Nathan was allowing Abigail to get close to Ethan.

Spider could only nod his head. He didn't want to offend Veronica or oppose her opinion. Besides, he could understand where Veronica was coming from. Spider knew that Veronica was seeing Abigail as her rival for Nathan's affection.

"Where is your Supreme Leader going?" Veronica asked, her brows knitted in a frown.

"I think he is going to visit Miss Abigail to confront her. She is still in the hospital..."

Spider was not yet done talking to Veronica but she already marched out. She planned on following Nathan. She was thinking of crushing Abigail into tiny pieces. She was always suspicious of her.

"My decision was right. I should have killed her. She should die, or else, Nathan and his secret will be jeopardized!" Veronica said through her gritted teeth. She was clenching her fists as she headed to the parking lot.

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[Towerville City Hospital: 15 Minutes later...]

Meanwhile, Abigail was already preparing to leave the hospital. Ethan was already there to pick her up.

"Miss Abi. Are you done? Shall we go?" Ethan's enthusiastic voice was heard. He was excited since Abigail was going back to the mansion today.

Abigail nodded her head and closed the laptop. She was done using it. Cherry was also there. She asked Butler Li to let her accompany Ethan when fetching Abigail from the hospital.

"Miss Abi, careful..." Cherry assisted Abigail in getting off the bed and standing up. She took the laptop from her.

"Thanks," Abigail smiled faintly at Cherry. She was glad to see her today.

Ethan grabbed the hands of both women. He was holding Abigail's left hand and Cherry's right hand. The guards opened the door for them and escorted them out of the VIP Ward. They were already walking in the hallway when Nathan saw them.

The guards immediately bowed their heads upon seeing their boss.

"Dad! Did you come to fetch us?" Ethan's cheerful voice greeted Nathan.

But Nathan ignored Ethan's question. His attention was focused on the two women standing in front of him. He moved his gaze back and forth between Abigail and Cherry. Ethan just looked at him with puzzlement. He could tell that his father was not in the mood.

"Black Rose, Cliste... I finally found both of you..." Nathan mumbled, smirking at them coldly.

Abigail: "..."

Cherry: "..."

Ethan: "???"

Chapter 275 Got Caught

Day Thirty One...

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Both Abigail and Cherry were startled when Nathan mentioned their aliases. Little Ethan just looked at them with puzzlement in his eyes. He encountered Black Rose before but he never knew that Cherry was Black Rose. However, he was aware that Abigail was Cliste. This was one of their little secrets of Abigail and him.

Meanwhile, Nathan motioned the men in uniform at the back to arrest Cherry. This time he involved the police since Ethan was with them. He just wanted to detain Cherry for further interrogation.

"Miss Cherry, you have to come with us," one police officer spoke up as he approached Cherry and Abigail.

Abigail snapped out of her stupor when the police spoke up, separating Cherry from Ethan.

"Dad! What is the meaning of this?" Ethan questioned his father. He hit the hands of the police officer. He stepped forward and extended his two hands sideways as if he was shielding Cherry against the police.

Abigail also moved forward. She wouldn't let the police capture Cherry. She had to protect her. But Nathan signaled the bodyguards to hold Abigail and Ethan so that they wouldn't interfere with this arrest.

"Miss Cherry defies the law. She did illegal things so she should bear the consequences of her actions." Nathan said, explaining the situation to Ethan. "She is an infamous hacker, Ethan. Don't defend her," he added, looking daggers at Cherry.

Cherry was at a loss for words. She had never imagined that this day would come—police capturing her without fighting back. She was caught off guard by this sudden turn of events. According to Abigail, Nathan Sparks was supposed to be the one who would help them to see Phantomflake. But this situation was telling her the other way around.

'Damn! Should I run? But I am surrounded by Nathan's guards and policemen.' Cherry was contemplating what to do in this dire situation. For some unknown reason, Cherry reflexively glanced at Abigail, her eyes asking her what she should do.

Abigail, who didn't like what was happening right now, signaled Cherry to stay put. She smiled at her, reassuring her that she got her back. 'I will protect you. Nathan can't touch you!'

"You don't have to cuff her hands!" Abigail stopped the police. "She will follow you... obediently."

Those words were Abigail's cue to Cherry. She was telling her to come with them peacefully. Trusting Abigail wholeheartedly, Cherry obeyed her instruction. She willingly walked towards the police officer, without any intention of running away.

The police officer recited the Miranda rights before taking Cherry with them. Abigail and Little Ethan could only watch Cherry and her departing back. Cherry was just a few meters away from them when Veronica showed up. Before anyone could stop her, she moved toward Cherry and slapped her on her right cheek.

Pak!

Little Ethan: "Aunt!"

Abigail: "Cherry!"

Hearing their shouts, Nathan turned around to check what was going on only to find Veronica making a scene in the hospital hallway. She attacked Cherry and the police officer failed to stop her.

"You and your guild! A murderer!" Veronica slashed out at Cherry.

When Nathan heard that, he sprinted toward them, pulling Veronica away from Cherry. Abigail and Ethan followed them along with the guards. If not for Nathan's interference, the commotion would have continued.

"What are you doing here?" Nathan asked Veronic whom he was holding. "This is a hospital for goodness's sake. Don't make a scene here." Nathan scolded Veronica.

"That woman... belongs to the guild that killed my sister. How do you expect me to react?" Veronica spat back at him. Then she squinted her eyes the moment she saw Abigail. She was her original target but she knew she couldn't harm Abigail since Ethan was there and Nathan felt indebted to her. With that, she decided to vent her anger and frustration to Cherry.

When Abigail reached their spot, she immediately checked on Cherry. There was a slap mark on her right cheek. She even heard the loud smack of Veronica's hand hitting Cherry's cheek from afar. It was a hard slap.

"Are you okay?" Abigail asked Cherry worriedly. Little Ethan was standing next to her, grabbing Cherry's hand. They wanted to comfort her. It was so humiliating to be slapped in front of many people.

Cherry could only bob her head. She looked down while clenching her fists. She was just enduring it because she didn't want Abigail to get in trouble again because of her.

"Who is that woman?" Cherry asked Abigail in a low voice. Cherry had no idea that Veronica was Monica's sister. The sister of the woman her sis Phantomflake killed before.

"Don't mind her. She is just a crazy jealous bitch," Abigail replied. Then she covered her lips using her left hand, realizing that Little Ethan was there. Veronica was still Ethan's Aunt. She shouldn't talk badly about her in front of Ethan. But to her surprise, Ethan just bobbed his head in support of her claim.

"Ethan, come here! Don't get close to them. They are the reasons why your mother died!" Veronica had forgotten to filter her words. She just felt annoyed since Ethan was still siding with the two women. She thought it was so unfair. Her own nephew didn't even defend her.

"Veronica. Stop it!" Nathan's cold deep voice reverberated in the hallway. He could understand Veronica's action of slapping Black Rose but he couldn't tolerate her involving his son in this conflict. She was bringing up the death of Ethan's mother. This was a sensitive topic he didn't want to mention especially in a public place like this.

"Aunt... What do you mean?" Ethan asked her in confusion.

Abigail's heart became anxious when Ethan started to ask Veronica. She was afraid that Veronica would tell Ethan something inappropriate that might affect her relationship with him.

'No, Ethan... don't listen to her...' Abigail murmured to herself as she folded her left hand into a fist. She was controlling her temper. If she had a chance, she would cut Veronica's tongue just to shut her up.

On the other hand, Veronica suddenly got a wake-up call when she met Nathan's sharp gaze. He was now emanating a dark and chilly aura.

Chapter 276 His Aunt's Secret

Day Thirty One…

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Nathan didn't allow Veronica to utter another word. He grabbed her wrist tightly and pulled her away. But before he left with Veronica, he gave his last orders to his men and police officers.

"Take her to the precinct," Nathan ordered the policemen. He was referring to Cherry. After that, he turned to the bodyguards and said, "Escort your young master and Abigail to the mansion."

Nathan shifted his gaze from the guards to Abigail. "I'll talk to you later." Without waiting for Abigail's response, Nathan turned around, bringing Veronica with him.

Little Ethan, who became silent, just stood on his spot. His expression was unreadable. He gazed in the direction where his father and aunt disappeared to. Abigail didn't know what to say. She could feel the guilt deep inside her heart as she glanced at the young boy.

She couldn't deny the fact that she was the one who killed his mother. And it looked like Ethan was not aware of the truth about what happened to his mother. The confusion resurfaced in the young boy's eyes when Veronica mentioned his mother's death. Little Ethan's mood also changed when his father dragged his aunt without explaining her words.

"Young Master, let's go?" one of the guards spoke up, catching Ethan's attention. The young boy just looked at him coldly. The young master was not in the mood so the guard glanced at Abigail, seeking help.

Abigail took a deep breath, mustering up her courage to talk to Ethan. Though she felt like she had no right to talk to him at this moment, Abigail had to interact with him since even the guard couldn't make Ethan obey.

"Little Ethan… shall we go home? Let's just wait for your father in the mansion," Abigail softly suggested.

Ethan bobbed her head right away. He even flashed his faint smile before grabbing her left hand. Abigail was stunned for a moment and her heart ached for him. Little Ethan was always considerate of her. He always listened to her without knowing that she was the one who took his mother's life.

Meanwhile, the guards felt relieved since their young master obediently followed Abigail. They were now escorting them out of the hospital.

"Miss Abi, are you worried about Miss Cherry?" Ethan asked her after settling inside the car. "I would like to apologize for my Aunt's action. She shouldn't have made a scene in the hospital. I'm so sorry about that. Can you relay my message to Miss Cherry?"

Abigail turned to the side to face Ethan. She cupped his small face and caressed his cheeks. "You don't have to apologize. It's not your fault. But I want you to know that Cherry is a good person. She has nothing to do with your mother's death…"

Abigail didn't want Ethan to hate Cherry because of Veronica's accusation. She was the only person who committed that crime. Cherry, also known as Black Rose, was not involved in any of this.

Ethan leaned closer to Abigail and mumbled, "I understand. Can you please hug me, Miss Abi?"

This was the first time Abigail saw Ethan feeling so down. She saw the need to comfort the young boy. Abigail wrapped her left hand around his little body, pulling him closer to her into a warm hug. They stayed like that for a minute. Before she could say another word, Ethan began to confide his feelings with her.

"Miss Abi… I have known the truth… about my mother's death. It was not an accident. Someone murdered her. My Dad didn't know that I managed to see the files of my mother's case."

Abigail's body stiffened when she heard that. She was rendered speechless. She was the root cause of Ethan's misery. She was the one who killed his mother. Her heart clenched for him. She couldn't turn back time.

Because of Ethan, she was drowning in guilt. This feeling was unfamiliar to her. As a professional assassin, she had never felt this guilt before when eliminating someone. She had never regretted doing it.

But everything changed when she met Ethan. For some unknown reason, this child was able to make her feel those emotions she usually never felt before. Her stone-cold heart had begun to soften for a child like him. He was truly affecting her feelings.

'I'm sorry, Ethan. I'm sorry. I promise… once I return to my original body. I will apologize to you properly. I will ask for your forgiveness. I hope that you will never hate me that much…' Abigail gently tapped Ethan's back. She just stayed silent, letting Ethan speak what was on his mind and what was on his heart.

"I know Dad… hasn't gotten over that incident. I know he is blaming himself for failing to protect my mother. That's the reason why my Dad refused to move on and stayed in this misery. He didn't want to move on or be happy because he thought it was his fault that my mother died."

"If I was hurt because of my mother's death, my dad's feelings are ten times what I have felt." Ethan was so mature as if he was not a five-year-old kid. He could understand his father's feelings.

"So Miss Abi, please don't feel uncomfortable and awkward if I am trying to match you with my father. I just want him to move on and be happy. If only he could forget about my mother, maybe he could love another woman and be happy with her. My father is still so young."

As she listened to Ethan's words, Abigail couldn't help but feel conflicted. If Nathan could fall in love again, then the woman shouldn't be her. She was the reason why both father and son were hurting because of Monica's death. She had no right to have Nathan's affection.

But then again, maybe by doing this mission, she could fulfill Little Ethan's wish. She would make Nathan fall in love with Abigail. And when she returned to her original body as Phantomflake, the real Abigail could be with Nathan and Ethan.

At least, the real Abigail had nothing to do with the assassination. She was also suited to Nathan. Abigail was an heiress and she came from the Yan Family. They would become a perfect match for each other.

"It's okay, Ethan. I don't mind it. Don't worry, I will do my best to fulfill your wish. I will help your father move on and fall in love again. You have my word." Abigail tried to reassure Ethan.

Ethan finally flashed his smile and nodded his head. "Thank you, Miss Abi. I really really like you. I want you to become my mother." He gazed at her while putting on a puppy-eyed look. He even pouted his small lips to look cute and adorable.

Abigail raised her hand to gently caress his cheek. "Yes. I can be your mother, in the meantime. And don't listen to your Aunt's lies. I… Abigail Scarlett has nothing to do with your mother's death," Abigail said meaningfully. She was referring to the real owner of her body.

"Yes, Miss Abi. I believe you more than my Aunt. Those are just mindless accusations. I know my Aunt's secret."

"What's the secret?" Abigail asked him with intrigue.

"She was jealous of my mother. She had a thing for my father. She hated Mom for stealing my Dad from her."

Abigail: "..."

Chapter 277 Argument

Day Thirty One...

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Nathan brought Veronica to a secluded area of the hospital wherein the two of them could talk privately without worrying about other people overhearing their conversation. Nathan had a grim expression on his face as he stared at Veronica.

"Why are you here? You were not supposed to be here." Nathan finally let go of Veronica, slightly pushing her away. "The action you showed us a while ago is inappropriate. Have you forgotten that I forbid anyone from talking about Monica's death, especially in front of Ethan?" Nathan also slashed out at her.

Veronica clenched her fists. "I didn't mean to. It's just that I failed to control my emotions. You know me. I lost my sister. And I just found out that one of the members of the Phantom Assassin Guild survived, aside from Phantomflake. You should have told me this information. I deserve to know."

Nathan pursed his lips, trying to control his temper. "This is none of your business. Besides, I am the only one who can deal with this. What can you do? Your power also depends on me. Why? Are you going to make a move against Black Rose without my knowledge? Do you want to deal with her yourself?"

Nathan was trying to be patient with Veronica just because she was Monica's sister. But he didn't like the way she acted today. Without filtering her words, she opened up the wound in Ethan's heart. This

was the reason why Nathan got mad at her. Aside from that, she even emphasized that Cherry and Abigail had something to do with Monica's death.

Nathan knew how close he was to Abigail. He was so fond of her. What would he feel if someone would tell him that the person he liked so much had something to do with his mother's death? Furthermore, nothing was certain yet. Abigail's connection with the Phantom Assassin Guild was still a mystery... a big question to Nathan.

"Yes! I want to punish her myself. Including Abigail! Those two are accomplices. They have ill motives. They want revenge against you, Nate. Are you blind? Can't you see it? Abigail is just using Ethan. She is very pretentious. I should protect my nephew from that strange woman! She is a bad influence on Ethan!" Veronica spat back at Nathan. She was using Ethan as an alibi, targeting Abigail. She was accusing her again... defaming her.

"Why are you letting Ethan get closer to that woman?! Have you not wondered? Maybe Abigail is also playing a mind game with you. She saved you so that you would feel indebted to her. Don't be fooled by her, Nathan! You are a smart guy." Veronica spoke spontaneously, venting out all her frustrations.

Nathan was so unfair. He was getting mad at her but not at Abigail. He even allowed Abigail to go home with Ethan.

"Nathan... tell me honestly. Do you like that woman already?" Veronica could no longer hold her curiosity. She was dying to know if Nathan already had feelings for Abigail.

Nathan's eyes were set ablaze when he heard that. He didn't like the way Veronica was questioning him. She sounded like a jealous girlfriend.

"Whether I like her or not, it's not your place to know. So stop asking me this. You should go back to the facility... NOW!" Nathan didn't want to waste his time arguing with Veronica. He still had something more important to do than this.

Veronica was at fault here. She just barged into the hospital and made a scene. She was not supposed to act scandalously in a public place. She failed to control her outrage. She even triggered Ethan's negative emotions.

However, Veronica didn't want to acknowledge her mistake. She would insist on what she thought was right for them.

"Nathan... this is my advice to you... Stay away from Abigail. You will just get hurt in the end. This is for your well-being. She couldn't be trusted. She is friends with Black Rose. And one more thing... please allow me to deal with Black Rose." Veronica begged him. She thought that targeting Black Rose would definitely affect Abigail. She wanted to provoke Abigail so that she would show her true colors to Nathan and Ethan.

"I'm not a kid, Veronica. I know what I am doing. Don't dictate to me what I should do and what I should not do." Nathan raised his voice as he clenched his teeth. Veronica was becoming a nuisance to him.

"Black Rose and Abigail... are my business. MINE. So don't do anything. Don't ever touch them. I will deal with this myself. Do you understand?" Nathan wanted to end this argument as soon as possible. "Just focus on taking care of Axel right now and Phantomflake."

Without waiting for her response, Nathan turned around, leaving Veronica behind. He didn't bother giving her a ride to the facility. She came there alone so she could drive her own car.

When Nathan left, Veronica stomped her feet in rage. She clenched her fists tightly as she marched out. She halted on her step when she saw the trash bin and she began kicking it. She felt defeated today. Lately, she often argued with Nathan just because of Abigail. She became more threatened by Abigail's existence.

"I have to eliminate that woman from our lives! She is an obstruction to my plans. I want her to disappear for good! And next time... I will make sure that she will never survive. But before that, I have to make both Ethan and Nathan hate her so much. As long as she has the support of Ethan, Nathan will never take a move against Abigail." Veronica was now crafting another scheme in her mind. She wanted to defeat Abigail for good. She was a big hindrance to her goal.

While Veronica was occupied with her next moves on Abigail, the person she planned to target already arrived at the Sparks Mansion together with Little Ethan. Butler Li welcomed the two with a cheerful smile on his face.

"Welcome back, Miss Abi! We missed you here in the house. The house is boring without you. If you were here, you would always be the center of attention, especially by your haters," Butler Li mumbled, cracking some jokes. He noticed that the head maid and the other maids were glaring at Abigail. They were disappointed and unhappy seeing her back.

"You have nothing to worry about, Butler Li. I don't mind them at all. Besides, I don't care about what they are thinking about me. But I do appreciate that you missed my presence here at the mansion. Thank you so much. Well... I'm back." Abigail smiled at him joyfully. In fact, she missed staying in the mansion. And she was glad that Butler Li was there to give her a warm welcome.

Butler Li just nodded his head with a broad smile. "Because of that, I prepared your favorite food in the kitchen. You should eat some. Some Hospital food tastes bland so I bet you will like it."

Then Butler Li glanced at Ethan, "Hmm. I guess the young master will become happier now since Miss Abi is back. You two can eat the food I served in the kitchen."

"Thanks. Butler Li. Though I don't have an appetite right now, I will accompany Miss Abi so she can enjoy the food. Since she can't use her right hand, I will feed her." Ethan declared, pulling Abigail's hand.

He wondered why Little Ethan mentioned that he didn't have an appetite at this moment. Puzzled by Ethan's words, Butler Li just guided them to the kitchen.

"By the way, where is Cherry? I thought she was with you?" Butler Li asked when he noticed that Cherry was not around. She was supposed to return together with Ethan and Abigail.

At the mention of Cherry's name, both Ethan and Abigail fell silent. Their worries and concerns for her resurfaced on their faces. Cherry was taken away by the police.

Butler Li just stared at them, anticipating their response. But no one between the two spoke up about what happened to Cherry. They didn't want other people to know that she was arrested by the police.

"She dropped by somewhere," Ethan simply replied.

"Okay. Now let's go and eat." Butler Li mumbled. He already read the atmosphere. Something went wrong but the two were unwilling to spill the beans. He was respecting them so he decided to ignore the glum expressions on their faces.

Both Abigail and Ethan had no appetite but they tried to eat what Butler Li prepared for them since he made an effort. They were still eating when another person joined them in the kitchen. Nathan finally arrived at the mansion.

"When you are done eating, proceed to my study room. We need to talk," Nathan's cold voice was heard at the entrance door of the kitchen. When Abigail turned around in his direction, she met Nathan's cold sharp gaze.

'Damn it! What kind of alibi I will be using this time?' Abigail cursed inwardly, biting her lower lip.

Chapter 278 The Best Alibi

Day Thirty-One...

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Nathan didn't bother to hear Abigail's response. He just left the kitchen as he didn't want to disturb Ethan and Abigail from enjoying their meal. Nathan heaved a sigh of relief because he could see that Ethan didn't mind Veronica's words a while ago. He was still very attentive to Abigail. He was feeding her with food and taking care of her.

"Miss Abi, do you want me to accompany you? Are you in trouble again? It seems like my Dad already found out that you are Cliste." Little Ethan gently patted Abigail's shoulder. Whenever she was in trouble, Little Ethan would always come to her rescue.

But Abigail refused to accept Ethan's help. She had to face Nathan alone. Ethan had already done so much for her. She should not rely on Ethan's support. She couldn't involve him in this mess... the own mess she created.

"I'm fine, Ethan. Thank you for letting me know that you are always there to back me up. However, this time I must refuse. This discussion is between your father and me. A talk between two adults..." Abigail stroked Ethan's hair and gently patted his head.

"I understand, Miss Abi. Just always remember that I will always be here to defend you against my father. If he makes you cry, I will scold and punish him with this." Ethan raised his little fist.

Abigail let out a soft giggle. She truly appreciated how much Ethan wanted to protect her. "Thank you, my cute little angel."

~ Ten minutes later... ~

Abigail proceeded to Nathan's study. When she entered the room, she saw Nathan sitting on his swivel chair. His eyes were closed and his right elbow was placed over his forehead. There was a crease in between his brows as he bit his lower lip. He looked like he had a throbbing headache. His left hand was gripping the armrest of the chair tightly.

"Nate?" Abigail called his name softly.

Nathan already knew that she was there. He heard the sound of the door opening and her footsteps a while ago. However, he didn't open his eyes. He took his time conditioning himself. He wondered what kind of answers he would get from her.

Abigail's identity was giving him a headache. She never failed to surprise him over and over again. 'As time goes by, how many more revelations I will uncover related to her?'

"Are you okay?" Abigail's faint voice was heard again.

Nathan exhaled deeply before removing his hand from his forehead. He slowly opened his eyes and sat up straight, facing Abigail. The moment their eyes met, Abigail's heart leaped in anxiousness. Nathan was now staring at her intently.

"I'm not okay. Honestly, you are giving me a headache, Miss Scarlett. You have a lot of explaining things to do." Nathan's sharp gaze never left Abigail's face.

Abigail just blinked several times. She didn't know where she would start. Nathan's scrutinizing gaze was somehow pressuring her. But she had to say something. She had to sound believable. Furthermore, she must find a way how she would protect Black Rose. Nathan already learned the truth about Cherry's real identity.

"What do you want to know first?" Abigail asked him. She took a deep breath for her to calm down and clear her mind. Clearing her mind would help her think of the best solution to her problem. Nathan must be suspicious of her.

"First, I wanna know what's your connection with Black Rose. Why do you know her? Are you a member of her guild?" Nathan stood up, walking closer to Abigail.

Abigail stepped back. Nathan just entered her safe zone. She felt uncomfortable with their closeness. Nathan's presence was making her nervous. Her heart kept racing inside her chest. She couldn't control it.

'Damn! Don't get closer or else, I will have a heart attack.' Abigail complained inwardly.

"Black Rose is my acquaintance. As you know, I'm Cliste. I'm also a hacker so it's not a surprise if we know each other. But I'm not a member of Black Rose's guild. Furthermore, I also know Shining Star, remember?" Abigail made sure to give emphasis to Shining Star's name. Since someone used her identity as Shining Star then it would only be fair if she would use that impostor as well.

On the other hand, Nathan became more confused. But her strategy was working. Nathan's expression softened at the mention of Shining Star. "You are friends with both of them?"

"Of course. I'm close to Black Rose and Shining Star!" Abigail promptly responded. It was partly true and partly a lie.

"But do you know that Black Rose's guild kill your friend Shining Star? Why are you helping her? Phantomflake, the leader of Black Rose's guild was the one who murdered Shining Star." Nathan said those words through his gritted teeth. He was reminded of that tragic moment.

'Yeah! You don't have to tell me that. I already knew that. I'm Phantomflake,' she chanted in her mind.

"Let me correct your statement, Nate. Phantomflake was the one who killed Monica, but not, Black Rose. She is innocent. You don't have to take your anger and hatred on her. Just let her go. Besides, Phantomflake should be the one to suffer, not Black Rose."

Abigail wanted to clear Black Rose's name. She wanted to put all the blame on herself. Nathan should only direct his anger on Phantomflake, not other people... not Black Rose.

Nathan didn't say anything for a moment. He was trying to digest Abigail's words. To convince him further, Abigail had to elaborate on her statement.

"That was the reason why I helped you in searching for Phantomflake. You owed me, Nate. Because of my help, you managed to get Phantomflake back. Am I right?"

Nathan was at a loss for words. He couldn't refute that. Cliste was the one who warned him about the Red Dragon's Trap. She was the one who informed him about the location of the Red Dragon's Sanitarium and the hospital where Phantomflake was transferred to.

"Now, do me a favor, Nate. Release Black Rose. Please don't hurt her. She is my friend." Abigail pleaded.

Nathan was still reluctant to grant her request. But he had no reason to refuse. Cliste was a big help to him lately. Furthermore, he owed her his life.

"How long have you known my secret?" Nathan finally spoke up after being quiet for a minute.

"Secret? What secret?" Abigail feigned ignorance. She didn't what secret he was referring to.

"My involvement with the Syphiruz Mafia... Did you tell Ethan about this?" Nathan was worried that his son would know his dark sides.

Abigail restrained herself from rolling her eyes. 'Nathan Sparks, if only you knew how smart and mature your son was... Even if you tried your best to hide so many secrets from him, Little Ethan has many ways

to find them out. You don't even know that your son already knew the real cause of his mother's death. I wouldn't be surprised if Ethan already knew that you are the Leader of a Mafia Group.'

'Hmm. Thinking about that... I am not sure if Ethan knew or not. Maybe, he was not mentioning it to me because he didn't want his father's reputation to get ruined in my eyes. Maybe Ethan didn't want me to be scared of Nathan?' Abigail started to speculate.

"Answer me, Abi!" Nathan urged her to speak up. Abigail seemed to be distracted and she was not paying attention to him. Her mind was wandering off somewhere. However, Nathan's voice brought her back to the present.

"No! I didn't tell Ethan any of this. I swear." Abigail said, raising her left hand as a sign of her sincerity.

"Are you sure?" Nathan stepped forward, closing their gaps. He had a serious expression on his face. He held her shoulders, making her look straight into his eyes. He wanted to know that Abigail was not lying.

"I swear. I haven't told anyone about this. As for the time when I learned your secret... Uhmm... actually... I discovered it when your men brought me to the medical facility when you were poisoned... I mean when your allergy worsened because of the food I cooked."

"So clearly, it's not my fault that I learned your secret. It was your men's fault for summoning me there and I saw Phantomflake." Abigail added, making a good alibi and at the same time, putting the blame on Nathan's men.

"Oops, I forgot. It was Dr. Veronica who ordered your men to bring me there. So blame her!" Abigail shamelessly said. She even sneered at Nathan.

Nathan: "..."

'Why do I feel like she is getting even at Veronica? Veronica tried to make Abigail look bad in Ethan's eyes. And now, she is clearly putting the blame on Veronica.'

Nathan felt amused by Abigail's bluntness and shamelessness. But for some unknown reason, he felt at ease now, hearing this explanation. Abigail or Cliste meant no harm, either to him or Ethan.

Her story sounded believable. And the way she reasoned was compelling. Though he didn't completely buy all her words, part of Nathan was telling him to trust Abigail.

"Alright. I will grant your request about releasing Black Rose and not laying a hand on her... but on one condition..."

Abigail's face brightened up when she heard that so without waiting for Nathan to complete his words, Abigail cut him off immediately. "Sure! Sure! Just tell me what you want!"

"Don't ever tell Ethan about this and..."

"And what?" Abigail was very eager to hear about his condition.

"Tell me more things about Monica... what do you know about your hacker friend... Shining Star..." There was a spark in Nathan's eyes when he said his last statement.

Abigail: "..."

Chapter 279 The Dragon Lord Was Defeated

Day Thirty One…

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

Crash!

Smash!

The Dragon Lord's office was quite a mess. The Dragon Lord broke several things inside as soon as he learned that Phantomflake disappeared from St. Benedict Memorial Hospital. He suspected that Nathan and the Syphiruz Mafia were the ones who took her away.

'Damn it! No wonder Nathan Sparks didn't show up during the exchange. He was doing another mission. He came for Phantomflake!' the Dragon Lord finally figured out the reason for Nathan's absence during the negotiation.

Slam!

Thud!

The Dragon Lord smashed his table and kicked his chair at that realization. Nathan had outsmarted him. He couldn't accept it. He lost to Nathan once again!

"How could that be possible? How did he know that Phantomflake was transferred to St. Benedict?!"

The Dragon Lord couldn't believe that Nathan found the location as soon as possible. He made a mistake. He became so confident that Nathan wouldn't be able to find Phantomflake. Abigail was only transferred to St. Benedict Memorial Hospital for a day. How come Nathan was able to trace the location?

''SizzlingAugust08… the greatest hacker… was he the one who found the location?" The Dragon Lord had no idea that Nathan was SizzlingAugust08. And his conjecture was wrong. A magical creature (Bam-Bam) was the one who helped Abigail and Nathan in tracking Phantomflake's location.

"Damn it!" He cursed under his breath. He punched the table over and over again.

It did not take long before Jack and Agustav entered the room. They had something to discuss with their leader but they knew that they were in the wrong timing since the office was in a chaotic state and the Dragon Lord was still furious about what happened.

"Dragon Lord… everyone is waiting for your command." Agustav mustered his courage up to speak to their moody leader. "What are we going to do to the other members of the Syphiruz Mafia?" The Red Dragon Mafia still had prisoners. Only Stephen and Violet were able to escape during their encounter with the Syphiruz Mafia.

"Kill. Them. All." The Dragon Lord commanded with his authority.

"Consider it done, my lord," Agustav promptly responded. He immediately left the room to execute the Dragon Lord's order.

When Agustav was gone, Jack gained the opportunity to discuss an important matter with the Dragon Lord.

"Dragon Lord… I have something important to tell you…"

The Dragon Lord tossed a puzzled look at Jack. Seeing his bruises made him more enraged. Jack was badly beaten up and Spade was still in the hospital, recuperating from his gunshot wounds. He hasn't regained consciousness yet.

"What is it?" he plainly said.

"My Lord… there is a traitor among us. Spade told me something before he lost consciousness. He told me that the man who fired the first gunshot came from our team, not from the Syphiruz Mafia. And the target was me. Not Spade. He just protected me."

The Dragon Lord was stunned for a moment when he heard that. Jack would never lie about this so he could tell that he was telling the truth. Furthermore, there was no reason for him to lie about this incident.

"A traitor from our team?" A deep crease formed on the Dragon Lord's forehead as he questioned Jack.

Jack bobbed his head to confirm it. "Yes, my lord."

"Does it mean… the members of the Syphiruz Mafia didn't break the rule of our negotiation. The first gunshot came from our team… Who dares defy my orders?" The Dragon Lord gnashed his teeth while clenching his fists. Someone from his team violated the rules. And it resulted in their comrades getting injured. Both parties, (Syphiruz, and Red Dragon) had casualties during the shootout. It started because of a traitor from their group.

"Fuck! You have to find out who is the traitor among us. I will never forgive him. They must be kicked out and punished!" the Dragon Lord's cold voice reverberated inside his office.

"I understand, my Lord. Just leave it to me. Spade was hurt because of me. The least I can do is to find the culprit who shot him. I will punish the traitor by myself." Jack said with conviction.

"By the way, how are you feeling? Just take it easy and rest until you recover." The Dragon Lord didn't hide his concern for his loyal subordinate. He was worried for both Jack and Spade.

But he was glad that they were no longer in the hands of the Syphiruz Mafia. He knew that Nathan could be ruthless. If he didn't capture Stephen and Violet, Nathan would have killed Jack already. Nathan even reclaimed Phantomflake.

"I'm just fine, my Lord. Don't worry. This is nothing compared to the wounds I received when I was tortured by another organization. The King Stallions. I can manage." Jack reassured the Dragon Lord. Deep inside, he felt so touched since their leader showed concern for both Spade and him.

"Okay. I will leave this task to you. I have to go back to Country M to continue my plan." A chilly glint flickered in his eyes. The battle between Nathan and the Dragon Lord was not yet done. This was the only start. He would never give up until he brought Nathan down.

"What are you planning this time, my Lord?" Jack was a little bit worried. Country M was the Syphiruz Mafia's turf. The Dragon Lord should be more careful.

"I will try to target Nathan's weakness. His son and his woman… I have to get close to them without Nathan's knowledge. His son is heavily guarded so I will start with his woman… Abigail Scarlett." A sly smile appeared on his face as he thought about the actress. He already made a preparation. During the Star Gala, he would join the party and create a 'chance encounter' with her.

"My Lord… be careful. That woman is very strange. She is not a typical actress. She was the one who chased after me at the airport. She is very observant. Her eyes were like hawks. She can easily see through you." Jack warned his leader.

"She seems interesting. I like it. Let's see how good she is."

Chapter 280 The Deal Between Abi And Nate

Day Thirty Two…

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[At Sparks Mansion…]

Abigail was staring at her reflection in the large mirror. She was still wearing the arm sling of her right hand. Two days from now, she could already remove the arm sling. Fortunately, her gunshot wounds recovered fast. She had to attend the Star Gala in five days.

Abigail exhaled deeply. Lots of things happened this week. Nathan uncovered many revelations about her. They confronted each other several times. But in the end, they ended up making another deal.

"Damn! Nathan wants to hear everything I know about Shining Star. But the Shining Star I know is myself… not Monica." Abigail lamented.

Nathan required Abigail to meet him at his study every Wednesday night and Friday night just to talk about Monica and her relationship with her. Abigail had no choice but to agree. This was one of his conditions to release Black Rose.

"Should I say that the Shining Star he knew is an impostor?" Abigail continued her monologue in front of the mirror. After a while, Abigail shook her head. She didn't have proof. Nathan would not believe her. She couldn't afford to argue with Nathan again. They just reconciled.

Abigail massaged her temples using her left hand. She was racking her brain about what she would do next. Then an idea popped up in her head.

"I know what to do. I should grab this opportunity to ask Nathan how did he meet Monica. I will gather some information on how Monica became Shining Star. Maybe through this, I will be able to figure out if she pretended to be me or if Nathan just mistook her for me."

Abigail snapped her fingers and looked at the mirror with her sparkling emerald eyes. She just found a great chance to slowly solve the mystery surrounding Monica.

Knock! Knock!

Abigail was interrupted when she heard the knocking sound of the door. She turned around, facing the door of her bedroom. "Wait. I'm coming," Abigail mumbled, tracing her steps toward the door.

After opening the door, Nathan's gorgeous face greeted her sight. He looked very refreshed this morning as compared to his stressed look yesterday.

"Are you ready?" Nathan asked her, his eyes scanning her from top to bottom.

The two of them were going to take Black Rose out of the Police Station. She was detained in the precinct yesterday as per instruction of Nathan. But because of the deal he made with Abigail, he would release Black Rose. He promised not to harm her. If Veronica would learn about this, she would certainly explode in fury.

Abigail nodded. "Yes. Let's go."

Nathan stepped to the side, letting Abigail walk ahead. He was the one who closed the door behind them. Then he guided Abigail downstairs as if he was her bodyguard. Two bodyguards and the chauffeur were waiting for them outside.

"Where is Chantha?" Abigail wondered as she didn't see her lady bodyguard. She had been missing for the past few days.

"She's in the headquarters, taking care of something," Nathan plainly responded. In fact, Chantha was taking care of Axel since she felt responsible for what happened to him. Axel protected her so she felt the urge to look after him until he recovered.

Abigail had no idea that the Syphiruz Mafia also had casualties during the mission. Their comrades got severely injured as well, including Axel.

When they arrived at the police precinct, Cherry was already sitting in the waiting lounge. Her hands were no longer restrained by the handcuffs. She was now free and she still had no idea what happened.

"Abi!" Cherry stood up the moment she saw Abigail. She waved her hand at her but she stopped midway when Nathan appeared behind Abigail. 'Damn! My Big Boss who got me arrested is also here…' Cherry shot Nathan a cold sharp glare.

Abigail pursed her lips, trying to hold her laughter. She noticed Cherry's reaction when she saw Nathan. She understood why she was upset with Nathan. Furthermore, Cherry had no idea how Nathan found out that she was Black Rose, an infamous hacker.

Cherry was looking daggers at Nathan. She ignored him and walked towards Abigail. She pounced on her and hugged her gently, making sure that Abigail's injured hand wouldn't get hurt.

Abigail hugged her back, tapping her shoulder using her left hand. "I got your back, Cherry. You have nothing to worry about anymore," she whispered in her ear.

Cherry closed her eyes, savoring this feeling of comfort brought by Abigail. She was acting like a big sister to her even though she was older than her. Abigail was only 21 years old while she was 24 years old.

"Cherry," Nathan called her attention. He motioned her to let go of Abigail. He thought Cherry was hugging Abigail tightly. Abigail's hand was pressed in between their bodies. He was worried that Abigail would be in pain.

Glowering her eyes at Nathan, Cherry gently let go of Abigail. "Mr. Sparks, why are you here?" Cherry gave him a cold shoulder. Abigail immediately grabbed her hand and gave her a warning look.

"Don't be so rude. He is here to take you out," Abigail murmured to her.

Cherry was rendered speechless. She turned to Abigail, disbelief resurfacing in her eyes. "Is that true?"

Abigail smiled and bobbed her head. "Yes."

Cherry immediately bowed her head and thanked Nathan. "Thank you, Mr. Sparks!"

"I'm sorry. This is just a mistaken identity." The police who arrested Cherry yesterday apologized to her. Nathan would never apologize because he knew the truth. Cherry was Black Rose.

Cherry heaved a sigh of relief. She didn't say anything and just focused her attention on Abigail.

"Come with us. We are going somewhere…" There was a gleam in her eyes when she invited Cherry. She knew that Cherry would be happy once she saw her surprise to her. Then Abigail glanced at Nathan meaningfully. Abigail made another proposal to Nathan last night. Luckily, Nathan listened and agreed to her.

Nathan talked to the Police Chief before leaving the station. Abigail and Cherry waited for him in the car. Since they were left alone inside the car, the two ladies got the chance to talk privately.

"Miss Abi… is this true? Nathan Sparks will no longer send me to the police. Do you know how he found out that I am Black Rose?" Cherry asked Abigail curiously.

Abigail faced Cherry, holding her hand. "Cherry, listen to me. Starting today you will be working for Nathan and his company. You will no longer be a cook. But you will use your computer skills for Nathan."

"Huh? Why should I do that?" Cherry was against this idea.

"Because I made a deal with him… both of us will benefit from this deal. Can you please cooperate? This is for your own safety." Abigail explained to Cherry.

But Cherry was not convinced about this. She shook her head frantically. "I have a mission to do, Abi. I have to find Phantomflake. I need to rescue her. I must destroy the Syphiruz Mafia… for my sisters. I want to avenge them…"

Abigail's heart clenched in pain. She was the root cause of this. She was arrogant to challenge Nathan and the Syphiruz Mafia that she foolishly accepted that mission. She was the one who brought demise to her assassin guild.

'I have to fix this. Black Rose doesn't need to do the revenge.'

"Cherry… If Phantomflake is here, she will tell you to listen to me. Your safety is more important to her than revenge…"

Cherry just fell silent. She couldn't decide as of now.

"Just come with us. I will show you something. I just hope… after this, you will finally listen to me." Abigail gently squeezed her hand. She would do anything to protect the only sister she had left. That was none other than Black Rose.

Cherry didn't know what to feel. She just sat there quietly. Then Nathan joined them. Leaving the police station, the three of them headed to a private villa. Both Abigail and Cherry were surprised when Stephen and Aiden welcomed them at the entrance gate.

Cherry: "Dr. Zhou? Aiden?"

Abigail: "Stephen… Aiden…" She glanced at Nathan, giving him a puzzled look. She thought he would bring them to a medical facility.

"She is here," Nathan mumbled, answering the questioning look in Abigail's eyes.

"I can't let her stay in the same place where she was taken away." Nathan added. He said it in a low voice that only Abigail could only hear his words.