

100 Days 281

Chapter 281 Reunited

Day Thirty-Two...

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Abigail was able to figure out the meaning of Nathan's words. But she wondered why Stephen and Aiden were also there. Abigail moved her gaze back and forth between Aiden and Stephen. Then her eyes stopped at Stephen.

She recalled the conversation she overheard between Aiden and Nathan. Nathan mentioned that Phantomflake was the reason why Stephen insisted on doing the mission. As a result, Stephen was the one who got captured by the Red Dragon Mafia.

With his current appearance, Abigail could already imagine the pain he endured at the hands of the Red Dragon Mafia. Stephen was beaten up badly. His bruises were visible on his face. But it didn't make him less attractive.

"Cough! Cough!" Nathan cleared his throat to get Abigail's attention. He saw how Abigail stared at Stephen for a long moment.

"Shall we go inside?" Nathan signaled Aiden to open the door.

Stephen smiled at them and bobbed his head. Aiden opened the door for everyone and walked ahead together with Stephen. Nathan guided Abigail, not leaving her side. On the other hand, Cherry who was still clueless why they were there just followed everyone.

Passing through the hallway for two minutes, the five of them stopped at the center, facing a steel door. It was larger than the other doors inside that house. Two guards were standing in front of the steel door. But they were not human, they were humanoid robots.

Abigail and Cherry were amazed to see those two robots. They were reminded of Ethan's robotic friends— Powy, Riemc, and Star S. This type of robot was the latest version of humanoid robots of SYP Starlight Corp.

"Amazing! They are your guards. Are they more capable than human guards?" Cherry asked them in amusement.

"Well... Nathan provided these robots because a certain someone here doesn't want to have many strangers in his home. I think they are as capable as the human guards. At least, these robots won't betray their master." Aiden replied to Cherry's question.

"Certain someone? Who owns this house?" Abigail threw a follow-up question.

"Mine!" Stephen raised his hand and smiled sheepishly at them.

Abigail and Cherry were surprised. They didn't expect that this house belonged to Stephen.

"Why are we here?" Cherry asked them again, feeling intrigued.

"Yeah, I'm also curious. Why did you bring Abigail and Cherry here, Nate?" Aiden butted in once more. He thought outsiders were not allowed to go there.

Stephen had no idea either. Nathan didn't mention the reason why he decided to bring Abigail and Black Rose.

"We are here to see the patient," Abigail spoke on behalf of Nathan. "Can we enter now?" She was dying to see her body. Bam-Bam already mentioned that her physical body was also affected when she got shot. She wondered if her injuries were recovering well.

According to Nathan, Stephen suggested letting Phantomflake stay in his house. He would closely monitor her condition. Since Phantomflake was taken from the Medical Facility of the Syphiruz Mafia, it wasn't a good idea to bring her back there. She should be transferred to a place where their enemies couldn't find her.

Nathan just raised his right hand and the two robots gave way, opening the steel door for them. Nathan walked ahead without waiting for them. Abigail immediately followed him. Stephen invited Cherry in and the three of them entered the room at the same time.

When Cherry saw a familiar figure lying on the sickbed, she froze on her spot with startled eyes.

"Sis Phantom..." She mumbled in a low voice. Her gaze was fixed on Phantomflake's body. Her eyes became teary and her body trembled. She felt the lump in her throat as she tried to hold back her tears. She didn't want to cry in front of Aiden, Stephen, and Nathan. But she was overwhelmed at this moment.

She had never imagined that she would see Phantomflake today. So this was the meaning of Abigail's words. Phantomflake was now in Nathan's custody. No wonder Abigail said that she would finally listen to her after this. Abigail was so confident that Nathan would be able to take Phantomflake from the Red Dragon Mafia.

'Sis...!' Cherry finally found her strength to take a step. She thought she was dreaming. But the moment she reached the sickbed, she got a closer look at Phantomflake's face. She was indeed Phantomflake... her mentor, her sister, and her friend.

'I'm glad she is here... She is alive.' A single tear fell from the corner of her eyes when she touched Phantomflake's hand.

"W-What happened to her? How is she?" Cherry asked them in her trembling voice. She had mixed emotions.

"She is still in a coma. But her condition is stable now." Stephen was the one who answered Cherry.

"Does she know her?" Aiden asked, nudging Nathan's shoulder.

Nathan just gave him a cold stare, signaling him to stay quiet. "Let's leave them for a while..." Nathan signaled Aiden and Stephen to follow him outside. This was one of the requests made by Abigail.

Reluctant to leave, Aiden was just pulled by Stephen as they went outside, leaving Abigail and Cherry inside.

"Hey, Nate. What's going on here? Please explain. My dumb mind can't understand this." Aiden immediately interrogated Nathan.

Stephen also gave Nathan a questioning gaze. He didn't know what was running through Nathan's mind. Why did he suddenly bring Abigail and Cherry there? Were they related to Phantomflake?

"I guess, they know each other... am I right?" Stephen asked Nathan as well.

"Yes. They know each other. Cherry... is Black Rose. She is a member of Phantom's Assassin Guild."

"WHAT?!" Aiden gasped in surprise. His eyes were wide open. Even Stephen was taken aback when he heard Nathan's response.

"Then why did you bring her here? Does she know that you are a member of the Syphiruz Mafia?" Stephen inquired.

Nathan shook his head. "She didn't know. This is part of my deal with Abigail. Abigail is also a hacker. Her alias is Cliste. She knew Black Rose but she is not a member of Phantom's Assassin Guild. Abigail was the hacker who helped me track Phantomflake's location. In other words, because of her, we found Phantomflake..."

"WHAT?! Abigail is a hacker too?!!" Aiden reacted exasperatedly once more.

Stephen and Nathan shot Aiden with sharp glares. His loud gasp and overreaction were a little bit distracting. Can't he just act naturally? He already heard Nathan. Why did he have to repeat the question?

"What is the deal between you and Abigail?" Stephen asked Nathan seriously. Aiden shut his mouth and waited for Nathan's response.

"In exchange for her help and assistance provided to me in searching for Phantomflake, Abigail asked me not to involve Black Rose in my revenge against Phantomflake because she said Black Rose had nothing to do with Monica's death. She's innocent—"

"I AGREE!" Aiden blurted out, cutting off Nathan. For some unknown reason, he didn't want Nathan to hurt Cherry aka Black Rose.

Stephen glared at Aiden, telling him to stay quiet.

"What else did she ask you?" Stephen was curious about the deal between Abigail and Nathan.

"Abigail promised to hide the truth about my identity as the Leader of Syphiruz Mafia from Cherry. She suggested that we would pretend that I helped her in taking Phantomflake from Red Dragon and the Syphiruz. In exchange, she would convince Black Rose to work for me..."

"Whoa! Brilliant Suggestion!" Aiden clapped his hands and chuckled.

Nathan and Stephen turned in his direction, giving him a deathly glare. "Shut up, Aiden!" Both men said in unison. Aiden was ruining the mood. The two were talking seriously while Aiden was making some comments.

"Fine. Fine! I will keep my mouth shut. Don't kill me with that look." Aiden zipped his mouth.

"Nate. I know how you hate Phantomflake and the members of her guild. What urge you to accept this deal?" Stephen marveled as to why Nathan agreed to this deal.

"Why do you ask? It's simple. Of course, Nate felt indebted to Abigail so he couldn't say no!" Aiden failed to hold his tongue once more and just butted in.

"Aiden... I'm not asking you." Stephen sighed helplessly.

"Oops. I'm sorry..." Aiden apologized right away. "But kidding aside, what is your real reason, Nate?"

Nathan paused for a moment, assessing his feelings. Then he glanced at the closed door before speaking up. "Because Abigail is also a close friend of Monica..."

Stephen: "..."

Aiden: "..."

'No way. Is this true? What a small world it is... after all!'

"Have you confirmed it?" Stephen asked again, still trying to absorb Nathan's revelation.

"Yes. Abigail knew something that only Monica and I knew." Nathan said meaningfully. "But I will continue to ask her things related to Monica and see if she truly knows Monica."

Aiden and Stephen could only nod their heads.

"Are you fine with this setup? Are you not bothered by Black Rose's presence?" Stephen just wanted to make sure that Cherry would not trigger some bad memories of Nathan.

"Yes. I'm fine with this setup. What we need to do is to focus on Phantomflake's recovery. And who knows... Black Rose's presence will help Phantomflake's condition to improve and wake up."

Stephen smiled at Nathan, feeling satisfied. His best friend was now coping up.

"So expect Cherry to pay Phantomflake a visit regularly. Keep watching her... She might also volunteer to take care of Phantomflake during Weekends." Nathan informed Stephen because this was his house.

"It's okay. I don't mind it at all. Cherry is not a stranger to me." Stephen said.

Aiden furrowed his eyebrows when he heard that. "I will also come here during weekends!" Aiden declared to them.

Chapter 282 If I Just Met Him Sooner...

Day Thirty-Two...

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Cherry was still overwhelmed since she finally got to see Phantomflake after two years. Nothing changed in her appearance. She was glad that the Syphiruz Mafia kept her alive. Abigail already explained to Cherry the current condition of Phantomflake.

She has been in a coma for two years now. The Supreme Leader of the Syphiruz Mafia didn't harm her. Instead, he made sure that Phantomflake would be taken care of by the doctors and nurses of their Medical Facility.

"What's wrong with her? Why is it her right hand wrapped in a bandage?" Cherry was going to check Phantomflake's body but Abigail stopped her. She didn't want Cherry to worry. Just like Abigail, Phantomflake received the same injury when she was shot by the three bullets.

"The doctor advised us not to touch the covered areas of her body. She got some allergic reactions from her previous medicines given by the Red Dragon Mafia," Abigail said as an alibi, blaming the Red Dragon Mafia. Besides, it was true that the Red Dragon Mafia was the main reason she got hurt.

Cherry didn't ask further. She just obediently nodded her head, retreating her hand. She moved it on Phantomflake's hand, squeezing her palm. She felt so warm.

"Thank you, Miss Abi. Because of you, I was reunited with Sis Phantom!" A grateful look flashed through her eyes as she glanced at Abigail.

"It's my pleasure. I promised her... I will protect you. So please, make up your mind now. Work for Nathan Sparks. Phantomflake is now under his protection. I guarantee you. He will do everything just to cure her." Abigail began to convince Cherry.

"Alright. I agree. I will work for Nathan Sparks... as long as he will allow me to take good care of Sis Phantom." There was excitement in her voice when she said those words. She didn't want to leave Phantomflake's side.

Abigail just giggled. She could see how happy Cherry was at this moment. "Yes. Don't worry. Nathan will surely agree."

"By the way, Miss Abi... Does Nathan know that she is an assassin?" For a moment, Cherry was scared that Nathan would hand them over to the police. He just sent her to prison yesterday. What if he would do it again? And this time, Phantomflake might also get involved.

Abigail let out another soft giggle. She walked closer to Cherry and patted her back. "Don't overthink. As long as I'm here, Nathan will not lay a finger on either one of you." There was a hint of reassurance in her every word.

"Whoa... Miss Abi... can you tell me honestly... Are you and Boss Nathan in a relationship? Did he confess to you already?"

"Cough! Cough! Cough!" Abigail choked the moment she heard Cherry's last remarks.

"Hey, are you okay?" Cherry asked her innocently. But her lips curled up into a teasing smile when they met each other's gaze.

Abigail didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "Between us, I should be the one confessing to him. I am the one who is chasing after his affection. Not the other way around." Abigail corrected Cherry's wrong assumption. "We are not in a relationship yet."

"Yes... Not yet. But I feel like the two of you are attracted to each other. He was so worried about you when you got hurt." Cherry nudged Abigail's shoulder as she kept teasing her.

Abigail just raised her eyebrow and said, "We are still far from your expectation. Hmm. But I will work hard! I only have 68 Days left before my mission ends."



"Huh? 68 Days left? What mission?" Abigail had a slip of a tongue so Cherry heard her.

Abigail cursed herself inwardly. She didn't mean to say those words. She smiled at her sheepishly and came up with a good alibi. "Hmm. Oh, it's nothing. It's my personal goal. I put a timeframe so that I can monitor my progress."

"What goal?" Cherry asked her again. She was curious about Abigail's mission.

"Hmm. My goal is to make Nathan Sparks fall for me," Abigail could no longer stand lying to Black Rose. She already lied several times for Cherry's sake. This time she wanted to share this with her, though she would have to omit some details.

'I can't tell her that I'm Phantomflake and I'm on a mission of making Nathan fall for me. And if I fail... death will be my punishment. Sigh. I feel like I am a terminally ill patient, waiting for my death to come.'

Abigail was looking troubled and problematic when Cherry's laughter echoed inside the ward. She didn't expect Abigail was very passionate once in love. She was bold enough to woo a guy. Well, she couldn't blame her. Nathan Sparks was so handsome.

"So your type is a devilish beauty. He suits your taste. You are very fierce. I hope both of you will end up together." Cherry rubbed her palm together as if she was wishing in front of a shooting star.

Abigail could only smile. She didn't want to deny it. Nathan was indeed her type. He was so smart, gorgeous, and hot. The only disappointment she had for him was that... Nathan couldn't distinguish who was the real Shining Star.

"Sigh. He is dumb and foolish sometimes," Abigail lamented, heaving a deep sigh.

"Haha! Why?" Cherry watched Abigail in amusement. She couldn't believe that this woman had the guts to call Nathan Sparks dumb and foolish.

"Because I think... he fell for the wrong woman!" Abigail stated matter-of-factly. Deep inside her heart, she wondered if she had met him before Monica did, would Nathan fall for her as well?

Abigail tried to assess her inner feelings. Would she fall for Nathan? Would she give herself a chance to be with a guy like him? Falling in love with someone didn't cross her mind before. But now, she couldn't help but marvel... 'If I met him sooner, could we end up being together, and... Ethan could be our son...'

Abigail's cheeks were burned in embarrassment because of her wishful thinking. She immediately shook her head and pushed the thoughts to the back of her mind. 'Damn! What am I thinking? This is so embarrassing! Clear your mind, Phantomflake!'

Chapter 283 She Doesn't Know Her Past

Day Thirty Two...

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When the guys made sure that they'd already given the ladies enough time to have catching up together and some time alone with Phantomflake, Aiden invited Abigail and Cherry to eat some snacks in the living room.

But Cherry felt like she hadn't got enough time so she chose to stay by Phantomflake's side. Abigail gave Cherry the chance to be with Phantomflake alone. Cherry said she wanted to talk to Phantomflake alone. Though she felt strange since she was the real Phantomflake, Abigail just let Cherry do what she wanted.

She almost told her this. "If you have something to tell Phantomflake, just share it with me. I assure you, Phantomflake will be able to hear your message and know your thoughts." Fortunately, Abigail was able to hold her tongue from saying it out loud.

"How is Cherry?" Aiden simply asked Abigail as they passed through the hallway going to the living room.

"She is feeling good. I guess she is happy," Abigail responded with a gentle smile.

"Hmm. You look so happy as well."

Abigail just shrugged her shoulders.

"Miss Abi, you are full of secrets! You are so cool. You can fight and you are an expert in computers! Where did you learn those things?" Aiden was praising her. Admiration and amazement could be seen in his eyes.

"You should recover fast so that you can teach me both fighting skills and hacking skills!" he added enthusiastically.

"Hmm. Sure. I will," Abigail promptly responded. She was also in a good mood so she wasn't annoyed by Aiden's blabbering mouth.

"However... I can't be with you always otherwise, someone might get jealous. So why don't you just ask your friend, Cherry, to teach me some hacking skills instead?" Aiden shamelessly suggested.

Abigail arched her eyebrow and halted on her steps. She turned to Aiden, facing him. Aiden held his breath when Abigail's prying eyes were fixed on his face. 'Why is she looking at me like that? Did I say something wrong? Damn. What if Abigail didn't want me to get closer to Cherry? Is she protecting her against me? But I'm harmless.'

Aiden started to regret it. Abigail seemed like she had become serious now. Her intent gaze was making him sweat.

"Who will get jealous?" Abigail asked him.

"Who else? Of course, Nathan!" Aiden didn't think twice as he mentioned Nathan's name. He also noticed the deathly glare Nathan was giving him whenever he would see them together.

Abigail: "..."

"What about me?" Nathan's voice was heard at the back.

'Uh-oh. Speak of the devil... He is here,' Abigail thought to herself as she glanced in Nathan's direction.

"See! Here is the killer gaze!" Aiden mumbled after seeing the sharp gaze coming from Nathan.

Nathan got impatient since Aiden took a lot of time before going back. He just fetched the two women but he hadn't come back for several minutes. Nathan decided to follow him. And here, he saw him cheerfully talking to Abigail... ALONE. Cherry was not around.

"Where is Cherry?" Nathan asked the two, but his eyes were fixed on Abigail's face.

"She said she's full. She decided to stay in Phantomflake's room to watch her... and probably to spend more time with her," Abigail calmly explained. She didn't know why Nathan was looking so grumpy again.

Nathan didn't say another word. He just turned around and marched forward. He went ahead, without waiting for Abigail and Aiden. Watching Nathan's back, Aiden moved closer to Abigail and whispered, "See. I told you. Someone is jealous of me. If only looks could kill... I'd be dead right now." Aiden clenched his chest dramatically.

Abigail just rolled her eyes and elbowed his tummy. "Behave, Aiden. Don't give meaning to his tiger look. Nathan is always like that."

'Don't give me such false hope,' Abigail added in her thoughts.

But Aiden would insist on what he thought. "Believe me. I am already familiar with that kind of stare. Many men are always giving me that kind of look especially if their women would stare at me lustfully." Aiden was shamelessly boasting.

Abigail could only sigh helplessly before pinching Aiden's waist. "So Shameless!"

"Aww! That hurts!" Aiden grunted, pouting his lips.

Nathan was not able to control himself. Instead of walking ahead, he turned around and sprinted toward Aiden's spot. Without saying a word, Nathan grabbed his arm and dragged him, separating him from Abigail.

"Stop pestering her," Nathan said, scolding Aiden.

"Hey! She's the one who pinched me. Why am I the one getting dragged and scolded here?" Aiden complained. Then he stopped talking when he met Nathan's deathly glare. He just shut his mouth and obediently followed Nathan until they reached the living room.

Abigail could only smile watching the two men. She shook her head helplessly. 'Is Nathan really jealous? No way! No way???'

Meanwhile, Cherry was silently talking to Phantomflake when someone knocked on the door.

"May I come?" Stephen asked Cherry's permission. He just waited for Cherry to be alone before he decided to approach her. He had something to ask. He wondered how close Cherry was to Phantomflake. He wanted to know if Cherry knew Phantomflake's past.

"Yes, Dr. Zhou..." Cherry replied meekly.

Soon the door was pushed open and Stephen entered the room. "Just call me Stephen. Dr. Zhou is very formal."

Cherry just bobbed her head, giving him a faint smile. "I heard that you got injured when you joined the team in rescuing her. Thank you, Stephen." Abigail informed Cherry about what happened to Stephen. But she didn't give her full details of what happened.

"No need to thank me, Cherry. I also have a reason for doing it." Stephen said truthfully, his gaze shifted from Cherry to Phantomflake.

"If you don't mind, may I know the reason why you did that dangerous task?" Cherry asked Stephen curiously.

"Because... I think... I already met her. She might be the woman I had known before... as my patient." Stephen moved his gaze back to Cherry, assessing her reaction. She looked surprised when she heard Stephen's last remarks.

"What do you mean?" Cherry blinked several times, trying to figure out what he was talking about. 'My sis Phantom already met this gorgeous doctor? But where? She seldom interacts with men.'

"Where did you meet her?" Cherry added.

"Country Z..."

Cherry gasped when she heard that. After a while, Cherry spoke up and asked, "Are you her doctor?"

There was a gleam in Stephen's eyes at her last remarks. 'Perhaps, Cherry knew what happened to Phantomflake. She knew her past...'

"Yes. I am her doctor." Stephen smiled. He felt relieved knowing that Cherry might be Phantomflake's real friend. And she could help him confirm if Phantomflake was indeed his patient before and the special woman he met accidentally abroad.

"Oh right! I remember. My sis was sent to Country Z for her rehabilitation. For her physical therapy. She got injured severely and our guardian had to bring her abroad for her treatment! So you were her doctor! What a small world!"

The smile on Stephen's face slowly disappeared. Something was off with Cherry's statement. 'As far as I know, the woman I met didn't come to Country Z for rehabilitation or physical therapy. She was there for another reason... If Jane and Phantomflake are the same person... this only means Cherry also doesn't know the truth about Phantomflake's past...'

Chapter 284 Erasing Her Memory

Day Thirty-Two...

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Stephen was slightly disappointed since Cherry knew a different thing about Phantomflake. But he realized something. Phantomflake and the woman with her hid the truth from the entire members of the assassin guild.

But Stephen decided to continue asking Cherry, gathering information from her.

"When she got injured, do you think she also got depression and anxiety because of her injury?"

Cherry fell silent for a moment. She tried to recollect what had transpired in the past. After a while, she gasped when a realization dawned on her.

"Wait. You are not a physical therapist in profession, right? How come you become her doctor? You are a psychologist..." Cherry questioned him.

Stephen smiled faintly and said, "Yes I am a psychologist and at the same time, a psychiatrist. I was a psychology graduate and completed a medical degree in psychiatry." Stephen explained to Cherry.

Cherry just nodded her head, still trying to absorb his words. "You became her doctor. Does it mean... my sis sought help from you." Cherry was quite shocked because she was used to thinking that Phantomflake was a strong-willed woman. She was brave and she never showed weaknesses in front of them.

"Yes... we have a few sessions together to treat her trauma..." Stephen could only share this information with her. He couldn't tell her everything about Phantomflake and her problem. He wondered if she had noticed it before.

When he met Phantomflake, Stephen had no idea that she was an assassin. Now he could speculate that the cause of her trauma originated with one of her missions. A cold glint flashed through his eyes as he closed his fists tightly.

He had seen her in her vulnerable state. He would never forget that. At that time, he felt the urge to remove all her pains. For her to live, Stephen did something to her— Erasing some parts of her memory. This was a secret between Stephen and Phantomflake's guardian.

"If you could remember, how long has she disappeared? I mean, how much time had passed when you met her after she came back from her therapy?" Stephen simply asked her.

"One and a half years... I think. If my estimate is correct."

'Perhaps... my sister got affected so much by her first ever failed mission? All this time, I only thought that she got injured badly. I have never imagined that she was affected emotionally and psychologically.'

Cherry had a sullen look in her eyes when she glanced at Phantomflake. She remembered that year when their former Master took Phantomflake. They went abroad together for her rehabilitation and treatment. Who would have thought that she was already undergoing trauma and depression at that time?

But she did remember that something was off with Phantomflake after that failed mission. After getting treated by their guild's doctor, Phantomflake stayed in her room for two weeks. She shut herself from them. She only thought that maybe Phantomflake was too embarrassed to face them. She seldom failed with her mission. That was the first time it had ever happened.

"I'm sorry. I didn't know that she suffered some trauma... I was not there when she needed me..." Cherry felt sorry for Phantomflake. She was also guilty of not helping her in her hardest moment. Phantomflake was someone who always supported them. But where were they when she was suffering alone?

"Life is so unfair... Please, stay strong. Live... you have to wake up." Cherry grabbed Phantomflake's hand and squeezed it gently. She spoke to her with all her heart, hoping that Phantomflake could hear her.

"Dr. Zhou, do you think she can hear now?" She softly asked. She was fighting the urge to cry once again.

Stephen just nodded his head. "Yes. So don't feel guilty anymore. I think your friend hid this from you because she didn't want you to worry. And she didn't want to show you her vulnerable side because, for her, she should look strong and brave inside and out like a role model."

Stephen was consoling Cherry. He could understand Phantomflake's motive. With her character and behavior, he could tell that she didn't want other people to see her vulnerable side, most especially the people close to her.

"This time... I will never leave her side. I will take care of her until she wakes up. I can't let her die. She is my strength... and my only family left..." Cherry began opening up to Stephen.

Talking to Stephen allowed Cherry to express her feelings. No wonder Stephen had become Phantomflake's doctor. He could connect to them easily. Cherry felt comfortable now knowing that Phantomflake trusted this doctor once.

"Don't worry... Nathan and I will do our best to cure her. All of us here want her to survive. Just be with her... talk to her. Let her know that someone is waiting for her. This might help a little to encourage the patient to continue fighting. I can tell that she is fighting so hard to live."

"Thank you, Dr. Zhou..."

"I told you... You should just call me Stephen."

Cherry let out a soft giggle and nodded. "Yes, Stephen. I will."

Knock! Knock!

The two were still talking when they heard a knock outside the door. Stephen and Cherry exchanged looks at each other before moving their gaze to the closed door.

"Come in," Stephen said.

Getting Stephen's cue, Aiden entered the room with a questioning look in his eyes. "Stephen! What are you doing here? No wonder we can't see you in the living room. It turned out you were here." Aiden sounded upset. He was jealous to see Stephen and Cherry together. Furthermore, he heard Cherry's giggle a while ago. It only meant that the two were having fun talking to each other.

"I just dropped by to check the patient. Why are you grumpy? Did Abigail beat you again?" Stephen teased Aiden.

Cherry couldn't help but let out a soft chuckle. Aiden was such a weakling. She wouldn't be surprised if he got beaten up by Abigail.

"Shut up, Steph! Abi didn't beat me. We are so close! Bleh!" Aiden stuck his tongue out at Stephen.

"So childish!" Cherry blurted, rolling her eyes at him.

Aiden pouted his lips and put on a pitiful look. Cherry was clearly not on his side. He couldn't understand why this woman hated him so much.

Chapter 285 Shining Star, Not Monica

Day Thirty-Two...

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When Aiden went to Phantonflake's room, Abigail and Nathan were left alone in the living room. The place was very silent since Nathan and Abigail were not talking.

They just sat on the couch, one space apart, as they waited for others to join them. Both Aiden and Stephen accompanied Cherry.

Unable to bear the quiet atmosphere surrounding them, Abigail spoke up to break the silence.

"Cherry agreed to work under you. Please be good to her. Don't give her a hard time while working with you." Abigail pleaded on Cherry's behalf.

Nathan turned to look at her, not saying a word. His intense gaze was directed at her, making Abigail a little bit uncomfortable.

'Why is looking at me as if he wants to eat me? Is he mad again?' Abigail recalled that Nathan was in a bad mood a while ago.

"Are you mad?" Abigail failed to hold her curiosity so she asked him directly.

"No," Nathan promptly responded, looking away.

"Did you hear me? You haven't responded to me yet," Abigail nudged Nathan's elbow.

"I already promised you so many things. Why do you keep on repeating this topic? I'm not going to bother your friend. She will not report to me directly. I will ask my team to supervise her. Does this answer your question?" Nathan said spontaneously with his eyebrows drawn together.

"I just want to make sure. No need to be riled up about this." Abigail pouted her lips. Nathan's mood was always hot and cold.

Abigail avoided looking at him and just focused her gaze on the food on the table. Nathan grabbed that opportunity to stare at her for a long moment.

"Abi..." Nathan mentioned her name in a soft tone.

For some unknown reason, her heart skipped a beat when she heard his gentle voice. She reflexively glanced in his direction only to find out that Nathan was already staring at her. Her emerald eyes met his blue eyes. "Y-Yes?"

"Can you tell me anything about Monica while waiting for them?" Nathan was dying to hear some story about Monica through Abigail, thinking that she was Monica's close friend.

Meanwhile, Abigail felt like she was splashed with cold water at the mention of Monica's name. No wonder Nathan called her using his gentle tone because he wanted to hear something related to Monica. Abigail felt annoyed and disappointed because of that but she tried to conceal her emotion.

"Shining Star," she coldly said.

Nathan frowned as he didn't get it.

"I mean... just mention Shining Star when talking about her. Don't call her Monica in front of me." Abigail elaborated on her statement, biting her lower lip. She just hoped Nathan wouldn't be suspicious of her.

"Why is that so?" Nathan asked.

"The person I know is called Shining Star. I know her as Shining Star... not as Monica..." Abigail replied to him meaningfully. Behind her words, what she truly wanted to say was that... she didn't know Monica personally. She only knew Shining Star which was herself.

"Oh... so you haven't met Monica in person?" There was a hint of disappointment when Nathan said those words.

"Yes. But I know a lot of things about Shining Star!" Abigail raised her left hand, her palm facing Nathan. She made this gesture to reassure Nathan that she could tell him more things related to Shining Star.

Nathan's lips curled up into a faint smile. 'At least, she also knew her as Shining Star. I'm really curious about her relationship with her.'

"Go on. Tell me what you know about Moni... I mean about Shining Star." Nathan refrained from mentioning Monica's name since Abigail only wanted to hear Shining Star from him.

Meanwhile, Abigail was already thinking of what information she would share with Nathan. She believed that Nathan might be testing her right now. 'I should be careful. I have to think of how I will hundred percent convince Nathan that I knew Shining Star personally.'

Abigail analyzed her own self—her character and her behavior looking at her perspective. When she was done, she took a deep breath and spoke, "Shining Star... is a person who hates to lose and she loves challenging things."

She just only made the first comment about Shining Star but Nathan couldn't stop himself from smirking.

"You got it right." he paused for a moment as he gazed down looking at his hands. He reminisced the moment when Shining Star suddenly attacked him. She was just a newbie on the server at that time. He was caught surreal feeling when Abigail spoke up again.

"She thought of you as a great challenge. She wanted to defeat you. She hated losing at you so she worked hard until she finally defeated you. If you only knew how frustrated she was because you kept on beating her in that game..."

Nathan's husky laugh bubbled up, making Abigail speechless. This was the first time she heard Nathan laugh like this. She could see the joy in his twinkling eyes. 'Damn! He is more gorgeous when laughing. I can see clearly his perfectly aligned white teeth.' Abigail couldn't help but admire Nathan's good looks.

Realizing that someone was staring at him, Nathan stopped laughing and cleared his throat as if nothing happened. "Ahem. Go on. Just continue..." Nathan said, hiding his embarrassment. Even he, himself, didn't expect that he would burst into laughter as he recalled his moments with Shining Star.

'This only proves that Abigail really knew about the Shining Star. I'm surprised that she shared this with Abigail. They seem closer than what I expected.' Nathan thought to himself, amusement resurfacing in his eyes.

"After a while, she forced you to become her mentor. You were the one who taught her some hacking skills. And she was grateful for that. I bet she hadn't told you directly but deep inside, she wanted to thank you for all the learnings she got from you. What a shame... you just disappeared one day and she lost the chance to thank you personally." Abigail's expression became serious as if those words also came from her heart.

Nathan was at a loss for words when he heard that. He didn't know why but the way Abigail said those words contained different emotions—sadness, frustration, regret, and annoyance.

"You know what... Shining Star told me how worried she was when you suddenly disappeared. You didn't even say goodbye to her. She wondered if you really treated her as a friend. Or perhaps, you just thought of her as your pastime. She thought something bad happened to you!"

"She tried to search for you but she didn't know where to start. You completely erased your trace. She had no way to track you. She even thought you died. And she even blamed herself for not being able to do anything for you! Why did you ghost her? Why did you suddenly disappear?" Abigail spoke spontaneously, taking out all her frustration towards Nathan. This was her chance to let it all out without him knowing that she was the real Shining Star.

Nathan grabbed her shoulders tightly, making Abigail face him. "Did she say all that to you? Was she that angry for what I've done?"

"YES! SHE DID!" Abigail raised her voice at him.

"W-Why didn't she tell me this? She said... she was just fine and she understood me..." Nathan was confused. Monica didn't react this way when they got reunited.

"How do you expect her to react? She hated you for that!"

Chapter 286 To Settle A Score

Day Thirty-Two...

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"Are you really Monica's friend?" Nathan asked Abigail exasperatedly. "You are telling me a different thing."

Abigail rolled her eyes skyward. "Is your Monica the real Shining Star? I thought you knew Shining Star's character. Shining Star would certainly punch you on your first meeting, not throw herself into your arms! That's the Shining Star I know."

Abigail was hinting to Nathan that Monica might be an impostor. Though she didn't say it directly, she just hoped Nathan would doubt Monica's identity even just a little.

Nathan fell silent for a moment, trying to analyze the situation. Knowing the behavior and attitude of his playing buddy, Shining Star, Abigail had a point. Punching him to be her first reaction during their first meeting was feasible and reasonable.

But Monica surprisingly didn't act like that. She looked so happy and hugged Nathan immediately. Their first meeting was very awkward at first.

"Maybe after all those years, she had forgiven me already." Nathan reasoned out, justifying Monica's reaction.

"Hah!" Abigail laughed at him sarcastically. "As if your action could be easily forgiven. If I were her, I would ignore you for a whole month just to get even at you... for ghosting me!" Abigail spat back at Nathan, arching her eyebrow.

"I explained everything to her. I think she understood me and she didn't bear a grudge against me." Nathan said nonchalantly, shrugging his shoulders. He didn't want to argue further. He was respecting Abigail's opinion. Shining Star might have shared her real feelings with her friend, Abigail.

"BTW, when did you and Shining Star become friends? You are younger than her." Nathan realized the age gap between them. He wondered when Shining Star confided her feelings with Abigail.

Abigail had to pause for a moment to calculate their ages. She had to consider the real Abigail's age to coincide with her story, making it more believable. She was aware that they had six years gap.

"I was 14 when I met her. She became my mentor and taught me some skills. Shining Star is like a big sister to me."

Nathan stared at Abigail intently. He was still puzzled since Monica didn't mention any friends to him before. He had never heard of Cliste. And Monica had stopped playing computer games. She focused on

dating Nathan. When she came back after she disappeared for three years, she already introduced Ethan to him as his son.

'Yeah... Both of us had no time to talk about other people... We focused on Ethan and ourselves...'  
Nathan thought to himself. This was the only explanation he had in mind.

"What kind of mentor she was?" Nathan continued asking Abigail. He would like to hear more information about Monica aka Shining Star. Through this, he was trying to cope with his longing for her. It felt so good to have someone to whom he could talk about the woman he loved.

"It looks like the two of you are having a serious conversation here. Care to share?" Stephen spoke up from behind, catching Nathan's and Abigail's attention. Cherry, Aiden, and Stephen finally joined them in the living room.

Seeing the three, Nathan leaned closer to Abigail and whispered, "Let's continue to talk about her some other time."

Abigail just nodded her head in agreement. Their gestures gained suspicious looks from their friends. But Abigail and Nathan ignored their reactions and just feigned innocence.

The topic of Shining Star was only between the two of them. Nathan didn't want Stephen and Aiden to know that he was asking Abigail about Monica. His two best friends always nagged him to move on and have a fresh start. Monica was the deep scar in Nathan's heart.

Cherry sat down beside Abigail. Aiden planned to sit in between Abigail and Nathan, but to his surprise, Nathan moved closer to Abigail, occupying the space between them. In the end, Aiden was forced to sit on another couch opposite Nathan and Abigail.

"Mr. Sparks... Stephen... Can I stay here tonight? I want to watch her over." Cherry asked their permission. She wished to be with Phantomflake all the time. "Can I also work here? If you have a task for me, Mr. Sparks, I can do it here. Just provide me with devices and equipment."

"Hey. Are you planning to live in this house?" Aiden butted in, not waiting for Nathan and Stephen to say a word. He intentionally interrupted the two men. Stephen was staying alone in this house aside from



the two robots and the bodyguards outside. He couldn't imagine Cherry and Stephen alone in this house. They were like husband and wife.

"Nope. But as long as my sis is here, I will stay here and not leave her side. Why? Do you have any problem with that?" Cherry scowled at Aiden.

Aiden didn't know what to say. He just whispered to Stephen and requested, "Bro, do you mind transferring Phantomflake to my place? I will take good care of her... and Cherry."

"NO," Stephen promptly replied, rejecting Aiden's request. "She will stay here... in my residence."

Aiden could only heave a sigh of defeat. "Fine. But I'm not going home tonight as well."

Cherry and Abigail gave Aiden a questioning look as soon as they heard his last statement. What was he planning to do here? He would just pester them, especially Cherry.

"Don't give me such a look. I seldom visit Stephen's house so I want to grab this opportunity to stay longer. This is just once in a blue moon!" Aiden defended himself.

The two ladies just shook their heads while eyeing Aiden with disbelief. 'What a shameless guy!'

"How about you, Nate and Abi? Do you want to stay and bond with us tonight?" Stephen invited the two.

"Yes... Abi, you can accompany me here. I will take good care of you too. I want to spend time with you." Cherry tried to convince Abigail. She leaned closer to her and faced her with a puppy-eyed look.

Abigail just smiled sheepishly. Then she moved her gaze from Cherry to Nathan, asking him through their eye contact. She was worried about Little Ethan. He was expecting to see her at home after his class this afternoon.

"How about Ethan? He will be disappointed if he can't see me at the mansion."

Nathan was glad since Abigail was thinking about Ethan's feelings. He felt at ease that Abigail always considered what was best for Ethan and what could make him happy. He appreciated that kind and generous gesture from Abigail toward Little Ethan.

"No worries. I can ask the chauffeur to bring Ethan here after school," Nathan replied.

"Is Ethan allowed here?" Aiden asked his best friend. Phantomflake was there. If Little Ethan would come, this would be the first time Ethan would meet the woman who killed his mother. But of course, Nathan and others wouldn't tell Ethan that the patient in the house was the assassin.

Abigail also had this fear. She felt uneasy just thinking about Little Ethan meeting Phantomflake, her original body.

'Nate doesn't know that his son knows the truth about Monica's death. Sigh. I'm getting nervous. Does Ethan know who killed his mother? Is he aware of Phantomflake's existence... of my existence...?'

"Ahem. I think it's best for us to go home, Nate. What if Ethan is not used to sleeping over at another house?" Abigail just wanted to prevent Ethan from meeting her real body. What if he knew that she was the culprit behind his mother's death, would Ethan hate her?

'Definitely, Yes... Sigh...' Abigail was feeling dejected.

"Don't worry. Little Ethan can stay here. It will be more fun having a smart adorable child with us. We will not allow him to enter the patient's ward," Stephen suggested.

"That's a brilliant idea! Yes! Yes! I want my charming godson to be here as well! I want to play with him." Aiden supported Stephen's suggestion.

Abigail glanced at Nathan once more. She was anxious. She didn't know why but she had a nagging feeling about this. The more they would restrict Ethan from seeing the patient, the more he would become curious.

"What's your decision, Abi?" Nathan consulted her. Of course, it was a surprise for Stephen and Aiden. They were not used to seeing Nathan being considerate of another woman, aside from Monica.

"Ahem, Nate's social skills are improving," Aiden whispered to Stephen, smirking broadly.

"Stop that. They can still hear you," Stephen mumbled, hitting Aiden's shoulder. Aiden just let out a soft chuckle, still eyeing Nathan with his glowing eyes.

"Please Abi. Stay with us," Cherry begged. "I want to talk to you about my sis..." she added in a low voice.

Abigail couldn't refuse Cherry. With that, she finally agreed to spend the whole night at Stephen's place. And Little Ethan would be joining them.

They were still talking when Nathan's phone resounded. Someone was calling him. When he saw the caller ID, Nathan's eyebrows were drawn together in a deep frown. Abigail took a peek and saw Veronica's name on Nathan's phone screen.

'Sigh! Here comes the Witch. What does she want? Grrrr. I haven't avenged Black Rose yet for the slap she gave her. I swear... if I see Veronica, I will settle a score with her.' A sly smile appeared on Abigail's lips.

"Nathan, why don't you invite Dr. Veronica as well? The more the merrier!" Abigail blurted out, surprising everyone.

Cherry: "..."

Stephen: "..."

Aiden: "..."

Everyone was aware of the commotion Veronica made in the hospital yesterday. Even Nathan was wondering why Abigail wanted to invite Veronica to come over.

Chapter 287 She Covets Her Sister's Man.

Day Thirty-Two...

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The three men including Cherry gave Abigail a puzzled look. They couldn't comprehend why Abigail urged Nathan to invite Veronica over. Was she just kidding? Veronica was furious at Abigail on that day. If not for Nathan's interference, Veronica would have slapped Abigail too.

But since she couldn't touch Abigail, Veronica vented out all her frustrations toward Cherry. She slapped Cherry so hard in front of Abigail just to taunt and provoke her. She wanted to show Abigail that she feared no one and she was capable of hurting her and her friends.

Veronica wanted to intimidate Abigail. But little did she know, she provoked the wrong person. Abigail was not a person who would be intimidated by someone like her. She would take her as a challenge.

And since Veronica lay a hand on Cherry which was very important to Phantomflake, she was now put on Abigail's most hated list. Veronica became number one on her list and Nathan ranked down.

"Tell her to come over, Nate," Abigail repeated her words as Nathan just stared at her in puzzlement. He was still holding his phone and put it on mute so that Veronica couldn't hear their conversation.

"Are you sure about this, Abi? I don't think this is a good idea," Cherry expressed her opinion. She didn't like Veronica and she would feel uncomfortable seeing her. She didn't know why Veronica was blaming them for the death of her sister.

Cherry asked Abigail about Veronica's identity but she hid the truth from her. Monica, Veronica's sister, was Phantomflake's target. And because of that mission, Nathan and the Syphiruz Mafia eradicated the entire assassin guild.

"Don't worry, Cherry. I got your back," Abigail whispered, reassuring her. She even winked at Cherry. This gesture reminded her of Phantomflake. Whenever Phantomflake was scheming something and she wanted Black Rose to cooperate, she would give her signal by winking at her.

"Why do I feel like keeping the girls together will result in World War III," Aiden mumbled. Stephen was the only person who heard Aiden's remarks.

"Why do you think so?" Stephen asked his best friend.

Aiden just shrugged his shoulders and nonchalantly said, "Just my hunch!"

Meanwhile, Nathan finally glanced at Stephen, asking his opinion about this. Stephen just smiled at him and nodded his head. Stephen just gave Nathan a go signal to invite Veronica. Besides, he wanted to ask Veronica to bring Phantomflake's charts as her patient records.

Veronica had been treating Phantomflake for the past two years. She was quite familiar with Phantomflake's medication. Stephen needed Veronica for the turnover. From now on, he would be the one to monitor Phantomflake's condition, together with his father and other doctors he trusted. Stephen used his connections to gain resources and information about Phantomflake's current condition.

"Nate, go ahead. Just invite Veronica over. Tell her to bring the patient's files for my reference."

Since Stephen had already spoken, Nathan decided to invite Veronica. Stephen and Veronica would have to talk about Phantomflake so he understood why Stephen wanted her to come.

"Okay. Leave it to me. I will talk to her." Nathan raised the phone in his hand, showing it to them. After that, he excused himself to talk to Veronica.

Nathan proceeded to the balcony outside. He could sense that Veronica called him because of Black Rose. She might have learned already that Cherry was released from detention.

"Nathan, are you there? I'm talking to you. Are you ignoring me? Have you spoken? But I can't hear you!" Veronica's voice reverberated from the other line.

She sounded pissed off. There were times Veronica was forgetting her place. Nathan was the one she was talking to right now. But she dared raise her voice at him, questioning his action.

With the way she spoke, Nathan's expression turned grim. "What do you want?" Nathan asked her coldly.

Sensing that Nathan was not in a good mood, Veronica toned down a little. She cleared her throat and began talking in a calm manner. "I've heard that Black Rose was released today. Why is that so? I thought you wouldn't let her escape from you again?"

"This is part of my plan. Don't question me anymore." Nathan sighed. He sounded like he didn't want to prolong this conversation.

"I'm just checking on you. I thought something happened that made you do this. Is everything alright?" Veronica was wondering about Nathan's actions. She felt like Nathan was changing gradually ever since Abigail had arrived. He made decisions he didn't usually do.

Deep inside, she wanted to lash out and scold Nathan for letting Abigail stay in the mansion despite the fact she was connected to Black Rose. 'I thought Nathan hated Phantomflake to the core... that even her comrades would experience his wrath. But Nathan now is acting the quite opposite of the Nathan I knew before.'

'This might be the influence of Abigail. She might be poisoning Nathan's mind. She is manipulating him! I won't allow this to continue!'

"Everything is fine," Nathan replied flatly. "Is there anything more you want to say?" He didn't bother to hide his intention of dismissing her instantly. Nathan was too lazy to talk to her right now.

He didn't know why Veronica was becoming nosy and annoying. She wasn't like this before. She started to act up when Abigail showed up. Veronica felt a sense of competition and she was threatened by

Abigail's presence. She was insecure because, for the past two years, Nathan didn't open up with her. He always maintained a distance from her as if he built an invisible wall between them.

But when Abigail appeared, she felt like Nathan began to change. He often interacts with Abigail as compared to the other women who tried to approach him before. Veronica was now losing her confidence with the way Nathan treated Abigail generously. What was so special about her? She was just a mere actress but why Nathan was paying close attention to her?

"I have nothing more to say..." Veronica uttered in her dejected voice.

"Alright. By the way, if you are free tonight, come here... at Stephen's place. Bring Phantomflake's file and hand them over to Steph. You can also spend the night here... with us."

Veronica's mood changed as soon as she heard Nathan's invitation. The gloomy atmosphere surrounding her disappeared. Her face brightened up once again.

'I will grab this opportunity! I'm so happy that Nathan invited me to come over tonight. Perhaps, he wants my company...' Veronica touched her blushing face as she imagined herself spending the night with Nathan. Many intimate thoughts popped up in her mind. It was her desire... her inner fantasy about Nathan.

"Okay. I'm going there. I will prepare all the documents. See you later, Nate." Veronica tried her best to conceal her excitement. But deep inside, her heart was already jumping with joy and anticipation.

Nathan just answered her with a simple "Hmm" before he hang up the phone. Veronica was still smiling dreamily while holding her phone. She placed it closer to her heart as she continued her imagination.

She thought only Nathan was there. Unknown to her, Black Rose and Abigail were also there... in Stephen's place. Nathan didn't even warn Veronica that she might see Black Rose there. It slipped Nathan's mind. How much disappointment she would feel once she found out her rival was there, along with Black Rose.

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[ At 5:00 pm... ]

Abigail was resting in one of the guest rooms at Stephen's place when Bam-Bam showed up. It was great timing to have a small talk with Abigail. The three men went out to buy ingredients and food for tonight's dinner while Cherry stayed in Phantomflake's room.

"Master! Master! I have good news!" Bam-Bam flew around Abigail, flipping his wings in a triumphant manner.

Abigail was in the middle of her nap when Bam-Bam's loud voice interrupted her. She opened her eyes and shot Bam-Bam a cold sharp glare. "You don't have to shout. I can hear you clearly."

"Oops!" Bam-Bam covered his mouth using his paws and then apologized to Abigail. "I'm sorry, Master. I just got excited."

Abigail sat up and rested her back on the headboard of the bed. "What piece of good news did you bring this time?" Abigail lifted her eyebrow as she questioned Bam-Bam.

"I already got a clue as to where I could find Abigail's soul. I will be gone for a while but once I come back, I assure you that Abigail's soul will be with me." Bam-Bam informed her.

Abigail just looked at him confusedly. "Is there a benefit I can have once you find her soul?"

Bam-Bam bobbed his head frantically. "Of course, yes! You will not worry about your borrowed body dying if you return to your original body. I can feel that you are about to wake up soon!"

"Sigh. How I wish you were right. I am dying to return to my body and beat someone." Abigail was referring to Nathan. Until now, Nathan was not yet suspicious of Monica. She marveled to herself how long Nathan would believe this lie.

"Oh... are you talking about Veronica?" Bam-Bam asked her.



"Yes. I am also dying to beat that woman. She is a hypocrite. If she truly hated the people involved in her sister's death then she should have killed me already. Why was she trying to save me and cure me? Why target my poor innocent Black Shadow?" Abigail lamented, clenching her fist.

"I think helping Nathan is more important to her than getting revenge for her sister's death. Why do I feel like I did her a favor by killing her sister? Veronica wants Nathan for herself. She planned to covet her sister's man."

Chapter 288 Attend A Family Day

Day Thirty-Two

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"Why do you sound aggravated? I doubt that this was because of Cherry. Why do I feel like you are mad at Veronica because she wants Nathan for herself? Perhaps, are you jealous of her, Master?" Bam-Bam gave Abigail a suspicious look while smirking at her teasingly.

Abigail glared at Bam-Bam. "Of course not! Why would I get jealous of her? She's nothing compared to me. I'm mad at her for hurting Black Rose. Nathan has nothing to do with my feelings." She blatantly denied it.

However, Bam-Bam wouldn't buy that. He could sense that something was going on between Nathan and her. "Are you sure? Then let me ask you this..."

"What?" Abigail scowled at him.

"Once you return to your original body, are you going to kill Nathan Sparks as revenge for the death of your fellow assassins?" Bam-Bam asked her straightforwardly, wanting to know her thoughts.

Abigail fell silent for a moment. She didn't know what to say. Her mind suddenly went blank and she couldn't find the right answer to that question.

"See! You are hesitant to answer that question. If you feel the same way as before, you will definitely say yes. Hmm... Don't tell me... you are falling for him, Master?" Bam-Bam continued to interrogate Abigail.

Abigail opened her lips only to close them again. She wanted to refute but deep inside, she couldn't. Was she falling for Nathan? No way! Her mission was to gain his affection, not the other way around.

She knew that loving Nathan would be a great mistake. She shouldn't fall for him, otherwise, she would just get hurt in the end. Nathan would never love her back. He hated her so much. He could love Abigail, but not her real self... as Phantomflake.

"No. I can't," Abigail meekly answered him, not looking at Bam-Bam's eyes.

"Hmm. Is that a yes? You do have feelings for him but you can't let them grow, am I right? You are thinking that you are not supposed to love him." Bam-Bam sounded like a cupid who understood love, not a soul keeper.

"Stop it, Bam-Bam. Don't make fun of my feelings." Abigail didn't want to talk about this further. "Just go and search for the soul of this body. I don't need you here." She was now sending the magical creature away. He just ruined her mood by pointing out what was in her mind.

Bam-Bam's laughter bubbled up in the room. "Master, don't give me such a sour look. I'm not making fun of you. Instead, I wanna help you. You deserve to be happy. Why don't you start over with him, if you truly like him?!"

Abigail exhaled deeply, her eyes set ablaze. Without saying a word, Abigail extended her left hand, catching Bam-Bam's right ear. She pulled him by his ear and scolded him. "You were the one who started this mission because you were "BORED". So don't pretend that you care about my feelings."

"You transferred my soul to this body, giving me a mission of making Nathan fall for me in one hundred days! After accomplishing this mission, I can return to my body and live! But what will be the aftereffects? Nathan will fall for Abigail... not the real me!"

"Once I return to my real body, Nathan will torture me to death! So what's the point of doing this mission of making him fall in love with me? And why are you suggesting starting over with him? Do you know how hard it is to make the devil fall in love? I wonder what kind of trick Monica did in the past to gain Nathan's affection. What was so great about her huh?"

"Why did he easily fall for her?" Abigail questioned Bam-Bam, still tugging his ear.

"AWW! AWW! Master, let go of my ear! It hurts. It might fall off from your tugging!"

Abigail was panting when she was done taking out what was on her mind. She also let go of Bam-Bam's ear. She didn't mean to hurt him. She just got carried away by her feelings.

"Master, calm down. Don't shout. What if someone overhears us?" Bam-Bam tried to calm her down as he rubbed his ear.

"No one can hear us... Only robots are here," Abigail nonchalantly said.

"This is your fault, Bam-Bam. If you just let me die, things won't become more complicated between Nathan and me." Abigail mumbled, blaming the magical creature. Abigail was having conflicting thoughts right now. She wanted to reflect on Bam-Bam's words, but the more she thought about it the more she realized that things would just become more complicated between Nathan and her.

Hearing this from Abigail, Bam-Bam was also able to reflect on his action. He fell silent for a moment, analyzing the situation. When Abigail calmed down, Bam-Bam spoke up, sharing his opinion with her.

"If I let you die, then you would die hating Nathan and Nathan would hate you forever. You wouldn't know that he was your friend, SizzlingAugust08. Furthermore... you wouldn't meet Ethan. Did you regret it... Master?"

At the mention of Ethan's name, Abigail's heart clenched. Of course, she didn't regret meeting Ethan. She also felt relieved knowing that SizzlingAugust08 was alive. And her hatred for Nathan started to dissipate.

However, she didn't know why she suddenly became worried about what would happen in the coming days... in the future. She started to care about Ethan and Nathan. And she began to fear facing the reality that the father and son would never forgive her for killing the most important person in their lives... It was Monica.

She just found herself hoping that Monica was not a good person so that she could justify her action. And now, she wanted to unfold the truth behind Monica becoming Shining Star. She thought she found the opportunity that would help her reduce Nathan's hatred if she proved that Monica lied to him. But everything was still uncertain. Monica was also a great puzzle she had to solve.

"Master? Answer me... Did you regret it? Meeting Ethan?" Bam-Bam repeated his question while looking at her meaningfully.

Abigail took a deep sigh before shaking her head. "No. I don't regret it. Ethan is a very wonderful child. Meeting him is something I will never regret in this life."

Bam-Bam smiled tenderly when he heard that.

"But I felt sorry for him... I don't deserve his love and kindness..." Abigail mumbled, looking down.

Bam-Bam flew towards her. Then he landed on the surface next to Abigail. Bam-Bam sat beside Abigail and said, "Just take care of him as a real mother does. That is the least you can do for him and to lessen the guilt in your heart. Then later on... you will thank me... and not blame me for not letting you die."

Bam-Bam touched Abigail's hand. Patting her gently, Bam-Bam said goodbye and disappeared from Abigail's sight. Abigail just slammed her eyes shut, gathering her emotions. The room was engulfed by deafening silence.

Abigail didn't know how long she spaced out in that room. A knocking sound snapped her back to the present. She stood up and slowly traced her steps to the door. She didn't know why talking with Bam-Bam could be energy-draining as this.

Abigail opened the door only to be surprised to see the person standing outside. She thought she would see Cherry. But she was mistaken. A cute and charming child stood there, greeting her with his warm smile.

"Miss Abi!" Little Ethan's voice echoed in the hallway.

Abigail froze in her spot. She was caught off guard by Ethan's arrival. She was not ready to see him, especially after talking to Bam-Bam about Ethan and Nathan. Before she could utter a word, Little Ethan pounced on her, hugging her waist.

Abigail stayed rooted in her spot, looking at the young boy. Then she felt Ethan hugging her tightly as if he was afraid to let go. The young boy was very silent. He just kept embracing her with his little arms.

"Ethan? Are you okay? Is there something wrong?" Abigail finally found her voice to speak up. She started to stroke Ethan's hair and rubbed his back.

After a while, Ethan shook his head and gazed up to meet her eyes. "Miss Abi..." Ethan softly called her name. It seemed like he had something to tell her. But he decided to keep it to himself.

"Where is Dad?" Ethan asked her.

"Your Dad and godfathers went out to buy groceries and food for our dinner tonight. Are you tired? How's school?" Abigail grabbed Ethan's hand and pulled him inside her room.

"School is fine. We will have a family day next week. I just hope you and Dad can attend the school event. Are you available Miss Abi? Can you become my Mom... for that day?" Ethan asked Abigail expectantly.

Abigail was rendered speechless for a moment. She didn't want to disappoint Ethan but Nathan would be a problem. Would he allow her to attend the family day with them?

"Little Ethan... you should consult your father about this first..." Abigail patted his head. She didn't want to reject or refuse his request directly. It's just that, she knew that Nathan wouldn't allow her to attend the family day. People might mistake them for a couple.

"You have nothing to worry about Dad. He will agree. Just say yes, Miss Abi. My classmates are bringing their parents. I am the only one who doesn't have a mother... So if you will not come... it is best for me not to attend the school event..." Ethan looked sad when he said those words.

"Alright! Alright! I agree. But we have to consult your father first..."

"Consult me about what?" Nathan suddenly appeared from out of nowhere.

Chapter 289 Provoking Her

Day Thirty-Two...

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Abigail and Ethan turned in Nathan's direction. The man they were just talking about suddenly showed up. Nathan gave them a questioning look, darting his gaze back and forth between his son and Abigail. Nathan waited for them to answer his question.

"Dad, next week, the school will hold an event. It's Family Day! I am inviting Miss Abi to attend it with you. Please, Dad, allow Miss Abi to join our school event. My classmates will bring their parents... both Mom and Dad. I will look pitiful if I will only bring you," Ethan mumbled, putting on a pitiful face. He put his palms together in a pleading gesture.

"I can attend on behalf of your mom. I'm your Aunt, Ethan," Veronica butted in. She also arrived together with Stephen. Veronica shot Abigail a cold sharp glare. Her mood was ruined after seeing Abigail.

'What is she doing here?! She is not supposed to be here. I thought Nathan, Stephen, and Aiden were the only people here. And what did I just hear? My nephew is inviting Abigail to attend Family Day. She is not even part of his family.' Veronica was now fuming with rage.

Abigail sneered at Veronica. She could feel the hostility in the way Veronica was looking at her. She hadn't started yet but her target was already on the verge of erupting.

'Nice timing. I will grab this opportunity to provoke her,' Abigail thought to herself, smiling mischievously. She already thought of perfect revenge against Veronica.

"Ethan... your Aunt is volunteering to attend. I think my presence is no longer needed there." Abigail glanced at Ethan meaningfully.

Nathan: "No."

Ethan: "No."

The father and son duo responded in unison. The two both disagreed about letting Veronica attend Family Day.

"I already invited Miss Abi, Aunt. Besides, you are always busy. One of my classmates admired Miss Abi. She is her favorite actress so I promised her that I would bring Miss Abi with me during Family Day. I will introduce her to Miss Abi." Ethan was able to come up with an alibi.

"Dad, don't make me break my promise. Okay?" Ethan added, appealing to his father.

"Sure, you can bring her with us," Veronica suggested, still insisting that she would join them.

"But Aunt... the Family Day only has limited spots. A student can only bring two guardians. No more, no less!" This was Ethan's way of telling Veronica she couldn't come with them.

"Aunt, don't worry. I will bring you to another event... next time. But for now, I gave this spot to Miss Abi." Little Ethan gazed up, smiling at Abigail.

Veronica just forced a smile, hiding the anger and annoyance she was feeling at this moment.

"How about you, Nate? Are you okay with this?" Veronica asked Nathan, hoping that he wouldn't agree.

"I don't mind it. She can come with us during the school event," Nathan nonchalantly responded.

'What?! How could he? People might think that Abigail is his woman!' Veronica clenched her fists, eyeing Nathan with disbelief.

Veronica wanted to object but Stephen interrupted them. "Veronica, can we talk?" Stephen already read the situation. He could feel the heavy tension between Abigail and Veronica so he decided to separate the two.

"Did you bring the papers?" Stephen added.

Veronica nodded her head.

"Let's go to my study room." He immediately grabbed Veronica's elbow, gently pulling her toward his study room. Abigail gave Veronica a taunting smile as she walked away.

Ethan felt relieved when his Aunt went with his Uncle Stephen. He didn't expect that his Aunt would suddenly volunteer to attend the school event. He thought Abigail would back out because of Veronica.

"It's finally decided. Miss Abi and Dad will attend together! Thank you!" Ethan said enthusiastically. He clapped his hands together, his eyes brimming with joy.

Abigail could only smile watching the young boy. After a while, Nathan spoke up, inviting the two to go to the kitchen and help Aiden. Upon arrival, Aiden headed straight to the kitchen to bring all the items they bought. Nathan already went ahead while Stephen welcomed Veronica at the entrance gate.

Abigail, Ethan, and Nathan were passing through the hallway when the young boy noticed the two robots standing outside the door. "Dad! Those robots. They are products of our company, right? What are they doing here? I saw them a while ago. It looks like they are guarding that room. Who is behind that door?" Ethan expressed his curiosity with them.



"It's nothing. To test our new model, I let your Uncle Stephen use these robots. Your Uncle Stephen is conducting a simulation right now, testing the capability of those guard robots." Nathan explained to Ethan, hiding the fact that there was a patient behind that door.

"Oh... the Anti-robbery robots. It's so much fun! Why don't you bring a little version to our home, Dad? Riemcy, Powy, and Star\_S will be happy to have a new friend."

"Sure. I will tell the tech team to make a little version." Nathan promptly responded. He was glad that Ethan's attention only focused on the robots, not on the thing he could see behind that closed door.

Abigail could only envy Ethan. Those robots are worth a million and he could have them easily with just one request from his father.

"Can you give me one robot too... for free?" Abigail asked Nathan jokingly.

"It depends... I'll give you one if you behave," Nathan responded meaningfully.

Abigail: "..."

'What kind of behaving is he referring to?' Abigail mused to herself.

Ethan could only giggle seeing the puzzled look in Abigail's eyes. Then Nathan tossed one last glance at the robots and the closed door. 'Hmm. I will test them later on. I will try to sneak in.'

When the three of them entered the kitchen, Cherry was already there, helping Aiden. Cherry would be the main cook for tonight. They were now getting ready for their cooking session.

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[ At 7:00 pm... ]

Cherry, Nathan, and Aiden were almost done cooking when Abigail left the kitchen. She looked for her target, Veronica. Stephen and Veronica spent an hour inside his study just talking about Phantomflake and her medical records.

Stephen intentionally made Veronica very occupied so that she wouldn't create another scene while everyone was preparing for dinner. Veronica still had no idea that Cherry aka Black Rose was also in the house.

Stephen had just finished talking about Phantomflake's medicines when he received a text from Abigail.

[ Abigail: Are you still with Veronica? I wanna talk to her alone. Can I come? ]

Stephen blinked his eyes several times. He wondered if he read it right. Abigail wanted to talk to Veronica alone. For what reason?

Stephen was having conflicting thoughts about this. What if the two girls would suddenly argue and fight if he left them alone? Nathan would definitely get mad.

Stephen was about to reply when Abigail sent another message.

[ Abigail: Please don't tell Nathan. I will just ask Veronica about her sister. ]

Stephen remembered that Abigail knew Monica and they were also friends, according to Nathan.

'Yeah... I think Veronica will be glad to know that Abigail is her sister's friend. I hope after talking, the two ladies will finally get along well.'

[ Stephen: Okay. Just come here to my study room. I will leave the two of you to talk. ]

Abigail flashed her sly smile after reading Stephen's message. 'Wait for me, Veronica.'

Five minutes later...

Abigail saw Stephen leaving his study room. She waved at him and slowly approached him.

"She's inside. She doesn't know that you are coming. But I told her to wait." Stephen informed Abigail in a low voice.

"Thanks, Steph. Don't worry. I will make this quick. You can go to the kitchen. I think they need your help." Abigail didn't want Stephen to stay outside so she just told him that others needed a hand for the preparation of dinner.

"Okay. Abi... Don't fight with her." Stephen reminded her. Abigail just smiled at him and nodded.

When Stephen left, Abigail finally pushed the door and stepped into the room. Veronica, who was leisurely sitting on the couch, frowned the moment she saw the newcomer.

"Why are you here?" Veronica didn't hide her annoyance and hostility toward Abigail since they were alone in that room.

"I came here to talk to you," Abigail responded, moving closer to Veronica.

This time Veronica stood up to face Abigail. "What do you want?"

Abigail sneered at her, taunting her with her mischievous gaze. "I have something important to tell you."

Veronica laughed sarcastically. "I'm not interested."

"It's about Monica..."

Veronica stopped laughing at the mention of her sister's name. Her expression became more serious. "Why? Did your hacker friend tell you how they planned the assassination of my poor sister?"

"Heh. C'mon, Veronica. Don't give me such a look. I can see through you. Don't pretend that you are mad and angry."

"What are you talking about?" Veronica scowled at her, her nose flaring.

"Hmm. I think Nathan hadn't mentioned to you yet that Monica and I knew each other. Your sister shared a secret with me... it's about you, Veronica." Abigail continued to provoke her with her words.

"What nonsense are you spouting, woman?!!" Veronica was on the verge of losing her patience. If she couldn't control herself, she would end up hitting Abigail. She thought she could do anything to her since they were just alone there.

"Monica told me that you were in love with her man, Nathan. You wanted Nathan for yourself... so I bet, you rejoiced when your sister died. And now, you want to replace Monica. Perhaps, you are grateful to Phantomflake because she killed your sister, that's why you are doing your best to treat her. Am I right?"

"CRAZY BITCH! How dare you accuse me!" Veronica totally lost it. She pushed Abigail and raised her hand to slap her.

Chapter 290 Her Revenge, Threat And Warning

Day Thirty-Two...

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Veronica failed to control herself as she charged against Abigail, raising her hand to slap her on the face. But before her palm could hit Abigail's cheek, Abigail caught her wrist using her left hand.

Abigail gripped her wrist tightly. Veronica tried to move her hand but Abigail was stronger than her. She couldn't snatch away her hand.

"I need to teach this arm a lesson," Abigail mumbled meaningfully, then a twisting sound was heard, followed by Veronica's scream.

"Aaaah!"

Abigail twisted her arm as she pulled it down, making Veronica's body turn around. Then Abigail pushed her until Veronica's body was pressed against the wall.

Thud!

"Aawww!"

Veronica's left cheek hit the wall. She was now trapped between Abigail's body and the wall. Veronica was facing it while Abigail was standing behind her back.

"Damn it, Bitch! Let go of me or I'll scream! Nathan will see how violent you are!" Veronica threatened Abigail. "Are you just pretending to be hurt!"

Veronica couldn't believe that Abigail was very strong. She thought she was injured. But Abigail was holding her in place with just her left hand? She could feel Abigail's weight on her back.

Abigail just laughed at her mockingly. "You were the first one who attacked me. Are you mad because my statement is true?"

Veronica couldn't retaliate. Abigail was twisting her arm, including her pinky finger. One wrong move and Abigail would break her fingers. She had to protect her hands since she was also a surgeon.

"Let go of me! I will not forgive you if you hurt my hands. I'm a surgeon!" Veronica kept yelling at Abigail.

"Surgeon my ass! You should have used your hands for your operations, not slapping anyone. Honestly, I have the urge to break your fingers right now. If you don't want me to do that, then just keep your mouth shut and stay still."

Abigail's warning was quite frightening. Veronica couldn't win so she decided to tone down a little bit.

"What do you want from me, crazy bitch!" Veronica asked her. This time she was no longer shouting. But she was gnashing her teeth.

'How did she know that Monica knew about my feelings toward Nathan? Is this woman really connected to my sister? What did my sister tell her?' Veronica became anxious.

'If she knew more about my sister and me... then I would have more reasons to eliminate her. I'm afraid that she will destroy my reputation in front of Nathan!'

"Nothing. I'm just teaching you a lesson. As I said... I'm here to talk to you. But you resorted to violence first so you can't blame me for defending myself." Abigail smiled inwardly. She was enjoying this confrontation.

"Do you know the reason why I am convinced that you are grateful to Phantomflake? It's only because... I know that you are capable of killing someone... despite the fact you are a doctor!"

"I don't know what you are talking about!" Veronica hissed. She continued to feign innocence.

"Then let me simplify this for you. I know you were the real mastermind of my stabbing incident."

Veronica's body stiffened the moment she heard that. She didn't expect that Abigail would be aware of this. She was at a loss for words.

"Don't worry, I won't tell Nathan about this... You know that once Nathan investigates... he can find out the truth." Abigail continued speaking, scaring Veronica. Then she let go of her.

Veronica fixed her clothes and faced Abigail. She was gritting her teeth while looking daggers at Abigail.

"You are making up a story!" Veronica wouldn't admit her crime.

Abigail let out a humorless laughter. Then she gazed at her with her intimidating look. For some unknown reason, Abigail's sharp eyes sent chills down Veronica's spine.

"I am warning you, Veronica. Stop giving trouble to my friend, Black Rose. You should apologize to her and stop involving Ethan with your schemes if you want me to keep your secret from Nathan... your secret that you like him." Abigail knew how numb and clueless Nathan was. So even though it was already obvious, Nathan was clueless about Veronica's feelings for him. He just didn't care at all.

"I will not also mention my stabbing incident. You can deny it all you want. But I assure you... I can urge Nathan to investigate it further. Then he will know the truth... behind your scheme."

"If you want me to keep my silence, then... you also have to keep your mouth shut about what happens here... between the two of us," Abigail added, her hand reaching out to fix Veronica's collar

Veronica couldn't utter a word. She was just looking at her, imagining that she was stabbing her several times. Her hatred for Abigail intensified ten times! She was being cornered by this random stranger.

"One more thing... I know you are dying to know what's my motive for approaching Nathan and Ethan. Well... I'm going to tell you now. It's up to you if you will believe my words or not." Abigail paused for a moment, staring at Veronica with her taunting smile.

"Stop beating around the bush! Just spill it out!" Veronica could no longer hold it. She felt humiliated since Abigail was dominating this conversation. She was caught off guard by the things Abigail knew about her.

"I approached him because I wanted to seduce him. I want his affection. I will make him fall in love with me... On behalf of your sister Monica, I will take good care of Ethan and Nathan... so fuck off!"

Veronica gazed at her with disbelief. "So Ambitious! That will only happen over my dead body!" Veronica wouldn't let anyone steal Nathan from her. "Nathan is MINE!"

Abigail scoffed at her and said, "Then may the best woman win... But I can't promise that I will play fairly."

Abigail moved closer to Veronica and whispered, "Nathan and I already kissed several times... He is a great kisser. So I made up my mind... Nathan will be mine. Not Yours!"

Veronica: "..."

"I'll tell you another secret..."

"I have seen him naked... and I already touched him... his most precious thing..." Abigail said sensually, licking her lips. Then she turned around and walked away, leaving Veronica in her raging state!

"Aaaargh! Crazy Bitch!!!!" Veronica screamed in anger. 'I will kill you! I will kill you!'